Preschool–Grade 6

Abraham and Isaac

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Nothing is too hard for the LORD. God does what He says, and God provides what we need.
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, 7 paper strips, a marker, tape, a whiteboard or large paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 7 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Genesis 18:14 and Genesis 22:8.

1. Opening game: Easy or Too Hard? (5 minutes)

Call out things to do. If it is easy, the kids do it. If it is too hard, they shout, "Too hard!" Try: "Touch your toes!" "Clap three times!" "Jump up and touch the ceiling!" "Pick up the whole church building!" "Count every star in the sky!" Then ask: *Is anything too hard for God?* Say: "Today God asks that very question in the Bible. Listen for the answer!"

2. Bible story: Nothing Is Too Hard for the LORD (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 18, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Abraham and his wife **Sarah** lived in tents. They were very old, and Sarah had never had a child (Genesis 11:30, 18:11). One hot day, Abraham was sitting in the door of his tent, and the LORD appeared to him (18:1). Abraham looked up and saw three men standing by him. He ran to meet them and bowed down (18:2). Abraham asked them to rest under the tree, and he said he would bring water to wash their feet and some bread (18:4–5). He hurried to Sarah and asked her to bake cakes of bread. He got a calf ready, with butter and milk, and the visitors ate under the tree (18:6–8).

Then the LORD said, "Sarah thy wife shall have a son" (18:10). Sarah was listening at the tent door, behind him. She laughed to herself, because she and Abraham were so old (18:10–12). **Read Genesis 18:14 from your Bible:** "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." Say: "That means nothing is too hard for God!"

God did just what He said. Sarah had a baby boy at the very time God had said (21:1–2). Abraham named him **Isaac** (21:3). Abraham was 100 years old (21:5)! Sarah said, "God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me" (21:6). Isaac grew, and Abraham made a great feast (21:8).

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The story continues: Later, God tested Abraham (22:1). God said, "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest," and go to the land of Moriah. God told Abraham to give Isaac to Him there as a **burnt offering**, a gift to God burned on an altar (22:2). That was a very big thing to ask. But Abraham obeyed. He got up early in the morning and went (22:3). On the third day he saw the place far away (22:4). Isaac carried the wood, and Abraham carried the fire (22:6).

Isaac saw the fire and the wood, and he asked his father where the lamb was (22:7). **Read Genesis 22:8 from your Bible:** "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together." Say: "**Provide** means God will give what is needed."

At the place, Abraham built an altar and laid the wood on it (22:9). Abraham trusted God and was ready to obey Him all the way. Then the angel of the LORD called from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" He said, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad" (22:11–12). That means, "Do not hurt the boy!" Abraham looked, and behind him was a **ram**, a male sheep, caught in a thick bush by his horns (22:13). Abraham offered the ram to God instead of Isaac (22:13). Abraham named the place **Jehovah-jireh**, which means the LORD will provide (22:14). And God promised to make Abraham's family as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore (22:17).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What did God say Sarah would have? *(A son, Genesis 18:10)*
2. What did Sarah do when she heard it? *(She laughed to herself, 18:12)*
3. What question did God ask? *("Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" 18:14)*
4. What did Abraham name the baby? *(Isaac, 21:3)*
5. What did God provide on the mountain? *(A ram caught in a bush by his horns, 22:13)*

4. Memory verse: Laugh Line game (5 minutes)

Tape the 7 strips up in order: *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.* 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. Read the verse together, then everyone gives one big happy laugh, like Sarah in Genesis 21:6. Take one strip away, read it again, and laugh again. Keep taking strips away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Nothing was too hard for God. He gave Abraham and Sarah a baby when they were very old, and on the mountain God provided a ram. Long after that, John saw Jesus and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29, KJV). God provided a way for us, too. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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, pray, and remember God's question: "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Abraham and Isaac word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/isaac-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/isaac-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/isaac-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/isaac-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/isaac), or **Count the Stars:** while the kids close their eyes, fill the whiteboard with as many quick stars as you can draw in one minute. Kids open their eyes and try to count them all. Say: "God told Abraham his family would be as many as the stars of the heaven and the sand on the seashore (Genesis 22:17). Only God could do that!"

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that nothing is too hard for You. Thank You for doing what You say and for giving us what we need. Help us trust You and obey You like Abraham did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Left out on purpose: this lesson does not tell that Abraham bound Isaac and took the knife (Genesis 22:9–10). If a child asks, "Was Abraham going to hurt Isaac?" say: "God stopped Abraham, and Isaac was not hurt. God was testing Abraham's trust (22:1, 22:12), and God provided the ram (22:13)." 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: keep it simple. The Bible says the LORD appeared to Abraham (18:1) and the LORD spoke to him (18:13). Later two of the men are called angels (19:1).

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