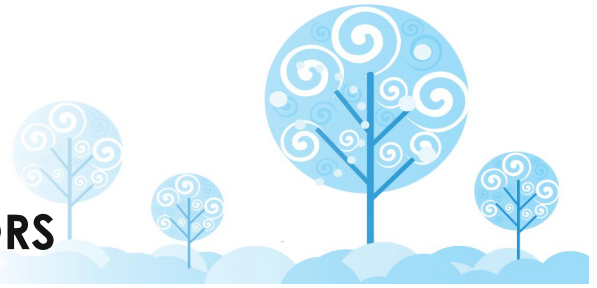


LESSON 6

ABRAHAM RECEIVES THREE VISITORS



OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that our God is an almighty, omnipotent God.
2. To understand that nothing is impossible for God.
3. To learn how to show hospitality at home or at church.

MEMORY VERSE

“Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”

(Romans 12:13)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His words.
2. Nothing is impossible with God. May He help us when we need Him.
3. Lord, please help us learn how to show hospitality and kindness, both at home and at church.
4. May God help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. The Covenant of Circumcision

- God gives Sarai and Abram new names
- God promises that Sarah will have a son

2. Abraham receives three visitors

- Abraham pleads with the visitors to stay
- Abraham prepares a big feast
- Abram serves and waits on his guests
- The Lord speaks concerning Sarah and Sarah laughs
- Abram sends the guests off

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God: Our God is the true and living God. He is almighty.

4. Life Application

- Our Mighty God
- Showing Hospitality

5. Activity—Act It Out



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Abraham received three complete strangers—this is something that people today would hesitate to do. Since we were young, we have been taught to stay away from strangers and not to talk to strangers. We only welcome people that we know into our homes. What Abraham did, however, was both common and necessary at that time. There were no hotels to spend a night in or restaurants to dine in like we have today.

Travelers in the OT times usually brought their own provisions and slept wherever they could if no one lived in the area (Gen 28:11). However, if people lived in the land, they might invite the travelers to spend the night and have a meal (Gen 19:1-3; Ex 2:20; Judg 19:14-21; 2 Kgs 4:8). Second, although Abraham was a wealthy chief of his tribe, he called himself a servant and treated his guests as masters. He bowed down to the ground and carried water to them to wash their feet. People wore sandals, and the sand and dust in the desert often made their feet very dirty when they traveled.

In biblical times, it was customary to address oneself as a servant and honor the one to whom they were speaking as his or her master, especially when the person was older or of a higher position than they. Although we do not address each other in this specific manner (especially in Western cultures), we should continue the same spirit of servitude. Jesus presented the best example when He washed His disciples' feet and commanded them to serve one another. If our Lord Jesus, the God Almighty, came to serve, how much more should we humbly offer ourselves as servants to one another?



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students are at an age where they are self-conscious. While some are very extroverted and sociable, many are very shy and withdrawn. They may have the heart to serve others, but may feel that their efforts can't really amount to much because of their age. Teach your students that their efforts are very important and appreciated. Allow them time to overcome their shyness in serving others. Provide class sessions on manners and service to others. Make it a group effort to sponsor a fellowship in which the students make it a point to serve older and younger members. Through practice and experience, the shyness will gradually diminish. Finally, remind them of Paul's message to the young Timothy (1 Tim 4:12): "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."



Opener

5 Minutes

A Memorable Visit

Have your students close their eyes and think for one minute about the following questions:

"Besides your own home, where do you feel most welcome? Why?"

Then, have the students open their eyes and share their best experiences of being a guest at someone's home. We all enjoy being welcomed and treated nicely when we visit others. It is easy to be a guest. However, are we good hosts to our guests? Let's learn from Abraham.



Vocabulary

hospitality: friendly and generous reception and care toward guests or strangers

covenant: God's promise and an agreement between God and man

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Fill In the Blank

1. nations
2. Three, the Lord
3. water, feet

True or False

4. False; she laughed because she did not believe
5. True
6. True

Short Answer

7. Abraham brought water for their feet, made bread for them, prepared a tender calf, and brought them butter and milk.
8. The Bible teaches us that we are all one family of brothers and sisters. We can show God's love by welcoming others. Then, we will be blessed.
9. The things that are impossible with men are possible with God (Lk 18:27).



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet and tell the students that we will be filling it out as we go through this lesson. The answers have been underlined.

Let's open our Bibles to **Genesis 17**.

The Covenant of Circumcision

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

Abram then fell facedown, and God made a covenant with Abram: "You shall be a father of many nations."

[Explain "covenant." It's a promise from God and an agreement between God and man. Ask: Think of some of God's promises to us. For example, the promise of the Holy Spirit, God's promise not to flood the world, God promises that we will live long if we honor our parents, etc. What was God's covenant in this story? Tell students to fill out the covenant questions in the worksheet.]

"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant."

God continued, "My covenant is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you

are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Abraham fell facedown and laughed. He said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

Students, do you think this could be possible today?

Then God said, "Yes, your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

On that very day, Abraham took his other son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him. Let's continue on to Genesis 18.

The Three Visitors

While Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day, he looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried over to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

He said, "If I have found favor in Your eyes, my Lord, do not pass Your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get some of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some butter and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

Then He said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Students, did you notice that one of the visitors was the Lord? Yes, one of the visitors was God!

As a matter of fact, the other two visitors were angels. Hebrews 13:2 tells us, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

When the visitors rose to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way.

Conclusion

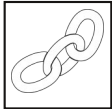
From today's lesson, we know that nothing is impossible for God. If God says that Sarah was to have a son, even in her old age, then it would be possible. To her and to humans, it may have sounded impossible, but with God, all things are possible.

Abraham showed a lot of hospitality toward complete strangers. We must learn to be friendly and generous to our guests and church visitors. But why is it important for us to practice hospitality?

First, the Bible teaches us to do this. Because we belong to the family of God, it is natural that we should take good care of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Being hospitable to one another is only one of the many ways to show our love for one another as Jesus commanded (Mt 22:39). Being hospitable is also a way to prove our discipleship (Jn 13:35).

Second, we can show God's love to unbelievers through our hospitality. When we receive guests who do not believe in God with love, we show the unconditional love God has for all people. By doing so, we follow Jesus' command of loving others as ourselves.

Lastly, when we receive our guests with love as Abraham did, God will bless us for our good deeds. In Matthew 25, Jesus speaks of a parable in which the believers are separated like sheep and goats, to the right and left of the King on judgment day. The sheep on the right side of the King are those who helped their brothers and sisters. They will receive the inheritance prepared for them in the kingdom of God. However, the King rebukes the goats on His left because they did not take care of those who were in need. The King sends them to suffer in the eternal fire.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Our God is almighty, and He is the true and living God. Nothing is too hard for Him. If He says that He will do something, even if it sounds impossible to us, He will do it. We need to keep this in mind when we need God's help and when we pray. He listens to our prayers, because He is a living God, not a lifeless idol. Always remember Luke 18:27, "But He said, 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.'"



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **List the things Abraham did for the visitors.** Brought water for their feet; made bread for them; prepared a tender calf; brought them butter and milk.
2. **One of the visitors was _____** (the Lord).
3. **One of the visitors mentioned something about Sarah. What was it and how did Sarah react?** He said that Sarah would have a son in a year's time. Sarah laughed to herself, because she did not believe Him.
4. **Because Sarah didn't believe, what did the visitor ask?** "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"



Life Application

10 Minutes

[Hand out the Life Application worksheets to the students. Give the students time to complete them, then ask the students to share their answers with the class.]

1. Our Mighty God

Verse	Miracle
Matthew 14:13-21	<i>(Jesus feeds the 5,000)</i>
John 2:1-11	<i>(Jesus changes water to wine)</i>
Matthew 14:22-33	<i>(Jesus walks on water)</i>

2. Showing Hospitality

<p>How should you show your care...</p> <p>...before class or during lunch time? <i>(Introduce yourself. Help him get food and water/drinks. Show him around church. Introduce him to other children or classmates.)</i></p> <p>...during class? <i>(Make sure he has a Bible and hymnbook. Show him the classroom.)</i></p> <p>...after class? <i>(Ask him if he has any questions. Let him know he's welcome to come again.)</i></p>	<p>When the guests arrive, what are some things you should do to show hospitality and care? <i>(Welcome them and introduce yourself. Offer to take their coats. Offer snacks and drinks. Show them where the restroom is. Show them where to sit and relax.)</i></p> <p>The guests need to stay overnight in your house, but you don't have any guest rooms left. What should you do? <i>(Clean your room and offer your room for them to stay in. Help them with settling in and help provide anything they may need, such as towels, drinking water, etc.)</i></p>
--	--



Activity Act It Out

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reinforce the hospitality of Abraham by acting out today's story.

Instructions

1. Give students a copy of the included script.
2. Assign the characters below to students.
3. (Optional) You can also record this on video and show them right after, if time allows, or show it some other time. If you know how to edit the video, you can cut out any blooper sections.

Cast

- Narrator
- Abraham
- Sarah
- Visitor 1 (Lord)
- Visitor 2
- Visitor 3
- Servant
- Any remaining students can act as "extras/background actors" or you can assign additional characters at your discretion

Props

- Water basin (does not have to be filled with water)
- Towel
- Plates, three
- Cups, three
- Table
- Chairs, four

(INT. = Interior, inside/indoors)
(EXT. = Exterior, outside/outdoors)

Title: Three

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE ABRAHAM'S TENT

NARRATOR

It's a hot and sunny day. Abraham is leaning against the doorway of his tent. Suddenly, he sees three men standing across the street. He hurries over to meet them and bows low to the ground in front of them.

ABRAHAM

If I have found favor in Your eyes, my Lord, do not pass Your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way."

VISITOR 1

Sure, we will stay.

NARRATOR

Abraham hurries into the tent to Sarah.

INT. INSIDE ABRAHAM'S TENT - Sarah is inside.

ABRAHAM

Quick, Sarah get some of the finest flour and bake some bread.

SARAH

Sure, I will get started on that right now.

NARRATOR

Abraham runs off to his herd.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S HERD OF ANIMALS

NARRATOR

Abraham selects the best, tender calf and gives it to his servant.

ABRAHAM

Here, please roast this for our guests.

SERVANT

Yes, Abraham. Right away.

EXT. OUTSIDE ABRAHAM'S TENT - The visitors are seated at the table.

NARRATOR

After everything is prepared, Abraham brings the food, along with some butter and milk, to the visitors. While they eat, he stands near them under a tree.

VISITOR 2

Where is your wife Sarah?

VISITOR 3

Yes, we have something to tell her.

ABRAHAM

Oh, she's there inside in the tent.

VISITOR 1

I wanted to bring you some good news. I will return again, about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.

NARRATOR

Sarah is listening at the entrance to the tent. Abraham and Sarah are already very old, and Sarah is past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughs to herself as she thinks:

SARAH

(laughing/giggling)

Both Abraham and I are already very old. How could I have a son now?

VISITOR 1

Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.

SARAH

(scared)

No, I didn't laugh.

VISITOR 1

But you did laugh!

VISITOR 3

Well, we have to get going now. Thank you for your hospitality. The food was wonderful.

NARRATOR

The visitors get up to leave. They thank Abraham again. Abraham walks along with them to see them on their way.

The end.

FADE OUT.

The Three Visitors

Instructions: Listen carefully to the lesson and fill in the blanks.

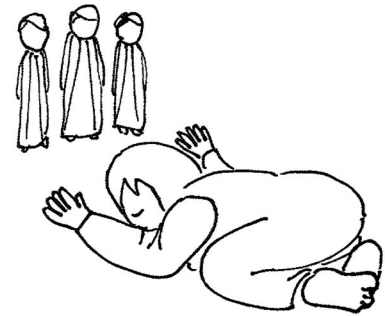
1. God established a covenant with Abraham, telling him that he will be a father of many _____.

2. What is a covenant?

3. What are some covenants and promises God has given us today?

4. God also promised to bless Sarah with a _____.

5. When Abraham saw the three visitors, what did he do first?



6. How did Abraham serve these three visitors? You can list them out.

7. When the visitors told Abraham that Sarah would have a _____, Sarah heard it and _____.

8. Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too _____ for the Lord?"



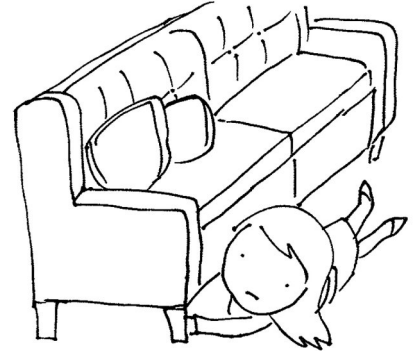
Nothing is
impossible for
God.

Our Mighty God

Objective: To understand that our God is almighty and omnipotent, and that nothing is impossible for Him.

Instructions: Read the following story and answer the questions below.

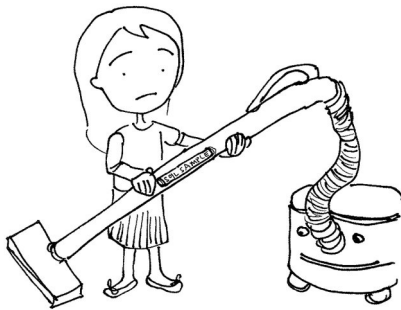
Julia woke up one Sunday morning to get an early start on finishing her science project that was due the next day. But as she was gathering her project materials, she could not find this small plastic container of a special soil sample that her partner handed her on Friday in school. This was the part her partner had worked on during the last two weeks.



She couldn't finish the project without this and there was absolutely no time to gather more soil samples. She looked everywhere—in every room in her house, underneath couches, tables, and beds; she even searched in the car, too. Nothing.

Julia's mom saw her running around looking very worried and upset. "What's wrong, Julia?" her mom asked. "I can't find my soil sample," Julia replied with a worried tone. "And I've been looking everywhere. This is the last part of the project and I can't finish without it. It's due tomorrow!"

Julia's mom told her, "Well, you know, there's one more thing we can do. We can kneel down and pray." So Julia and her mom knelt down to pray.



Several hours later, that afternoon, Julia's dad was vacuuming the car when suddenly the vacuum suction tube got stuck on some kind of bottle. It wasn't small enough to go into the vacuum, so her dad had to shut off the vacuum to see what it was. It was the soil sample Julia had been looking for! Her dad went into the house to ask about what this was. Julia ran out and shouted, "I was looking for this! Thanks, Dad. And, of course, thank God, too!" Her mom then said, "Nothing is impossible for God. You believed in Him, and He helped you when you needed it."

Jesus performed many miracles and miracles are always a sign that "the things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27).



Read the following verses and summarize the miracles they record.

Verse	Miracle
Matthew 14:13-21	
John 2:1-11	
Matthew 14:22-33	

Showing Hospitality

Objective: To learn how to show hospitality at home or church.

Instructions: Read each short scenario and then describe how you would show hospitality.

Story	Questions
<p>Matt and his family are new truthseekers who are visiting TJC for the first time. His family has been searching for a true church for a long time and they finally found out about TJC. They decide to visit. He doesn't know anyone yet so he's very uneasy. You notice him. How should you show your care?</p> 	<p>How should you show your care...</p> <p>...during lunch time?</p> <p>...during class?</p> <p>...after class?</p>
<p>You and your family have decided to invite a visiting pastor and his family over for dinner on Friday night before service. When they arrive, your parents are still busy with preparing the meal and setting things up. They ask you and your brother to help out. They also mention that it's possible that the pastor's family will need to spend the night in your house. How should you help out and show hospitality?</p> 	<p>When the guests arrive, what are some things you should do to show hospitality and care?</p> <p>The guests need to stay overnight in your house, but you don't have any guest rooms left. What should you do?</p>

