Preschool–Grade 6

Abraham and Isaac

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Nothing is too hard for the LORD, so we can trust Him with what matters most, even before we see how He will provide.
Bible passage: Genesis 18:1–15, 21:1–8 and 22:1–19. Students read Genesis 18:1–15 and 22:1–14 out loud themselves.
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)* and "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised." *Hebrews 11:11 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Genesis 18, 21 and 22 and Hebrews 11:8–19. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Would You Trust It? (5–10 minutes)

Name one side of the room "I'd trust it" and the other side "I wouldn't." Read each one, and students walk to a side. 1) A friend says, "I'll pay you back next week." 2) The weather app says, "No rain today." 3) Someone promised you something ten years ago and it still hasn't happened. 4) A promise that sounds impossible, from someone who has never broken one. Ask: *What makes a promise worth trusting: how possible it sounds, or who made it?* Say: "Abraham and Sarah waited many years for a promise that sounded impossible."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Genesis 18:1–15. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **the plains of Mamre** (18:1): the place where Abraham's tents were
- **morsel** (18:5): a small piece; **comfort ye your hearts**: refresh yourselves
- **hastened** (18:6): hurried; **three measures of fine meal**: a large amount of fine flour; **cakes upon the hearth**: flat bread baked on hot stones
- **dress it** (18:7): get it ready to eat
- **according to the time of life** (18:10): at the right time, when the baby would be born
- **well stricken in age** (18:11): very old
- **Wherefore** (18:13): why; **of a surety**: really, for sure; **appointed** (18:14): set ahead of time
- **denied** (18:15): said it wasn't true; **Nay**: no

Tell the middle part in your own words: the LORD visited Sarah as He had said (21:1). She had a son at the set time God had spoken (21:2), and Abraham named him Isaac (21:3). Abraham was 100 (21:5), and Sarah about 90 (17:17). The one who had laughed to herself now said, "God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me" (21:6). When Isaac was weaned, Abraham made a great feast (21:8).

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Before reading Genesis 22, say: "This is a hard chapter. Listen for how it ends: God stops Abraham and provides." Read it calmly and don't stop on the hard verses (22:9–10).

Read out loud: Genesis 22:1–14. Old words in this passage:

- **tempt** (22:1): test, prove; God was proving Abraham's trust
- **burnt offering** (22:2): an offering burned whole on an altar to worship God
- **saddled his ass** (22:3): put a saddle on his donkey; **clave**: split
- **Abide ye** (22:5): stay; **yonder**: over there
- **lad** (22:5): boy, young man (the Bible does not give Isaac's age)
- **provide himself** (22:8): God Himself will give what is needed
- **fearest God** (22:12): deeply respect and trust God; **withheld**: held back
- **thicket** (22:13): thick bushes; **in the stead of**: instead of
- **Jehovah-jireh** (22:14): "the LORD will provide"

Tell the end in your own words: the angel of the LORD called a second time. God promised to bless Abraham and multiply his seed (his children's children) as the stars of the heaven and the sand on the seashore, and in his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed, because he obeyed (22:15–18). Abraham returned to his young men, and they went together to Beer-sheba (22:19).

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Sarah laughed within herself at the promise (18:12), and later she said, "God hath made me to laugh" (21:6). What is the difference between those two laughs? Have you ever doubted something God said?
2. God asked, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" (18:14). Why do you think God asked it as a question instead of just saying it?
3. Abraham rose up early in the morning (22:3). What does that tell you about how he obeyed?
4. Abraham told the young men, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you" (22:5). Read Hebrews 11:17–19. What did Abraham believe God could do?
5. Isaac's question, "Where is the lamb?" (22:7), was answered with a ram that day (22:13). Read John 1:29. How was it answered again, many years later?
6. Is there something you are holding back from God, something you love so much it's hard to trust Him with it? What would trusting Him with it look like?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Hebrews 11:11: **Sara** is Sarah; **conceive seed** means to become pregnant with a baby; **delivered of a child** means she gave birth; **past age** means too old to have a baby; **judged him faithful who had promised** means she decided God would keep His word.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Genesis 18:14 this week; keep working on Hebrews 11:11 next week too.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Isaac asked, 'Where is the lamb?' Abraham answered, 'God will provide himself a lamb' (Genesis 22:8). Years later, John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29, KJV). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."

Pray with the students, 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.

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6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What feels too hard in my life right now? Write Genesis 18:14 next to it.
2. Where am I waiting on God, like Abraham and Sarah waited for Isaac?
3. Write a short prayer trusting God with the thing you love most.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: when something feels impossible, pray Genesis 18:14 back to God: "Nothing is too hard for You." Watch for how He provides.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that nothing is too hard for You and that You always keep Your word. Help us trust You with what we love most, obey You right away, and wait for You to provide. Thank You for Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away our sin. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks why God would ask Abraham to do this: answer honestly and gently. God was testing, or proving, Abraham (22:1), and God stopped him; Isaac was not hurt (22:12). God provided the ram instead (22:13). 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). Hebrews 11:19 says Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead.
If a student 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).

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