Preschool–Grade 5

Abraham and Isaac Craft

Abraham's tent · Genesis 18:1–15 and 21:1–8 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



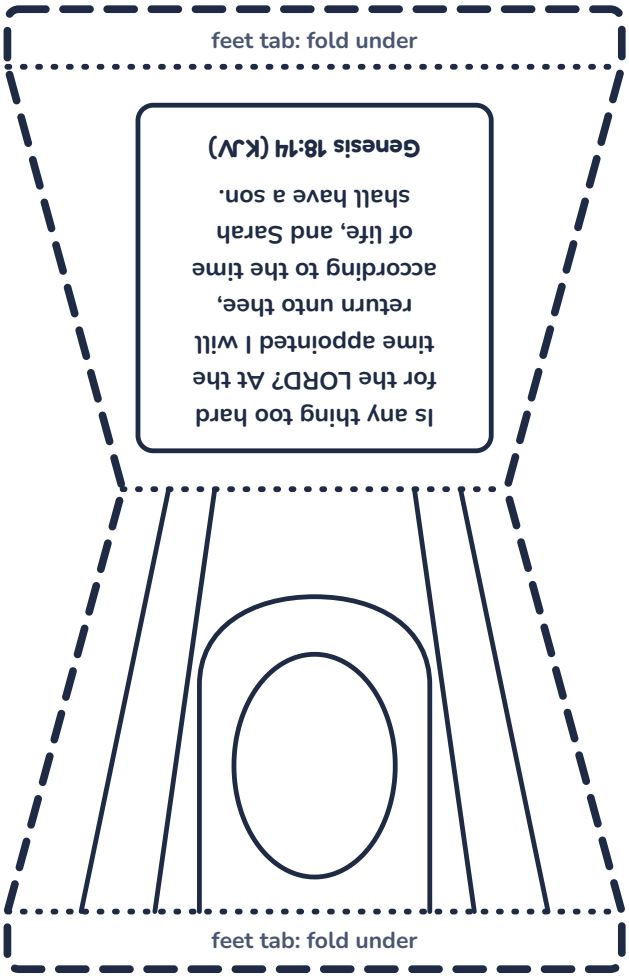
Harder

Medium (left): a paper tent that stands up, with brown and tan stripes and a dark brown door. In the oval window in the door, a child drew Sarah holding baby Isaac. A green tree stands beside the tent. Harder (right): the same tent and tree stand on the tan ground of a folded night sky backdrop from page 3, with yellow stars in a dark blue sky.

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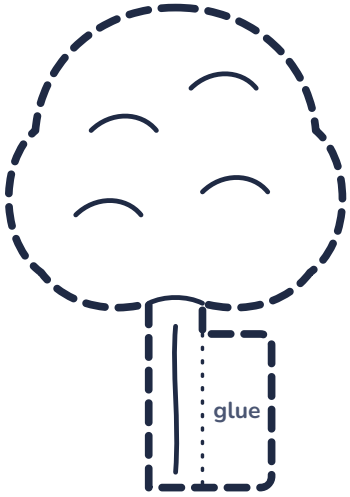
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Tent: stripes brown and tan, door dark brown

Draw Sarah holding baby Isaac in the window.
Fold on the middle dotted line. Fold the feet tabs under.



Tree (Genesis 18:4)

leaves green, trunk brown
Glue the tab behind the left edge of the tent's front.

Back of the tent

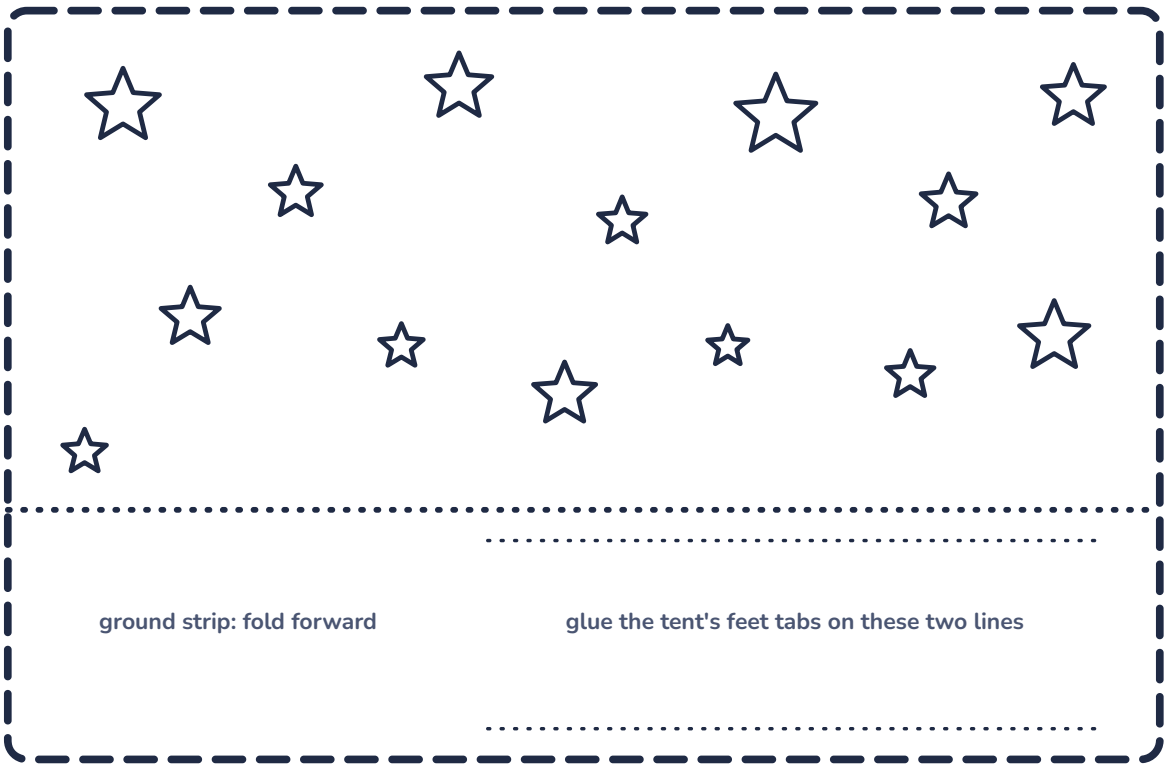
(the top half): color it tan and leave the verse box white.

Color the outside stripes brown, the next stripes tan, the middle part brown and the door dark brown. Draw Sarah holding baby Isaac in the window. Color the tree. Cut out the tent and the tree, fold the tent so it stands up, and glue the tree's tab behind the left edge of the tent's front.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Night sky backdrop (harder level)



sky: dark blue · stars: yellow · ground strip: tan · cut on the dashed line
There are 14 stars. God said Abraham's seed would be as the stars (Genesis 22:17).

How to add the night sky backdrop

1. Make the tent and tree from page 2.
2. Color the stars yellow and the sky around them dark blue. Color the ground strip at the bottom tan.
3. Cut out the backdrop on the dashed line. Fold the ground strip forward on the dotted line, so the sky stands up behind it.
4. Put glue on the bottom of the tent's two feet tabs. Set the tent on the ground strip with its feet on the two dotted lines, the tree on the left.
5. Tell the story: God promised Abraham, "I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven" (Genesis 22:17). It all began with one baby, Isaac, born when nothing seemed possible (21:1–3). Say Genesis 18:14 from memory.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/isaac-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), brown, tan, dark brown and green crayons or markers, plus any colors for the drawing in the window, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and dark blue and yellow crayons.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's tent and tree and fold the tent on its dotted lines. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out and fold each child's tent and tree. Kids color the stripes and the tree and draw Sarah with baby Isaac in the window. You glue the tree's tab behind the tent. Point to the window and say, "God said Sarah would have a baby, and God did it! Nothing is too hard for God."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw in the window, cut out the tent and the tree, fold the tent so it stands, and glue the tree beside it. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add the night sky backdrop from page 3. Kids color the 14 stars yellow and the sky dark blue, fold the ground strip forward and glue the tent's feet tabs on it. They say Genesis 18:14 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people drawn: the template draws no people. Kids draw Sarah and baby Isaac themselves in the window of the tent door, where Sarah heard God's promise (Genesis 18:10). If kids ask how to draw them, suggest Sarah in a long robe holding the baby.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the two outside stripes of the tent brown, the next two stripes tan, and the middle part around the door brown. Color the door dark brown around the window, and leave the window white. On the back half, color around the verse box tan. Color the tree's leaves green and its trunk brown.
2. **Draw:** in the oval window, draw Sarah holding baby Isaac (Genesis 21:2–3).
3. **Cut:** cut out the tent and the tree on the dashed lines.
4. **Fold:** fold the tent on the middle dotted line, with the colors on the outside. Fold the two feet tabs under. Stand it up.
5. **Tree:** glue the tree's tab behind the left edge of the tent's front, so the tree stands beside the tent (Genesis 18:4).
6. **Verse:** turn the tent around and read the verse on the back together. Tell the story with the tent.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the tent door. Where was Abraham sitting when the LORD appeared to him? *(In the tent door in the heat of the day, Genesis 18:1)*
- Point to the tree. Where did Abraham ask the three visitors to rest? *(Under the tree, 18:4)* What did they eat? *(Cakes of bread, a calf, butter and milk, 18:6–8)*
- Where was Sarah when she heard that she would have a son? *(In the tent door, behind him, 18:10)* What did she do? *(She laughed within herself, 18:12)*
- Turn the tent around. What did God ask? *("Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" 18:14)*
- Point to the window. What did Abraham name the baby? *(Isaac, 21:3)* How old was Abraham? *(An hundred years old, 21:5)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** appointed = set ahead of time; according to the time of life = at just the right time, when the baby would be born; well stricken in age = very old; cakes = flat bread; seed = children, grandchildren and all the family after them.
- **What the Bible says:** Abraham sat in the tent door in the plains of Mamre, and the visitors rested under the tree (Genesis 18:1, 18:4), so the craft has a tent and a tree. The Bible doesn't say what color Abraham's tent was or what kind of tree it was, so kids color them brown, tan and green. The harder level's stars come from God's promise in Genesis 22:17.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and pre-fold everything ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Harder level:** cardstock makes the backdrop stand up best. If the tent tips over, press its feet tabs flat onto the ground strip and hold them for a few seconds while the glue sets.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Abraham and Isaac lesson for kids and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/isaac.

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