

# Adventures with GOD!

## FAITH IS REWARDED WITH A SON (B.3.FALL.11)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 21:1-13
Key Verse	Deuteronomy 7:9
Key Concept	God is faithful and keep promises and we are to put our faith in God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell how God showed love toward Sarah and Abraham</li> <li>2. Name the ways that God shows love to us</li> <li>3. Give thanks for God's never-ending love</li> </ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION

God expressed love for Abraham and Sarah through the birth of the son that was promised to them. Even though for Abraham and Sarah it seemed impossible that they would have children because of their age, God was faithful to keep his promise. God's love is infinite and we too experience God's faithfulness in our lives.

### POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES AND CLASS PLAN

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Paper and crayons or markers	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bibles, illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	String, scissors, beads, rings	10 minutes
Bible verse		5 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute



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## Instructions

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Genesis 21:1-13) two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

**Activity:** Have a present wrapped ahead of time and take it for them to look at. Pass it around and ask them what gifts they have received that have been very special. Ask them how they feel when someone gives them a gift. Allow them to open the present you have. Make sure you've filled it beforehand with a little something for each child (a book mark with the memory verse on it, a bracelet, etc). The story today talks about a special gift that Abraham and Sarah received from God after many, many years of waiting and having faith.

**Bible exploration:** To introduce the story today, ask someone from your congregation with a new baby to come and share a little bit with the class about what a gift from God babies are. Or bring in illustrations of a new baby and talk about what happens in a family when a new baby comes. Then, tell the story of Abraham and Sarah and the birth of Isaac (Genesis 21:1-13). This is a joyful story to read because it tells of God's faithfulness to this couple. It was

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hard for them to believe God's promise because of their age, but God was faithful. The birth of Isaac was a gift of love from God.

God shows love in different ways. What are other ways that God shows his love to us?

**Craft:** Today the children will have the opportunity to make a gift to bring home to their families. Just as God shows us love, we in turn can show others love.

**Bible verse:** The Bible verse today has some key words in it like "covenant." Ask the children what this verse communicates to them about God. Have them illustrate a picture or come up with actions to communicate the verse to others.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

**G: God's Word:** What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

**R: Relationships:** Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O: Outward Action:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

**W: Worship:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.

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## **CRAFT**

### **A COLORFUL BRAID**

Just as God shows us love and surprises us with good gives, so we can show our love to others. Follow the instructions below to make a braided bracelet or bookmark that the children can give to someone in their family or to a friend as a gesture of love. In the time of Abraham and Sarah there were no sewing machines, everything was sewn and woven by hand. Today the children will have the opportunity to make something with their hands that can be given away.

Materials:     Strings or yarn of different colors  
                  Colored beads, scissors

Instructions:   1. Cut 4 strings of different colors (2 should be 15 inches and the other 2 should be 20 inches) and give each child a set of 4 strings.  
                  2. Begin by making a knot to tie together the tops of the 4 strings (the shortest strings should be in the middle). See illustration A.  
                  3. With the longer strings they should make a knot as show in illustration B.  
                  4. They should then continue making knots as shown in illustration C.  
                  5. They should then put on a colored bead after they have made several knots. After every 4-5 knots they can put on a bead. See illustration D.  
                  6. To finish, depending on how long they want to make it, they will make another knot. See illustration E. To make bracelets, have fasteners available that can be connected to the ends.

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