

Abraham Is Kind to the Three Visitors

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- various colors of construction paper, cut into 1/2 inch by 12 inch strips (4 strips per student)
- posterboard or cardboard (from old boxes)
- hole punch
- yarn
- markers
- glue



Scriptures

Gen 17:1-9, 15-16; 18:1-15

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God blesses those who are hospitable; always show love to people around us

Behavioral Objective(s)

To be kind to others and learn to take care of them

Memory Verse

"Be kind to one another." (Eph 4:32)



Bible Knowledge

The Name Change of Abram and Sarai

God changed Abram's name ("exalted father") to Abraham, meaning "father of a multitude." God stated that this covenant was to be everlasting, and the land would be the everlasting possession of Abraham's descendants (Gen 17:1-8). Sarai's name, "my princess" was changed by God to Sarah, "a princess." The change in her name indicated what an important occasion this was, since God was promising that Sarah herself would have a baby boy (Gen 17:15-16).

Abraham's Hospitality

Abraham was eager to show hospitality to the



Understanding Your Students

Four- and five-year-olds are not used to caring for others. Most of the time, mom or dad takes care of their needs. But there are many ways they can be encouraged to show care for others. They can begin with the people in their own family. For example, we can do chores around the house to

visitors. In Abraham's time, even strangers were to be treated as highly honored guests. The Book of Hebrews suggests that we, like Abraham, should entertain strangers because by doing so, we may be entertaining angels (Heb 13:2).

Sarah's Laughter

Sarah lied because she was afraid of being discovered. Fear is the most common motive for lying. We are afraid that our inner thoughts and emotions will be exposed. But God exposed her inner thoughts by saying, "You lied."

In Genesis 21:1-7, we can see the fulfillment of God's promise: Sarah bore a son to Abraham, and he was given the name God chose, Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and circumcised him.

help our parents. That is one way we can care about them. Ask students what chores they can do on their own (make their beds, bring their dinner plates to the sink, put on their own clothes). Another more specific example is what they can do when mommy or daddy is sick. What are some things we can do to care for them? (bring them a blanket, play quietly so they can rest)

The students can also show they care for others.

A good way to start is to simply ask them what they can do when they see a new friend visiting, at home or at church.

1. What can we say when a new friend visits? (Hello, my name is _____. What is your name? How are you? Welcome to our class/ home.)
2. Can we offer this friend a place to sit?
3. Can we offer this friend something to eat or drink?
4. Can we sit next to this friend to make him feel



Vocabulary

Canaan

the land promised by God to His people, the Israelites



Before You Teach

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Col 3:12-13)

Paul wrote these words to encourage believers to live their lives for God each and every day. Though these characteristics are undoubtedly good, they are not always easy to put into action. How can we forgive someone who has just wronged us, much less be kind to them? How can we be patient with someone when it is the end of the day and we need to get home? And sometimes



Bible Story

God Changes Abram's Name to Abraham

Do you remember when Abram and Lot separated? Lot went one way to the flat lands and Abram went the other way to the hills. Each of them took their things and made homes for themselves.

One day, when Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to Abram and spoke to him.

"Abram, I am the Almighty God and I am

welcome?

By talking about specific things they can do, it will become easier for them to actually show their care and concern for others. Also remember to praise them when they show they care for their classmates in church (i.e. when others don't come to class, share their things with each other, when friends get hurt they help them). Positive reinforcement is extremely powerful in motivating children and their behavior.

Nations

many, many countries

Calf

a young cow

we give ourselves excuses for not being able to follow through. We are, after all, only human. But these characteristics aren't optional. They need to be a part of our lives because these characteristics are the characteristics of God. Christ Himself demonstrated each of them for us while He was on earth. Abraham and Isaac are also good examples of people who were kind and meek. Abraham showed kindness to Lot and three strangers. Isaac kept giving up his wells to maintain peace and harmony. When we read these Bible stories, we need to see that these people were just as human as the rest of us and they seemed to be able to possess these traits without much effort. In fact, one thing each of them had in common was their awe of God. When we see ourselves as "the elect of God, holy and beloved," we will desire to live our lives for God and we will naturally exhibit the characteristics of God.

making you a promise. If you follow Me and obey Me, you will become the father of many, many people."

As God spoke, Abram fell on his face to the ground and listened.

God continued to say, "I will give you all the land that you can see here, the land of Canaan. And your name will no longer be Abram. Your new name will be Abraham, which means the father of many nations."

Abram had a new name. He was going to be called Abraham from now on. But God was not fin-

ished speaking yet.

"Your wife's name will also be changed, from Sarai to Sarah. And I promise that she will have a son."

When Abraham heard all this, he was amazed. He was already ninety-nine years old. And his wife Sarah was also old. But God never lies. He always keeps His promises.

The Three Visitors

After God said all these things to Abraham, he kept God's words in his heart. Every day, he continued to fear and obey God. And God blessed Abraham and his family. They had everything they needed.

One hot afternoon, Abraham was sitting in the doorway of his tent. At that time, people lived in tents. There were no houses, like the ones we live in today. Who here has gone camping before? (Let students answer.) In biblical times, people sometimes lived in tents. Those tents were a little different, and a little bit larger than the tents we use today when we go camping.

As he sat near his tent, Abraham looked up and saw three men. They looked like travelers. Now Abraham was a very nice person. He knew these people must have traveled from far away and probably needed a place to rest. There were no hotels during that time. If people could not find a place to rest, they would have to sleep outside, under the stars. Abraham had lots of room and so he ran to meet them. He bowed very low because this was a polite thing to do in his country.

"Please come and rest under this shady tree," he said to the men. "I'll get some water to wash your feet. Then I'll bring some food for you to eat before you go on with your trip."

The men thanked him. They were very hot. The men sat down and took off their sandals. Then Abraham's servants brought some water for the visitors. It felt so good when they could wash their feet. They felt cool and clean. Then the visitors put their sandals on again.

Abraham Prepares the Best For Them

Abraham hurried to tell his wife, Sarah, to prepare a meal for the visitors.

"Sarah, we have some visitors. Go and prepare some bread and cakes. I will go and get the meat," said Abraham. Sarah was glad to get food ready

for the men. Then Abraham himself ran to get some fresh meat. He got the best calf and gave it to his servant to prepare. Everyone was hard at work, trying to make the best food for these three people.

Soon a good meal was ready. Abraham brought butter, milk, meat, and fresh bread to the men. Although it was a lot of work to make all this food, Abraham and his wife were happy to look after the visitors. Abraham was serving the very best food he had because he wanted to be kind to his visitors. As they ate, Abraham stood beside them to see if they needed anything else.

God Promises Abraham and Sarah a Son

As the men were eating, they began to talk to Abraham.

"Where is your wife, Sarah?" the men asked.

"In the tent," answered Abraham. Abraham wondered how these people knew his wife's name. He was sure he had never met them before.

"God is going to send you a baby son next year," the men told him.

Now Sarah was behind the tent and she heard what these men had just said. When she heard this, she laughed to herself. She said to herself, "Abraham and I are old now. He is almost one hundred and I am almost ninety. How can we have a baby? The visitors must be joking,"

But one of the visitors said, "Sarah, why do you laugh? I said you will have a baby next year. Don't you believe me?"

Sarah was scared and quickly replied, "No, no, I didn't laugh."

But the visitor said, "Yes, you did!"

At once Abraham knew these men were messengers sent to him from God. And it was God who spoke to him and Sarah as the visitor. He knew Sarah's name and He even knew she laughed without seeing her. And only God could promise something like this. Abraham was happy that God had sent him good news.

Abraham Shows His Love

After the men had given their message to Abraham and were done eating, they got up to leave. Abraham even walked part of the way with them, showing them his kindness. As Abraham went back to his tent, he was full of joy. Even though he was old and Sarah was old, God had

promised him just now that he would have a son soon. And he knew God always keeps His promises. He was glad he had invited the visitors to his house.



Check For Understanding

1. **What did God change Abram's and Sarai's names to?** (Abraham and Sarah.)
2. **How were Abraham and Sarah kind to the visitors?** (Invited them to rest, offered them water to wash their feet, and prepared the best meal for them.)
3. **What did the visitors say to Abraham as they were eating?** (That he and Sarah would have a son next year.)

4. **What did Sarah do after she heard this?** (She laughed because she thought she was too old to have a baby.)
5. **How did the visitors know Sarah was laughing?** (Because one of the visitors was God.)
6. **Abraham was nice to the visitors and took care of them. He was blessed with a son. What can you do to care for the people around you?** (Let students answer.)



Life Application Story

The Guest

Mrs. Lopez and her son, Ricky, sat at the dinner table. It would just be the two of them for a week, because Mr. Lopez had taken Ricky's brother, Juan, to a Christian camp a few hours away.

In the middle of dinner, Mrs. Lopez announced, "My friend Kelly is in town for three nights, and I invited her to stay at our place."

Ricky stopped eating and rolled his eyes. "Mo-o-om!" he said exasperatedly, "Why does she have to say here?"

Mrs. Lopez eyed Ricky. "Because she needs a place to stay," she said.

Ricky wasn't satisfied. "Why couldn't she just stay at a hotel, mom? This is a great week for us, you know. Just you and me hanging out. We can rent some movies and eat popcorn. Or we could go visit the museum after school. It will be really cool to have you all to myself."

Mrs. Lopez sighed. "We can still do stuff together, Ricky. But Kelly is a friend of mine. She was planning to stay at a hotel, but I said she could stay here. Hotels are expensive."

"Oh Mom ... why do you always offer to let

people stay here? We have guests all the time," Ricky asked.

"Because the Bible says we should," Mrs. Lopez answered.

Ricky paused, surprised. "The Bible?" he wondered out loud.

"Yes," said Mrs. Lopez. "God said that we should always be hospitable to guests. That means we should always be nice to people who visit us. Remember the story of the three men who visited Sarah and Abraham?"

Ricky remembered. He had heard it in RE class last week.

"The three men turned out to be messengers from God," Mrs. Lopez continued. "So God says when we open our doors to guests, it's like we're allowing angels into our home."

Ricky was silent. Then he smiled. "It really says that, mom?" he asked.

Mrs. Lopez laughed. "Yes, Ricky, it does."

Ricky thought for a moment. "I'm sorry, mom," he said. "I shouldn't have argued with you."

Mrs. Lopez gave her son a hug. "It's okay, Ricky. But now you know, right? Always be hospitable, and God will bless you!"

Ricky laughed. "Yes! And you know what? One day we might welcome an angel!" he said.

"Now why don't we finish up dinner, clean the

dishes and then go see what movie we can enjoy together," said Mrs. Lopez.

"Great idea, mom!" replied Ricky as he gobbled down the rest of his dinner.

Later that week, Ricky and Mrs. Lopez welcomed Kelly into their home. In the end, they had a great time with her. She had a lot in common with Ricky, and she told him lots of funny stories about what he was like when he was a baby. Ricky didn't know Kelly knew so much about him and his family. Who knew he would enjoy himself, while practicing God's word too!



Activity 1

Abraham Shows Kindness

Look at the picture. Abraham is showing kindness to the three visitors. He is showing kindness by giving them the best food. Color in the word *kind* to remind you to be kind to others, just like Abraham.



Activity 2

I Can Be Kind

Look at the pictures. What is each person doing that shows their kindness? Which ones can you do? In the last box, draw something you can do to show kindness to someone else.



Activity 3

Be Kind to One Another Poster

Materials:

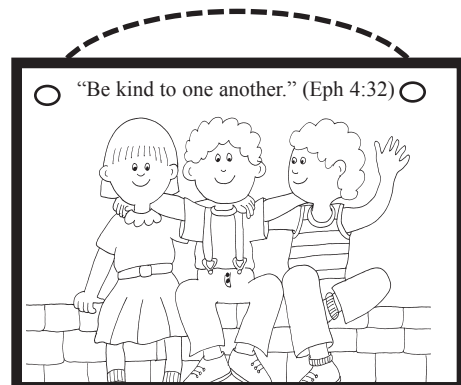
1. various colors of construction paper (8.5" x11"), cut into 1/2 inch by 12 inch strips (4 strips per student). Some parts may stick out, and will need to be cut off.
2. posterboard or cardboard (from old boxes)
3. hole punch
4. yarn
5. markers
6. glue

Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Ricky upset that his mom invited her friend to stay over?** (He wanted time alone with her.)
2. **Why should we be nice to visitors and invite them over to stay?** (God will bless us; we could be entertaining angels without knowing it.)
3. **Do your parents have friends, family or church members stay over at your house?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **What can you do to make visitors feel welcome at your house?** (Allow students to answer.)

Directions:

1. Have the students color in the picture. Be sure to talk about the memory verse and what it means. Review again the things they can do to be kind.
2. Then have students pick out four strips. Have them arrange the strips around the paper to form a border. Glue the border onto the paper.
3. If posterboard is available, the paper can be mounted or glued onto the posterboard to make it sturdy. Otherwise, it is possible to glue it onto cardboard from old boxes or another piece of construction paper to make it more durable.
4. Punch two holes near the top of the picture and string yarn through the holes to create a wall-hanging.
5. Encourage the students to hang this poster up in the kitchen or their room to remind them to always be kind to one another. (Teachers can also hang these up in the classroom as encouragement.)





Abraham is **KIND**



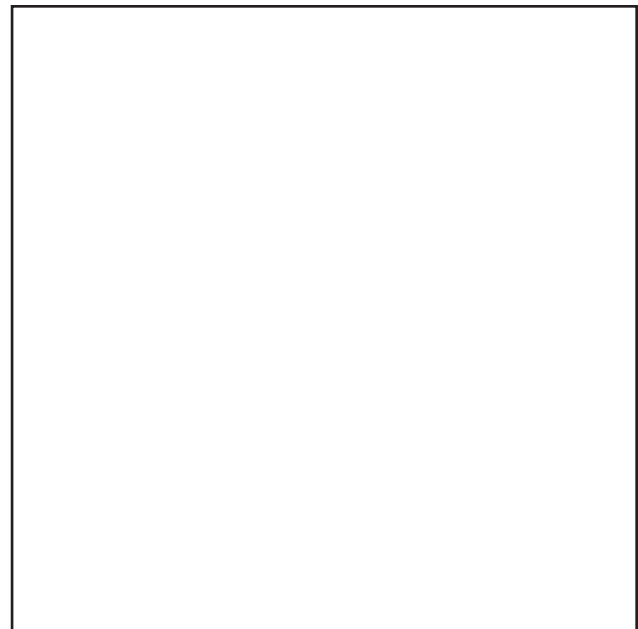
1. How are these people being kind?



2. How is this person being kind?



3. How is this person being kind?



4. How can you be kind?
Draw it here.

"Be kind to one another." (Eph 4:32)

