



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Pass The Promise  
Summer Year 1, Lesson 13

# Abraham's Strange Visitors

**Take Home Point:** \*Trust God. He can do the impossible. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-6 Isaac is promised and is born.

**Key Verse:** Genesis 18:14a: "Is anything too hard for the LORD?..."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of the Lord and two angels visiting Abraham and promising a son.
- Sarah laughed when she heard the prediction that she would have a child at 90 years of age.
- We can trust God. He can do the impossible.
- The most important trust is Jesus as our Savior.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Confident that God can do anything.
- Surprise and delight in their snack activity that will help them associate surprise and delight over God's ability to do the impossible.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify ways God has done the impossible for them.
- Make a banana chocolate snack as they think of wonderful things God might do for them in the future.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Do what seems impossible: slice an unpeeled banana with your fingers. Although this is a trick, God <i>can do</i> what seems impossible. He did for Abraham and Sarah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• banana for each group</li> <li>• toothpicks</li> <li>• bowl for each group</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  9-11  12-13  14	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy's Impossible Challenge"  <b>Dramatic Monologue:</b> " Sarah Laughs at the Impossible"  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy's Impossible Challenge" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy wearing a baseball cap with a banana peel draped over it</li> <li>• Sarah, a senior citizen actor dressed in period costume</li> <li>• a football with a cross drawn on it with masking tape</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-8	Kids enjoy a snack as they share "impossible" stories and hear about a missionary in India who trusted God to do the impossible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 bowl of banana slices</li> <li>• 1 bowl of chocolate syrup</li> <li>• 1 bowl of whipped cream</li> <li>• toothpick for each child</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Before the kids arrive, prepare a banana to be a surprise trick. Slice the banana into one-inch sections without peeling it. To do this, insert a toothpick in the banana and slice through the banana inside of the skin. Insert the toothpick an inch lower on the same side of the banana and continue in the same manner. The only evidence on the outside will be small holes where the toothpick has been inserted. You will want to keep this side from the view of the children.

As the children arrive, ask them if they would like to share any banana jokes. Here is a joke for you to use.

**How do you say banana in French? “*Banana in French.*”**

**Since we are talking about bananas, I would like to show you a special skill that I have. I can slice a banana with my fingers like a scissors. What’s more, I can do this without even taking the peel off the banana.**

**Now that’s a pretty wild claim, isn’t it? Do you think I can do it? Let’s see.**

Hold the banana in front of you and make finger-cutting motions with two fingers at the approximate locations where you have cut the banana with the toothpick. Of course your two fingers will only touch the outside of the peel. But you are pretending that you are cutting the inside of the banana. Afterward, continue.

**There! It’s complete. I have completely sliced this banana. Do you believe it? (No.)**

Unpeel the banana over a bowl and watch the banana slices fall out.

**That’s pretty amazing, isn’t it? The truth is that I really didn’t do the impossible. Here’s how I did it.**

Explain how you cut the banana with a toothpick.

**Today we will learn how God did the impossible and it surprised and delighted people. God told Abraham when he was 99 years old that his 89-year-old wife would have a baby. Does that seem impossible? Do you think anything is impossible for God?**

When Abraham's wife, Sarah, heard this, she laughed. As a result, she gave her son a name that means laughter. Today we began with laughing jokes and a surprise impossible feat.

Why don't we eat some of the banana slices with toothpicks? As we do, let's try to think of some things that might seem impossible but **God could do them.** (*Create the world, heal sicknesses, know everything, be everywhere, etc.*)

Our point for today is ***\*trust God. He can do the impossible.***

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

#### **Puppet Presentation:** "Gordy's Impossible Challenge"

Gordy wants God to do a favor for him that seems impossible. Mr. King reminds Gordy that God will do what is best even if it's not exactly what we want.

#### **Dramatic Monologue:** "Sarah Laughs at the Impossible"

Sarah tells her story of the Bible event and how she was promised a son even at her old age.

#### **Puppet Presentation:** "Gordy's Impossible Challenge" Conclusion

Gordy learns what "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" *really* means.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### **Observation Questions: What happened?**

Before we eat our snack, let's review the Bible event as an illustration that we can ***\*trust God. He can do the impossible.***

Have kids refer to Genesis 17-18 in their Bibles.

**God made a promise to Abram and Sarai for many years. What was it?** *(Genesis 17:17, 19. God promised he would give them a baby.)*

**What did God change Abram's name to?** *(Genesis 17:5. Abraham.)*

**What did God change Sarai's name to?** *(Genesis 17: 15. Sarah.)*

**What does Abraham's name mean?** *(Father of many nations.)* **What does Sarah's name mean?** *(Princess.)*

**Abraham and Sarah had three visitors. Who were they?** *(Genesis 18. Two were angels and the third was either an angel who spoke for the Lord or the Lord himself.)*

**What did the three visitors promise?** *(Genesis 18:10. They promised that Sarah would have a son.)*

**What did Sarah do when she overheard this?** *(Verse 12. She laughed.)*

**When was this promise fulfilled?** *(Genesis 17:21, 18:14. Within a year.)*

**How old was Abraham?** *(Genesis 17:17. 100.)* **How old was Sarah?** *(90.)*

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**Why do you think Sarah had such a hard time believing she would have a baby?**

**How do you think Abraham felt after the visitors left?**

**What name did Abraham and Sarah choose for their son and why?** *(Genesis 17:19. Isaac, because it means "laughter." God told them to name the baby Isaac.)*

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

#### Application Activity:

Place three bowls in the center of your group. One bowl contains banana slices. The second bowl contains a small amount of chocolate syrup. The third bowl contains a scoop of whipped cream. Children will dip the bananas in chocolate and whipped cream using toothpicks.

**Let's eat our snack now when we think about impossible things. The bananas will remind us that God has a special plan for us even when**

**we can't see it. This is like the banana sections that were sliced even when we couldn't see them inside the banana peel.**

**The chocolate syrup we dip it into reminds us that sometimes bad things happen that make us believe God isn't helping us.**

**The whipped cream reminds us of clouds. You know the saying, "There is a silver lining in every cloud." We can think of God, who rules over everything, and we can trust him. When we trust him, we know he does the best for us and he can do the impossible.**

**This is a true story about a missionary who lived in India in 1989. This missionary lived in a small village in a hut just big enough for him, his wife, and their two children.**

**The missionary was the pastor of a small church. The people of his church were quite poor and were not able to pay him well.**

**One Saturday morning, the missionary realized his family had run out of food, and he did not have any money to buy more. His wife and children cried because they were so hungry. The missionary decided to call his family together to pray. He believed God would provide for them.**

**The missionary and his family prayed all day long. Then, late in the afternoon, something strange happened. A crow flew through their window, dropped a ten-dollar bill, and flew away. The missionary was amazed! He jumped with joy and shouted praises to God. He now had enough money to buy food for his family.**

**Quickly, he ran to the grocery store and bought bags of vegetables and rice. That evening, the family ate a big meal and gave thanks and praise to God.**

**But that is not the end of the story. The missionary wanted to tell everyone he met what had happened. He shared the story the next morning with everyone in church. While he was telling the story, a woman in the front row began to cry. Concerned, the missionary stopped his message and asked, "Are you okay?"**

**She said, "No, Pastor. No, Pastor. It's me. It's me."**

**The missionary said, "What do you mean, 'it's me'?"**

**The woman explained, “Yesterday God was speaking to me. He told me to give you ten dollars, but I was very selfish. I said, ‘No, I must be imagining this. God is not talking to me.’ I wanted to buy groceries with this money even though I already had groceries stacked on my shelves. I was greedy. I didn’t want to give the money to you. I wanted to buy extra groceries.”**

**The woman explained that as she was about ready to pay for her groceries, a crow flew in from nowhere and grabbed her ten-dollar bill!**

**God still speaks to people and does miraculous things today!**

*\*Due to the persecution of Christians in India, names have not been mentioned in this story.*

**Who really provided the missionary with the money he needed for food? *(God.)***

**Did this seem like an impossible story? *(Yes.)* Can God do the impossible? *(Yes.)***

**God tried to provide for the missionary through the woman that had money. When she disobeyed God, he still provided for the missionary another way.**

**Our scripture verse for today from Genesis 18:14 says, “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” Can you think of an example of when God did something very special to help you or your family?**

Let kids share stories that seemed impossible. Then read Matthew 19:26.

**Jesus told his disciples that it was impossible for people to work their own way to heaven. But what is impossible for people, is possible for God.**

**Why is it impossible for us to earn heaven on our own? *(Because we could never be good enough. We would need our sins forgiven.)***

**How did God make it possible for us to be able to enter heaven? *(By giving his Son, Jesus, to die for us. We receive that by faith.)***

Conclude with the main point:

***\*Trust God. He can do the impossible.***

Closing Prayer:

Gather prayer requests from the children about those things that may seem impossible but with God would be possible. Especially emphasize praying for things that help us live more like Jesus would want. Thank him for sending Jesus to do what is impossible for us on our own...to earn our way to heaven.

**Before you dismiss your group, ask for two volunteers to bring a prized possession or favorite toy to be discussed in next week's lesson. You may want to write a quick reminder on these children's "God Talk at Home" page so they don't forget.**

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## Large Group Presentation

### “Gordy’s Impossible Challenge”

#### Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: *\*Trust God. He can do the impossible.*

Gordy will be wearing a baseball cap with a banana peel resting on top of it. He does not enter until Mr. King calls for him.

**Mr. King:** Good morning, kids! We continue our series “Pass the Promise” as we see how God passes his promise to send a Savior through Abraham, even if it seemed impossible for him to do. Gordy, why don’t you come out and we’ll discuss the unusual and impossible.

Gordy: *(Enters wearing a baseball cap draped with a banana peel.)* Hi, Mr. King! Hi, kids!

**Mr. King:** Gordy, what is going on? What’s on your head?

Gordy: Well, what does it look like?

**Mr. King:** It looks like a banana peel.

Gordy: It does? Are you sure that’s all you see on my head?

**Mr. King:** Well, I also see a baseball cap.

Gordy: Wait just a minute. *(Gordy lowers his head to silently pray and then continues.)* Okay, now what do you see? Has anything changed?

**Mr. King:** No, I still see a banana peel and a baseball cap.

Gordy: Shucks! I guess God can’t do the impossible.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, what are you talking about?

Gordy: I’ve been praying that God would turn this banana peel into a baseball cap. This would work nicely because I need a yellow baseball cap. So I challenged God and prayed he would do the impossible. But he didn’t!

**Mr. King:** Gordy, God’s going to give what is best for you and what you need. You already have a baseball cap.

Gordy: But not a yellow one!

**Mr. King:** God doesn’t work that way.

Gordy: Then wait a minute. *(Bows head to silently pray.)*

**Mr. King:** *(Waits a few seconds and interrupts.)* **Gordy, what are you doing now?**

Gordy: I'm asking God for a football helmet.

**Mr. King:** **I thought I told you God doesn't work that way.**

Gordy: But that was about baseball caps.

**Mr. King:** **Gordy, are you challenging God?**

Gordy: No, I'm just telling him that if he really wants to do the impossible, he can turn this banana peel into a football helmet.

**Mr. King:** **That's challenging God. It's true that God does the impossible, but we shouldn't challenge him to prove it to us. He challenges us to believe in him.**

Gordy: What do you mean?

**Mr. King:** **Let me ask you this. Have you ever been afraid of something?**

Gordy: Well, I've been afraid sometimes that something bad will happen to me when I walk home from school.

**Mr. King:** **Why is that?**

Gordy: Sometimes it's because of that bully, Tommy Bulljinski, and sometimes I'm just afraid.

**Mr. King:** **When you are afraid, do you ever ask God to help you?**

Gordy: Sometimes I forget.

**Mr. King:** ***\*Trust God. He can do the impossible. He can be everywhere at the same time and hear your prayers.***

Gordy: Do you think that would help me not be afraid?

**Mr. King:** **It sure would. Today we are going to meet a woman who was afraid she would never have a baby. It was very important to her to have a child, especially since God promised she would have many descendants and someday one of those descendants would be Jesus.**

Gordy: But she didn't believe it?

Mr. King: No. God challenged her to believe it, but she laughed.

Gordy: Wow. Did God keep his promise?

Mr. King: Why don't I let her tell the story.

## **“Sarah Laughs at the Impossible” Dramatic Monologue**

The best character actor for this part is a senior citizen. It brings to life the fact that God operates in our true helplessness so his faithfulness would be revealed.

### **Introduction**

How do you do? My name is Sarah. My name used to be Sarai. My husband's name is Abraham, but his name used to be Abram. God changed our names. God changed my name to Sarah, which means princess. Abraham means “father of many nations.”

God also gave us a covenant, or an agreement. God said I would have a son. Imagine me, an old woman of almost 90, having a son!

God's promise seemed impossible to me. We had waited so many years to have a child and now it seemed too late. I even took things into my own hands and arranged for my servant girl to have a baby in my place. This baby's name was Ishmael. He was not God's plan, though. God promised to give Abraham and *me* a child, but it seemed like it would never happen.

### **Abraham's Conversation with the Angels**

One day as Abraham sat at the door to his tent, he saw three strangers approaching. They did not look like any other men he knew.

He invited the men to come and visit with him for a while. He could tell there was something very special about them. He had water brought to wash their feet and he had me prepare some food—a very fine meal.

The man asked Abraham, “Where is Sarah?”

Abraham said, “She is in the tent.”

Then the visitor added, “Your wife, Sarah, will have a son.”

I heard this from the tent. Abraham was almost 100 years old and I was almost ninety. “How could we have children?” I laughed to myself.

Then the visitor turned to Abraham and asked, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why does she think she is too old to have a child? Doesn’t she know that nothing is too hard for the Lord?”

The men promised that by this time next year I would have a baby. After they had eaten, the men continued their journey. By now Abraham realized that these were not ordinary men. Two of the visitors were angels and the other was like the Lord himself.

### **They Leave for Sodom and Gomorrah (Optional)**

The visitors left for Sodom and Gomorrah, two very wicked cities. They let Abraham know that God was going to judge the wickedness of the people living in these cities.

Abraham pleaded for the cities to be spared if at least 10 righteous people would be found. (Abraham’s brother, Lot, was living in the city.)

The visitors went to the city and could not find 10 people. They took only Lot’s family, four people, out of the city before God destroyed it with fire from the sky. I certainly knew God had done a powerful thing, but I still doubted that an old woman like me would have a baby.

### **One Year Later**

Wouldn’t you know it? Within a year I found myself an expectant mother. And I was 90 years old! When my son was born, I looked at him and realized God had kept the promise he made to Abraham. Abraham would be the father of many nations and through his offspring all nations of the world would be blessed.

God was passing the promise. Someday through our descendants, the Messiah, Jesus, would be born. I was so happy I could have cried or maybe laughed. Laughter—that is what’s best. (*Laughs.*) God told Abraham to name our son Isaac, which mean “laughter.”

I will always believe. *\*Trust God. He can do anything.*

*(Exits with laughter under her breath.)*

## **“Gordy’s Impossible Challenge”**

### **Puppet Presentation Conclusion**

- Gordy: Wow, Mr. King! Did you see that? She was as old as a grandma.
- Mr. King: Yes, and that is when she had her first son. Sarah was afraid she wouldn’t have a son. She even tried to work it out herself through a special kind of adoption. She had someone else have a baby for her.**
- Gordy: But that’s not what God wanted.
- Mr. King: It sure wasn’t. What he really wanted was for Abraham and Sarah to trust him. He can do the impossible.**
- Gordy: Then I can trust him too.
- Mr. King: Yes, and he *will* do the impossible.**
- Gordy: Like changing my banana peel to a football helmet?
- Mr. King: Of course not. Well, he could if it was best for you. But I think God would rather do things like taking away your fear of being left alone or walking home from school.**
- Gordy: Yeah, that is better.
- Mr. King: The best thing of all is that God has done the impossible of taking away the punishment for our sins by sending Jesus to die for us.**
- Gordy: Oh yeah. Jesus was born later on through Abraham’s family.
- Mr. King: He sure was. (*Show the Pass the Promise Football.*) God passed the promise that he would send a Savior.**
- Well, that’s it for Kingdom Quest today.**
- Gordy: That’s it for me too. I think I’ll put the banana on my feet.
- Mr. King: On your feet? Why would you do that?**
- Gordy: I’m going to make new banana skates.
- Mr. King: God won’t change your banana peel into skates.**
- Gordy: He won’t have to. Haven’t you ever slipped on a banana peel? I’ll just make skates out of them.

**Mr. King:**     **Okay, Gordy. Before you go slipping away would you have a closing prayer for us?**

**Gordy:**        Sure. Dear God, Thank you that you can do the impossible. You let old people like Abraham and Sarah have a baby. I trust that you can also help me with my fears, because even though I can't see you, I know you are always with me. That seems impossible to me. So help me, Lord, to trust that you can do the impossible. Amen.