

God Gives a Promised Child

Unit 1: God Creates Family

LAST WEEK

In a second creation story, God creates the first human from dust and God's own breath. To create a suitable partner, God forms the second human out of the first, creating the first family and community (Genesis 1:1-2:4a).

THIS WEEK

God promises that the elderly Sarah and Abraham will have a son to which Sarah laughs in disbelief. God's promise comes true, and with joyous laughter they name their child Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7).

The Point

God gives us joy when God fulfills promises.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:
What Is Genre?

You might be familiar with the genre of books, shows, and movies. These can include horror, fantasy, romantic comedies, and more. Genre affects our expectations in a story. A magic trick in a fantasy novel might really be magic, but the same in historical fiction is probably sleight-of-hand. The Bible also has different genres. These genres include history, prophecy, parables, laws, and worship songs. Knowing the genre of a Bible passage is important because it helps us better understand it and know what to expect.

Story Summary

God appears to Abraham in the form of three visitors. Unaware of God's presence, Abraham shows the strangers great hospitality, as was the custom of the time. While they eat the feast he has ordered, one of the visitors promises that Sarah will give birth to a son in a year's time. Overhearing the comment, Sarah bursts into laughter. She is an old woman, well past her child-bearing years. The visitor asks , "Is anything impossible for the Lord?" It is not. A year later, Sarah delivers a boy and names him Isaac.

Practice: Prayer

Spend time in prayer thanking God for keeping promises. Consider promises that God has already fulfilled. What promise are you waiting to see fulfilled? Pray and ask God to fill you with the joy of confidence of knowing and the joy of experiencing that God is a promise keeper.

NEXT WEEK

Isaac grows up and has two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob deceives Esau and runs away in fear. Years later, as he is returning, he encounters and wrestles with an unknown stranger. He prevails and gains God's blessing, being renamed Israel (Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30).

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Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✞ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✞ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✞ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✞ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: *This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday – Read Genesis 18:1-5; 21:1-7

God gives a promised child.

- What does it mean to you to have a God who keeps promises?
- When have you experienced joy over a promise that was fulfilled?

Monday – Read Genesis 25:19-28

Isaac and Rebekah have two sons: Esau and Jacob.

- How similar or different are you from your siblings, other family members, or friends?
- What did Rebekah and Sarah share in common?

Tuesday – Read Genesis 25:29-34

Jacob buys his brother's birthright.

- What is often the outcome of deception?
- Is there anything in modern life today that is similar to a birthright?

Wednesday – Read Genesis 27:1-17

Rebekah and Jacob scheme to deceive Isaac.

- Why are we sometimes willing to do what is wrong to get what we want?
- Do you think Jacob would have tricked his father without Rebekah's urging? Explain.

Thursday – Read Genesis 27:18-29

The scheme to trick Isaac succeeds.

- What is one way you have deceived others?
- Jacob had opportunities to back out of the plan and tell the truth. Why do you think he kept lying?

Friday – Read Genesis 27:30-41

Esau's learns of his lost blessing.

- What do you do when you find out that someone has deceived you?
- Which have you experience more: the act of deceiving or the act of seeking revenge?

Saturday – Read Genesis 32:1-8

Jacob prepares to face the brother he deceived.

- What was Jacob afraid of?
- When have you had to ask someone to forgive you (or when you have had to forgive someone)?

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