Preschool–Grade 6

Abraham and Isaac

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Nothing is too hard for the LORD. God keeps His word, and when we trust and obey Him, God provides.
Bible passage: Genesis 18:1–15, 21:1–8 and 22:1–19. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." *Genesis 18:14 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), 9 index cards, a marker, a whiteboard or large paper, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 9 index cards (see part 4) and mix them up.

1. Opening game: Possible or Impossible? (5–10 minutes)

Read each sentence. Kids stand up if a person could do it, and stay seated if no person could. 1) Run a mile. 2) Stop the sun from setting. 3) Read the whole Bible. 4) Count every grain of sand on the beach. 5) A man who is 100 years old and his wife who is about 90 have their first baby together. Ask: *Which ones only God could do?* Say: "Today we will read about number 5. God asked, 'Is any thing too hard for the LORD?'"

2. Bible story: Nothing Is Too Hard for the LORD (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Genesis 18. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Visitors at the tent. God had promised Abraham that he would become a great nation (Genesis 12:2), but Sarah had no child (11:30). Abraham was 75 when he left Haran (12:4), and many years went by. One day in the plains of **Mamre**, Abraham sat in his tent door in the heat of the day, and the LORD appeared to him (18:1). Three men stood by him. Abraham ran to meet them, bowed, brought water to wash their feet, and asked them to rest under the tree (18:2–4). Sarah made **cakes** (flat bread) from fine flour, and Abraham served a calf with butter and milk (18:6–8).

Sarah laughed. The LORD said Sarah would have a son (18:10). Sarah heard it in the tent door. She and Abraham were **well stricken in age**, which means very old, and she laughed within herself (18:11–12). **Look up Genesis 18:14.** Sarah was afraid and said, "I laughed not." But the LORD said, "Nay; but thou didst laugh" (18:15). **Nay** means no.

Isaac is born. Look up Genesis 21:1. Sarah had a son at the **set time** God had spoken (21:2). Abraham named him **Isaac** (21:3). Abraham was 100 years old (21:5), and Sarah was about 90 (17:17). Sarah said, "God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me" (21:6). When Isaac was **weaned** (old enough to eat food instead of his mother's milk), Abraham made a great feast (21:8).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

God tests Abraham. God did **tempt** Abraham (22:1). Here *tempt* means test: God was proving Abraham's trust. God told him to take Isaac, his only son whom he loved, to the land of **Moriah** and offer him there as a **burnt offering**, a gift burned on an altar (22:2). Abraham rose up early, took two young men and Isaac, and **clave** (split) the wood (22:3). On the third day he saw the place far off (22:4). He told the young men, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you" (22:5). **Yonder** means over there. Notice that Abraham said *we* will come again.

Where is the lamb? Isaac carried the wood, and Abraham carried the fire (22:6). Isaac asked, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (22:7). **Look up Genesis 22:8.** At the place, Abraham built an altar and laid the wood in order (22:9). Abraham was ready to obey God all the way.

God provides. The angel of the LORD called out of heaven, "Abraham, Abraham," and said, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad," for now God knew Abraham feared Him (22:11–12). **Fear** here means deep respect and trust. Abraham looked, and behind him was a **ram** (a male sheep) caught in a **thicket** (thick bushes) by his horns (22:13). **Look up Genesis 22:13–14.** Abraham offered the ram **in the stead of** (instead of) his son, and named the place **Jehovah-jireh**, "the LORD will provide." God promised to bless Abraham and make his **seed** (his children's children) as the stars of the heaven and the sand on the seashore, because he obeyed (22:17–18). Hebrews 11:19 says Abraham believed God was able to raise Isaac up, even from the dead.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Abraham and Sarah waited many years for Isaac. Why is it hard to wait for something God has said?
2. Sarah laughed when she heard the promise (18:12). Later she said, "God hath made me to laugh" (21:6). What changed?
3. Abraham told the young men, "I and the lad will… come again to you" (22:5). What does that show about how he trusted God?
4. Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb?" and Abraham said, "God will provide" (22:7–8). When have you needed to trust God before you could see the answer?
5. What is something that feels too hard for you right now? What does Genesis 18:14 say about it?

Recall questions

1. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? *(100 years old, Genesis 21:5)*
2. What did Abraham name the place on the mountain? *(Jehovah-jireh, 22:14)*
3. What was caught in the thicket? *(A ram, by his horns, 22:13)*

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

4. Memory verse: Verse Scramble (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **appointed** means set ahead of time, and **according to the time of life** means at just the right time, when the baby would be born. The 9 cards say: *Is any thing / too hard / for the LORD? / At the time appointed / I will return / unto thee, / according to the time of life, / and Sarah shall have a son. / Genesis 18:14.* Hand out the mixed-up cards. The kids holding them line up in the right order while the class helps. Read it together, mix them up, and play again with new kids until everyone can say it.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Isaac asked, 'Where is the lamb?' and Abraham said, 'God will provide' (Genesis 22:8). Long after, John saw Jesus and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29, KJV). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: when something feels too hard, say Genesis 18:14 and pray about it. Then watch for how God provides.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Genesis 18:1: Where was Abraham sitting? *(In the tent door, in the heat of the day)*
2. Genesis 18:4: Where did Abraham ask the visitors to rest? *(Under the tree)*
3. Genesis 18:6: What did Abraham ask Sarah to make? *(Cakes upon the hearth, from three measures of fine meal)*
4. Genesis 18:12: What did Sarah do when she heard? *(She laughed within herself)*
5. Genesis 21:3: Who named the baby Isaac? *(Abraham)*
6. Genesis 21:8: What did Abraham make the day Isaac was weaned? *(A great feast)*
7. Genesis 22:3: How many young men went with Abraham? *(Two)*
8. Genesis 22:17: What two things did God compare Abraham's seed to? *(The stars of the heaven and the sand upon the sea shore)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that nothing is too hard for You. Help us wait for You, trust You before we see the answer, and obey You all the way, like Abraham. Thank You for providing the Lamb, Jesus, to take away our sin. In Jesus' name, amen."

Softened on purpose: this lesson does not read Genesis 22:9–10, where Abraham bound Isaac and took the knife. If a child asks, say: "God stopped Abraham, and Isaac was not hurt (22:12). God was testing Abraham, and God provided the ram." God never wants anyone to hurt a child; when people later did that to their children, God said it was something "which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart" (Jeremiah 7:31, KJV). The Bible does not say how old Isaac was; it calls him "the lad" (22:5, 22:12).
If a child asks who the three visitors were: the Bible says the LORD appeared to Abraham and spoke with him (18:1, 18:13), and two of the men are called angels when they reach Sodom (19:1). The LORD our God is one LORD (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post