



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God Keeps His Promises  
Fall Year 2, Lesson 21

# The Birth of Isaac

**Bible Event:** Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-3

**Take Home Point:** \*GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – *I wait patiently.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** We wait patiently to see Jesus face to face.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that God makes and keeps great promises. Even though Abraham was very old, God promised him that he would have children – and he did! God promises us great things, too. Just like Abraham, we can believe and trust in God that he will keep his promises no matter what. All of this is because God loves us. Kids will take home the point: **\*GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES - I wait patiently.**
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Choose a video and list it here.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.

Introduce today's Bible event by asking children if they can remember what big promise God made to Abraham in last week's lesson. (*Answer: to have a baby.*) Use last weeks' paper doll and star chains to review the event. This week, the children will watch a video that will review everything that has happened to Abraham over the last several weeks and will end by showing how God keeps his promises – Abraham will have a son!

Show *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Abraham and Isaac*, Animated Bible Stories II, 1992. Stop the video before it shows the sacrifice scene.



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

*During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.*

**Snack Zone:** Provide each child with a sesame or cheese-flavored cracker stick. Give each child half a slice of cheese to wrap around the cracker stick. This represents baby Isaac wrapped in a blanket.

**HEALTHY SNACK OPTION:** Wrap a carrot in a piece of lettuce or a piece of whole grain bread.

**Drama Zone:** Provide dress-up clothes including a beard and a wig for Abraham and a long dress for Sarah. Set a blanket up over a table for a tent and have the children re-enact the scene.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to retell the Bible story to one another.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of the birth of Isaac from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #11 "Abraham and Isaac" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

**Craft Zone:** Use coffee filters (any size) and watercolors to create a design. Fold the coffee filter in half 4 times. Use eyedroppers to drop "Liquid Water" Bio Water Color paint or other watercolors onto the filter. Kids will have to wait patiently while the colors spread. Once the colors have spread, open the coffee filter and blot with paper on both sides to dry. Attach a pre-made label "I wait patiently."

**Play Zone:** Divide children into teams and have simple relay races. (i.e. hopping on one foot, walking backwards, etc.) Kids must wait patiently for their turn.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the birth of Isaac, such as the *Abraham Big Book*.

**Music Zone:** Sing the song, "Father Abraham."

**Coloring Zone:** "Birth of Isaac" coloring page.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

***Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.*

### Worship Songs:

*Choose one or two songs and list them here.*

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

***Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.*

Judy comes onto stage with a cupcake with a candle in the middle. She is waiting for her birthday. The large group presenter wonders when her birthday is. Judy explains that her birthday was just last week. The large group presenter looks surprised and tells Judy that if she just had a birthday, then she sure has a long time to wait until the next one. She'll have to wait an entire year!

Judy doesn't understand. Birthdays are so much fun with friends and parties and cakes... Why does she have to wait a whole year? Why does anyone have to wait? The large group presenter explains that birthdays and Christmas and other special times just don't happen whenever we want. Sometimes for very special things, we have to wait. One good thing about waiting, though, is that it shows us that God keeps his promises.

The large group presenter continues to explain by giving the kids some examples. One big promise we've been talking about is the big promise that God made to Abraham. Abraham was old and had no kids. God promised him a son. Do you think it was hard for Abraham to wait for his son to be born? It was very hard, but after waiting, God kept his promise and Abraham got baby Isaac.

Then, many years later, God made another very special promise. He promised the people that he would send his own Son to die on the cross and take our sins away. Did God keep that promise? Yes. The people back then had to wait very patiently for Jesus to come, but God kept his promise.

The large group presenter explains that there is one more very special time that you and I have to wait for very patiently. We all have Jesus in our hearts, but one day in heaven, we will get to see Jesus face to face. That is something very special that we can wait for. God will keep this promise, too. Remember: **\*GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – I wait patiently.**

# Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

## "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



## Closing Zones:

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- video, *The Animated Stories of the Bible: Abraham and Isaac* (Animated Bible Stories II, 1992)
- paper doll and star chains from last week

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- sesame or cheese-flavored cracker stick
- half a cheese slice for each child (*optional*)
- *Healthy Snack Option:* carrot, lettuce or bread

### *Craft:*

- coffee filters – any size
- water colors (recommended: “Liquid Water” BioWater Color Paint)
- newspapers to cover tables
- paper towels for cleanup
- eye droppers
- pre-made labels that read, “I wait patiently.”

### *Drama:*

- costumes including a beard and a wig for Abraham and Sarah
- blanket

### *Music:*

- “Father Abraham”

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- Use felt board Bible characters to act out the story of “The Birth of Isaac.” One resource is “Betty Lukens through the Bible in Felt,” Lesson #11.

### *Quiet Reading:*

- *Group’s Bible Big Book: Abraham* (Group Publishing Inc., 1995)
- basket of books

### *Coloring:*

- reproduced coloring page, crayons and markers

## *Closing Worship:*

- Judy, the puppet

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books