

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Genesis

THE BIRTH OF ISAAC

Genesis 21:1-8

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Nine

[0090]

AIM: to use the story of the birth of Isaac to teach my students that God always keeps His Word.

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A one-minute hourglass

If possible, a one-year calendar where each day has its own page

A calendar that has the entire year on one page

25 copies of that one-year-per-page calendar

Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Can anyone tell me what this is (hold up the hourglass)? That's right, it's an hourglass. Say that with me, ready? *Hourglass*. Before there were clocks, people would use an hourglass to keep track of time. You tip this over, and when all of the sand passes from the top to the bottom, you know that one minute has passed by. I want to use this hourglass to show you how hard it can be to **wait**. When I tip it over, we are all going to be perfectly silent, and watch the hourglass. Nobody will say a word until all of the sand has passed through. Ready? **GO!**

That seemed like a long time, didn't it? One of the hardest things that we have to do in life is to **wait**. What are some of the things that we **wait** for?

You wait for your mother while she is shopping. That's hard, isn't it? Sometimes we **wait** for our turn to use the bathroom. That's hard, isn't it? When you go to see the doctor, you **wait** in the waiting room. That's hard, isn't it?

What's really hard is when we have to wait a long time for something good that has been promised to us. Isn't it hard to **wait** for your birthday to get here? Isn't it hard to **wait** for Christmas day to finally get here? Or when the school year is almost over, isn't it so hard to **wait** for that last day of school, so that summer vacation can begin?

Today I'm going to tell you the story of someone who **waited** a very long time to receive something really good that God had promised him.

STORY: Last week I told you about a man named *Abraham*. *Abraham believed God*. God told Abraham to leave his home, and God promised him that some wonderful things were going to happen to him. But Abraham had to **wait** before those things would happen.

Probably the most exciting thing that God promised Abraham was that Abraham was going to have a son. Abraham and his wife did not have any children, and Abraham was very happy when God promised him that He would give him a son. Abraham was 75 years old when God made that promise to him. Most people would have said, "75 is too old for my wife to give birth to a son!" But Abraham believed God. Abraham knew that **God always keeps His Word**.

But how long did Abraham have to wait before he had his son? Did he have to wait as long as it takes for the sand through this hourglass before God kept His promise? No, it was longer than that.

This hourglass lasts for one minute. That means that every day this hourglass would have to be turned One thousand, four hundred and forty times! How long did Abraham have to wait for God to keep his promise...one day? No, it was longer than that.

Every year there are 365 days. We keep track of those days using a calendar like this one. This calendar has 365 pages—one page for every day. That means that by the time every day of the year has passed, and every page of this calendar has been turned, we will have turned the hourglass Five hundred twenty five thousand, six

hundred times. That's a long time to wait, isn't it? And that's just one year. How long did Abraham have to wait...one year? No, it was longer than that.

How many of you are five-years-old or older? Raise your hand. If you are five years old, that means that during your life, we have gone through five of these calendars (Count out five pages). That means that during your life, the hourglass has turned Two million, six hundred and twenty eight thousand times. How long did Abraham have to wait for God to keep His promise...five years? No, it was longer than that.

Abraham waited six years, seven years, eight years...and still no son (count out the calendar pages as you're talking). Abraham waited nine, ten, eleven, twelve years...still no son. Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen years...still no son. Sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty years...still no son. Twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five years. Abraham was 100 years old. He had waited for twenty-five years to receive the son that God had promised him. That's Thirteen million, one hundred and forty thousand turns of the hourglass! That is a long, long time to wait! If most people had to wait that long they'd say, "God has forgotten about me," or, "Maybe God doesn't ALWAYS keep His Word." But Abraham believed God, because he knew that **God always keeps His Word**.

Finally when Abraham was 100 years old, God said, "Now is the time. Get ready, Abraham, because very soon you're going to be a daddy." And sure enough, just a few months later Abraham's wife Sarah had a baby boy. Abraham named his son "Isaac." All those years, Abraham had trusted God to keep His Word, and now as Abraham and Sarah held their newborn son in their arms, they knew that they had been right...God ALWAYS keeps His Word. Abraham thanked God every day for keeping His Word.

Imagine how much Abraham enjoyed seeing that little baby boy, after he had patiently waited all those years for him. Imagine how much Abraham enjoyed holding that baby boy, after he had patiently waited all those years for him. Imagine how much Abraham enjoyed watching that baby boy grow up, after he had patiently waited all those years. Many times we have to wait to see God blessings come to pass in our lives, but it is always worth the wait.

Kids, **God always keeps His Word**. Say that with me. (Repeat several times).

Now, sometimes we have to wait. And waiting is very hard. But **God always keeps His Word**.

God promises to answer when we pray. God promised, "Call unto me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3. Keep praying until God answers, because God has promised to answer, and **God always keeps His Word**.

God promises to supply your needs. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. Pray and trust God to supply all your needs, because God promises to meet your needs, and **God always keeps His Word**.

God promises to be with you. "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. Sometimes you will feel all alone and scared, but stay close to God and trust that He is with you. God has promised that He would never leave you, and **God always keeps His Word**.

The most important promise that God has made is this one: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3:36. God promises that if you will believe on Jesus as your Saviour from sin, because He died for your sins, that He will forgive your sins and take you to heaven when you die. If you receive Jesus right now, He will save you right now. You will wait your whole life before you see heaven with your eyes, but you can be sure that you will go to heaven some day if you trust Jesus now, because God promised. And **God always keeps His Word**. If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, let me show you how today!

Let's learn our memory verse. **Matthew 24:35 – Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**

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Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Nine

[0090]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. GOD ALREADY HAS PLANNED HOW HE WILL HELP YOU TO FULFILL YOUR CALL. God knew all along that He was going to give Abraham and Sarah a miracle baby to fulfill His promise and His plan. God always enables those whom He calls. I Thessalonians 5:24. God has the plan all prepared before He ever makes the promise. People make promises, and then try to figure out how they're going to keep them; God makes the provision first, and then tells us what He has provided. We may have to wait to receive it, but that does not mean that He hasn't yet provided it.
- II. GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD. 21:1. *as he had said...as he had spoken.* Faith is not walking blindly, assuming everything will turn out alright. Faith is taking God at His Word. There is nothing more sure in the world than the Word of God. The world walks by sight, and will never understand someone who lives by faith; but when a man learns to take God at His Word, to walk by faith, it is a far more secure lifestyle than living by sight.
- III. GOD IS SEEKING FOR PEOPLE WHO TRUST HIM TO KEEP HIS WORD. God worked through Abraham and Sarah because they trusted Him to keep His Word. Hebrews 11:11. God places a very high value on faith; when He finds someone who is willing to take Him at His Word, He can work in miraculous ways.
- IV. GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS PERFECT. 21:2 – *At the set time.* God's timing is a part of His keeping His Word. If you do not trust His timing, you do not trust His Word. God knows precisely when to unveil every detail of His plans for you.
- V. GOD LIKES TO DO THE UNEXPECTED. 21:6. Don't ever think that you have God figured out. He will show you great and mighty things that you know not. Jeremiah 33:3. Don't expect God to work the same way twice. what He is doing. Proceed in obedience, trusting Him to keep His Word, for He always does!

The Birth of Isaac

Genesis 21:1-8

[0090]

God Always Keeps His Word

I. GENESIS 21:1-2 Sarah Conceives and Delivers a Son

→ God fulfills His Word right on time. Hebrews 11:11.

II. GENESIS 21:3 Abraham Names Their Son “Isaac”

→ Abraham remembers his first reaction to God’s words.

Genesis 17:15-19.

III. GENESIS 21:4 Abraham Keeps His Covenant with God

→ Circumcision confirmed that he believed God’s promise.

Genesis 17:10-14.

IV. GENESIS 21:5-7 Sarah Sees the Humor

→ Sarah remembers her first reaction to God’s words.

Genesis 18:9-15.

V. GENESIS 21:8 Isaac Begins to Grow

→ Abraham celebrates his son’s strength and good health.

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

The Birth of Isaac

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From today's Bible lesson, write "TRUE" next to each true statement below,
and "FALSE" next to each false statement.

- _____ 1. Abraham believed God.
- _____ 2. God immediately gave Abraham everything He promised,
Abraham didn't have to wait at all.
- _____ 3. Abraham was 75 years old when God promised that He would
give him a son.
- _____ 4. Abraham was very happy when God promised that He would
give him a son.
- _____ 5. It was not unusual at all for a man and wife who were
Abraham and Sarah's age to have a baby.
- _____ 6. God always keeps His Word.
- _____ 7. When Abraham was 100 years old, God said, "Now is the
time when your son will be born."
- _____ 8. God had promised that Abraham and Sarah would have a son,
but the baby turned out to be a girl.
- _____ 9. Abraham and Sarah named their baby boy "Isaac".
- _____ 10. God makes many promises to us in the Bible, and we can
count on Him to keep all of his promises.

***Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but my words shall not pass away.
Matthew 24:35***

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The answers to this week's puzzle

- TRUE** 1. Abraham believed God.
- FALSE** 2. God immediately gave Abraham everything He promised, Abraham didn't have to wait at all.
- TRUE** 3. Abraham was 75 years old when God promised that He would give him a son.
- TRUE** 4. Abraham was very happy when God promised that He would give him a son.
- FALSE** 5. It was not unusual at all for a man and wife who were Abraham and Sarah's age to have a baby.
- TRUE** 6. God always keeps His Word.
- TRUE** 7. When Abraham was 100 years old, God said, "Now is the time when your son will be born."
- FALSE** 8. God had promised that Abraham and Sarah would have a son, but the baby turned out to be a girl.
- TRUE** 9. Abraham and Sarah named their baby boy "Isaac".
- TRUE** 10. God makes many promises to us in the Bible, and we can count on Him to keep all of his promises.