

## Lesson 8

# God Kept His Promise

Genesis 18:1–14  
21:1–8

### Memory Verse

“And being fully persuaded that, what He promised, he was able also to perform”  
(Romans 4:21)

### Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

**Define** the word “promise”

**Locate** the faith chapter

**Describe** what it means when we say, “God is faithful”

**Express** in their own words ways that God has been faithful

### Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities” for specific activities.

## Teacher’s Bible Study

Very early in the books of Moses the Old Testament begins setting forth vague shadows, hints, and types which foreshadow the coming of a Messiah. The books of Moses are the first five books of the Old Testament.

The commentators universally recognize that the hint found in Genesis 3:15, concerning the woman which shall bruise the head of the serpent and the serpent which shall bruise His (not “her”) heel, is a reference to the Virgin Birth and the coming of Christ into the world. There has been only one descendant of Eve who was born of woman, yet was not begotten by a man.

The blood sacrifice of Abel (Genesis 4:3–5) is recognized as the earliest institution of a blood sacrifice. God accepted Abel’s sacrifice, and rejected the vegetables offered by Cain.

At the call of Abraham, God promised that “all nations of the earth would be blessed” through him—not only because Abraham would become the “father of many nations” and that “kings” would come out of him, but also that “one seed” which is Christ (Galatians 3:16) would come from Abraham’s family.

This week’s study is in Genesis 18, 21, 22, 23, and 24. By reading these chapters your will have a fuller understanding of the promise God made to Abraham and kept.

It is hard to imagine the delight, the love, the great joy Abraham and Sarah experienced when God gave them a son of their own. Isaac was the “son of promise,” a son given to them by the power of God.

Paul sheds light on Abraham’s example, calling him the Father of the Faithful: “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God: And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform” (Romans 4:16–21). This is one of the finer biblical definitions of faith.

## Presenting the Bible Story

### Genesis 18:1-8

**W**hen Abraham returned from Egypt, after the famine, he “pitched his tent” by the oaks of Mamre. This was close to Hebron. It was this place where God visited Abraham’s tent. God appeared as one of the three men.

### Genesis 18:9-14

God came and confirmed His promise in person that the time was at hand for the birth of Isaac

Abraham and Sarah acted according to the customs of the day:

1. Abraham ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the ground as a sign of greeting.
2. Abraham used forms of address: “My Lord” and “Your servant.”
3. He washed his guests’ feet.
4. He served them food.
5. He stood while they ate.

### Genesis 18:9–14

Isaac means “He laughs”

Do you believe that all these actions may suggest that Abraham knew who his visitors were?

### Genesis 21:1-7

After the meal, the visitors asked, “Where is Sarah your wife?” Abraham said, “Here, in the tent.” It is then that Abraham was told that Sarah would have a child. Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him. When Sarah heard this announcement, she laughed in her heart. Abraham and Sarah were old. Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. The thought of having a child at her age seemed ludicrous to Sarah. The Lord rebuked Sarah for laughing. He said, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” Sarah denied that she laughed. Sarah was taken off guard at the thought of having a child at her age, and so she laughed. She then denied that she laughed. Both of these reactions Sarah had are consistent with human nature. God knew Sarah’s heart and He knows yours and mine. For those who believe, trust, and have faith in God, nothing is beyond belief of what He can do. He is, after all, the all-powerful great Creator God.

### Art and Activities

Just as God had promised, He visited Sarah and she bore Abraham a son in his old age. This happened at the set time God had said it would happen. Abraham named his son Isaac. He circumcised Isaac on the eighth day just as God had commanded him to do.

Sarah said, “God has made me laugh.” Sarah is referring to her joy with the birth of her baby. It was not the laughter of unbelief she had earlier (Genesis 18:12). Sarah now rejoices that “all that hear will laugh with me.” (Genesis 21:6). She means that they will rejoice *with* her.

## Teaching Activities

### Young Children

Follow directions for constructing the sleeping “Promise” baby in a blanket of construction paper. Provide copies of coloring sheet of sleeping baby

### Older Children

Provide copies of word games or Activity Pages suitable for your student’s age group..

**Explore the following questions with your students:**

## Explore the Subject

1. What is a promise?
2. Who promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son?
3. Did Abraham and Sarah believe God?
4. Did God keep His promise?
5. Does God keep His promises today?

**Always close your class with prayer**

## Respond and Reinforce

1. Think about how Abraham and Sarah felt every time they looked at this child, Isaac, born in their old age. It must have reinforced their faith, daily.
2. Do you think that Abraham and Sarah thanked God every time they looked at Isaac for keeping His promise?
3. Discuss memory verse.

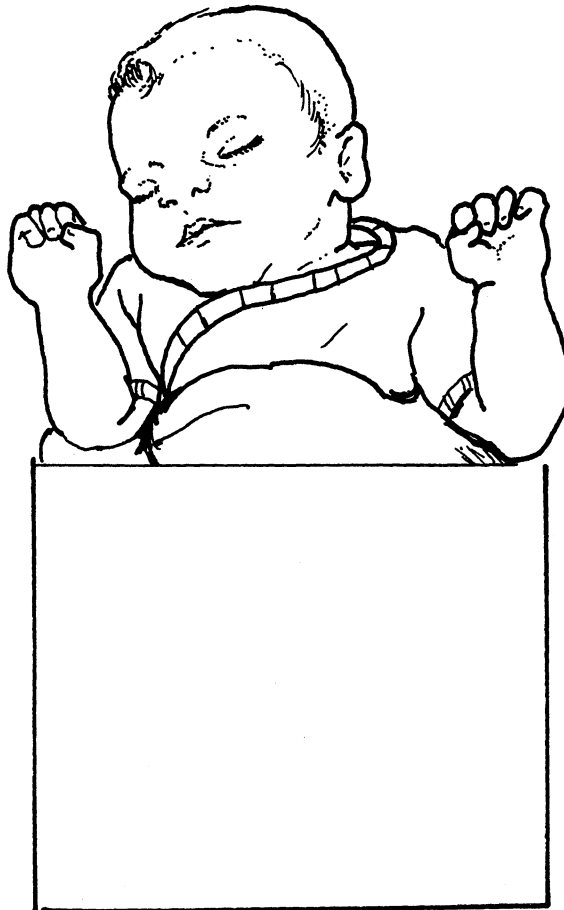
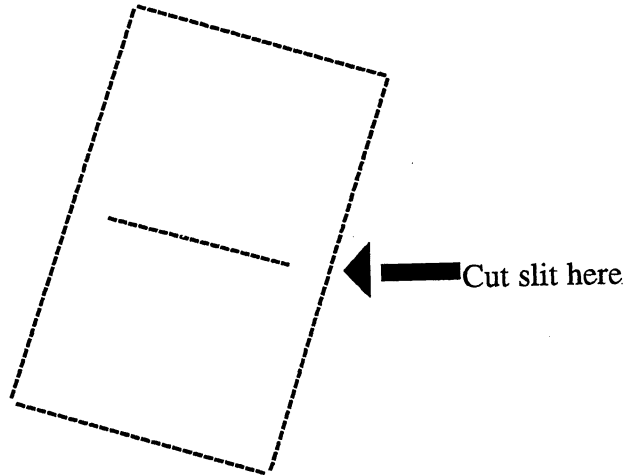
## Activity Page

### “Baby of Promise” Pattern

**Materials needed:**

Crayons, scissors, glue or tape  
Colored construction paper  
Copies of sleeping baby

**Directions:** Have students color their copy of the baby, and cut out. Fold construction paper in half and cut, making two pieces. Make a slit in the middle of the sheet. Insert the baby and use glue or tape to hold in place.



## Activity Page

### God's Promise to Abraham Genesis 18:1-14; 21:1-8

Read the scriptures and unscramble the words found in them.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **CEVOCINE**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **BAMRAHA**
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **HASAR**
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **DECNHLRI**
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **TEFAS**
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **RLDO**
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **RAMEM**
8. \_\_\_\_\_ **NETT**
9. \_\_\_\_\_ **SOMREL**
10. \_\_\_\_\_ **SREDES**

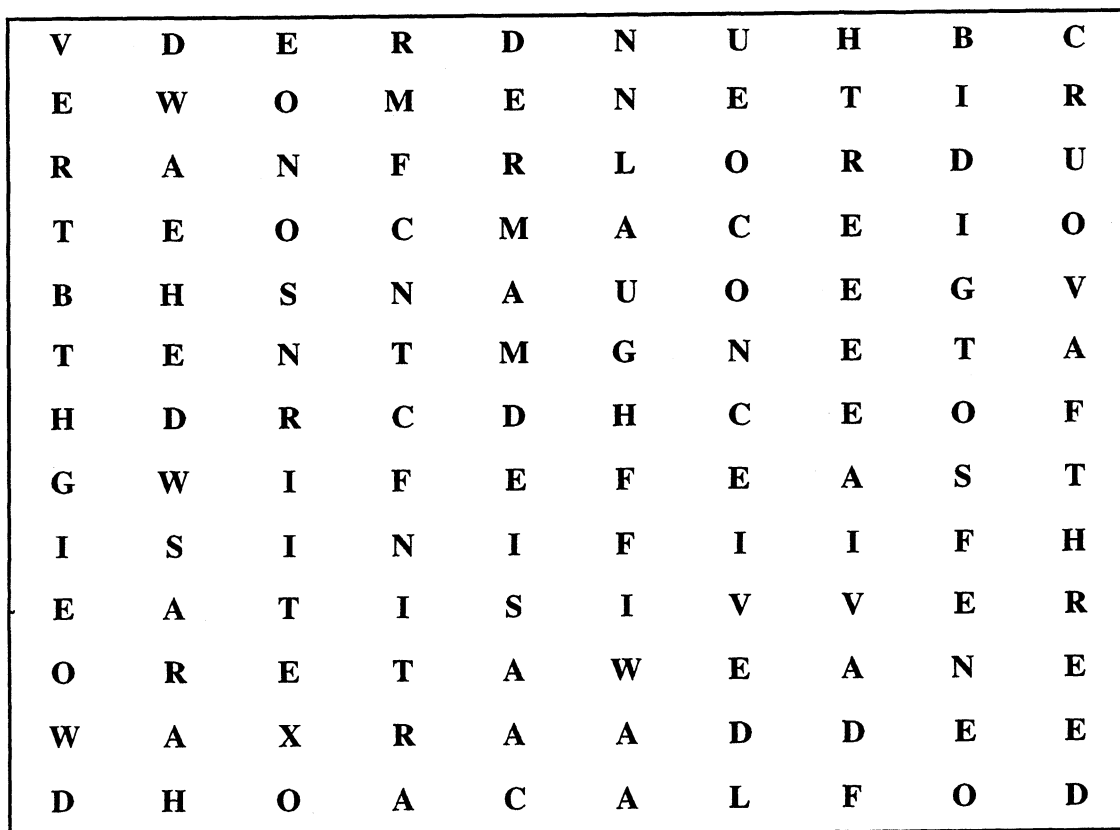
Answers: 1. Conceive; 2. Abraham; 3. Sarah; 4. Children; 5. Feast; 6. Lord; 7. Mamre; 8. Tent; 9. Morsel; 10. Dressed

# Activity Page

## God's Promise to Abraham

Genesis 18:1–14; 21:1–8

Read the scriptures and find the words in the puzzle below.



|       |         |           |            |       |
|-------|---------|-----------|------------|-------|
| VISIT | SARAH   | CONCEIVED | CIRCUMCISE | WAX   |
| LAUGH | HUNDRED | EIGHT     | ISAAC      | WIFE  |
| THREE | MAMRE   | FEAST     | WEAN       | WOMEN |
| TENT  | LORD    | WATER     | FEET       | SON   |
| REST  | FAVOUR  | TREE      | CALF       | RAN   |

## Art Activity

### God's Promise to Abraham

Genesis 18:1-14; 21:1-8

Color the promised baby, Isaac.



arah conceived and bare  
Abraham a son in his old  
age, at the set time of  
which God had spoken to  
him. And Abraham called  
the name of his son that  
was born unto him, whom  
Sarah bare to him,

**Isaac**—Genesis 21:2

