WEEK 13

Baby Isaac

Big Idea: God is loving. He is always faithful.

Memory Verse
"Know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Word of the Week
"Impossible" - When something isn't able to happen, it's impossible. For example, it's impossible for humans to fly on their own. (Surprise: God makes impossible things happen!)

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 15-21** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 138, 139.

Sunday

Getting Old

Abram watched the children chase each other around the tents. He heard them squeal as they ran. What happy sounds! He wished he had a laughing, smiling son of his own. Poor Abram and Sarai still had no children.

It was a long time since God had said to Abram, "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you" (Genesis 12:2). Abram was now an old, old man. Sarai was a wrinkly old woman.

Abram thought about the times God had promised them children and grandchildren. He sighed. Those promises had become like a distant, dusty old memory.

Ever since Abram was young, he had been faithful to God and trusted His promises. Now, many years later, it was hard to believe that this promise was really true. Old wrinkly men and women don't have babies! It was *impossible*, wasn't it? Was God's promise still true?

Waiting can be so hard. God encourages us to keep talking to Him while He teaches us to be patient. Read **Romans 12:12**. What should we be in prayer?

I Wonder

» Do you like waiting for things? How do you act when it doesn't come quickly?

» Who is patient in your family? How do they show they are patient?

Prayer Idea
Ask God to help you be patient, as Abram needed to be.

Do
Put a puzzle together with your family or friend. It's important to be patient while we trust Jesus to piece our lives together.





Monday

The Promise Echoed–Trust God, Trust God, Trust God

Abram was worried. He *really* wanted a son, but he still didn't have one.

God saw that His friend was sad and worried. He wanted to encourage him, so one evening He spoke to Abram again.

God said, "Abram, don't be afraid. I will defend you. And I will give you a great reward. . . . You will have a son of your own" (Genesis 15:1-4, ICB).

A son! Abram must have wanted to jump and clap–he was so happy!

God led Abram outside his tent. "Look at the sky," God said. Abram looked up. The black sky was scattered with millions and millions of glittering stars. God kept talking: "There are so many stars you cannot count them. And your descendants [children, grandchildren] will be too many to count" (Genesis 15:5, ICB).

What happened next? Read **Genesis 15:6**.

Old Abram's heart lit up with faith and hope in God's promise. God would do the impossible! He and Sarai would have their own family! How exciting!

How kind of God to encourage Abram in such a special way.

God loves to encourage us with His words so we won't worry. Try to say your memory verse. It will help you always remember that our God keeps His promises. "Know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Parent Faith Talk

Sit together under the stars and share a time God gave you a promise that you had to wait for.

I Wonder

» Do you trust Mommy/Daddy's words? How do you show you trust them?

» How can you show God you are trusting Him?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that we can trust His promises, even though we sometimes need to wait.

Do

Plan to invite someone over for a meal this Sabbath. As a family, think and pray about who you can invite.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Waiting With New Names

After God helped Abram understand His promise again, the sun came up, and the sun went down . . . again and again and again. Days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into years, and still there was no baby for Abram and Sarai.

Now it was 24 years since God had first promised Abram a son. It was hard to be patient for that long! How old was Abram now? Read **Genesis 17:1**.

That's a grand old age for Abram! The Bible says that Sarai was nearly 90 years old. After all this waiting, God spoke again to Abram and said, "I am changing your name from Abram to Abraham. This is because I am making you a father of many nations" (Genesis 17:5, ICB).

A new name, given by God. How special! Now whenever anyone said his new name, they were calling him a father and reminding him of God's promise.

Then God said, "I will change the name of Sarai, your wife. Her new name will be Sarah. I will bless her. I will give her a son" (Genesis 17:15, 16, ICB). God also told Abraham that his son should be called Isaac.

While waiting for their promise, God was changing them into something better. God is changing us too, while we wait for His promises.

I Wonder

» Why do you think God took a long time to fulfill His promise to Abraham?

» What does *your* name mean?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He is making us more like Him every day, if we choose His way.

Do

Write your name in big letters on a piece of paper, using lots of color. Add stickers or glitter. Do you know that God has given you another special name? Read **1 John 3:1**. What a beautiful name.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

Special Visitors

Old Abraham sat in his tent's shady doorway. It was too hot to work. It was the middle of the day—time to rest. As his sleepy eyes looked out over the fields, he saw something. Visitors! There were one . . . two . . . three visitors coming his way. Oh, what a surprise!

What did Abraham do? Read **Genesis 18:2**.

The visitors must have been happy to have such a friendly welcome!

Then Abraham said, "Sir . . . please stay awhile with me, your servant. I will bring some water so all of you can wash your feet. You may rest under the tree. I will get some bread for you, so you can regain your strength" (Genesis 18:3-5, ICB).

Abraham kindly led them over to the cool shade of a big tree. His home was out in the countryside. They would need water after such a long, hot walk. Quickly Abraham and Sarah rushed to looked after their guests.

The Bible tells us to "be gentle and polite to all people" (Titus 3:2, ICB). Abraham was just like this. No wonder people knew He was God's friend! When we treat someone kindly, we're really treating Jesus kindly (see Matthew 25:40). What a good thing to remember!

I Wonder

» Count how many kind things Abraham did in this story. Which welcoming actions from the story do you like to do?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for kind and welcoming people. Ask God to help you be more like this each day.

Do

Plan your menu for the guest you are inviting for Sabbath. Think of ways you can make your guest feel special and loved by God.

Memory Verse

Thursday

The Secret Laugh

The three strangers sat smiling and eating in the cool shade, under the trees near Abraham's tent.

Though Abraham didn't realize it yet, these men were not just men. Two of them were angels, and one of them was Jesus Himself!

Then one of the men (who was Jesus) looked at Abraham and said, "I will certainly return to you about this time a year from now. At that time your wife, Sarah, will have a son" (Genesis 18:10, ICB).

Tired, wrinkly, 90-year-old Sarah was in her own tent, secretly listening. When she heard these words, she thought it was so funny that she laughed to herself. "My husband and I are too old to have a baby" (Genesis 18:12, ICB).

Sarah thought her laugh was a secret. But Jesus heard her. He knew her thoughts. What did Jesus say to Abraham? Read **Genesis 18:13, 14**.

Sarah was afraid. She told a lie to Jesus and said, "I didn't laugh." But before she could walk away and hide, Jesus said, "No. You did laugh" (Genesis 18:15, ICB).

Sarah learned a lot that day. She learned that Jesus knows *everything*. She learned to always tell the truth. And she learned that God's promises are *always* true. We can also believe Jesus' words in the Bible: "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

I Wonder

» Why did Sarah laugh when God spoke to them about having a baby?

» Have you ever laughed at the wrong time? What happened?

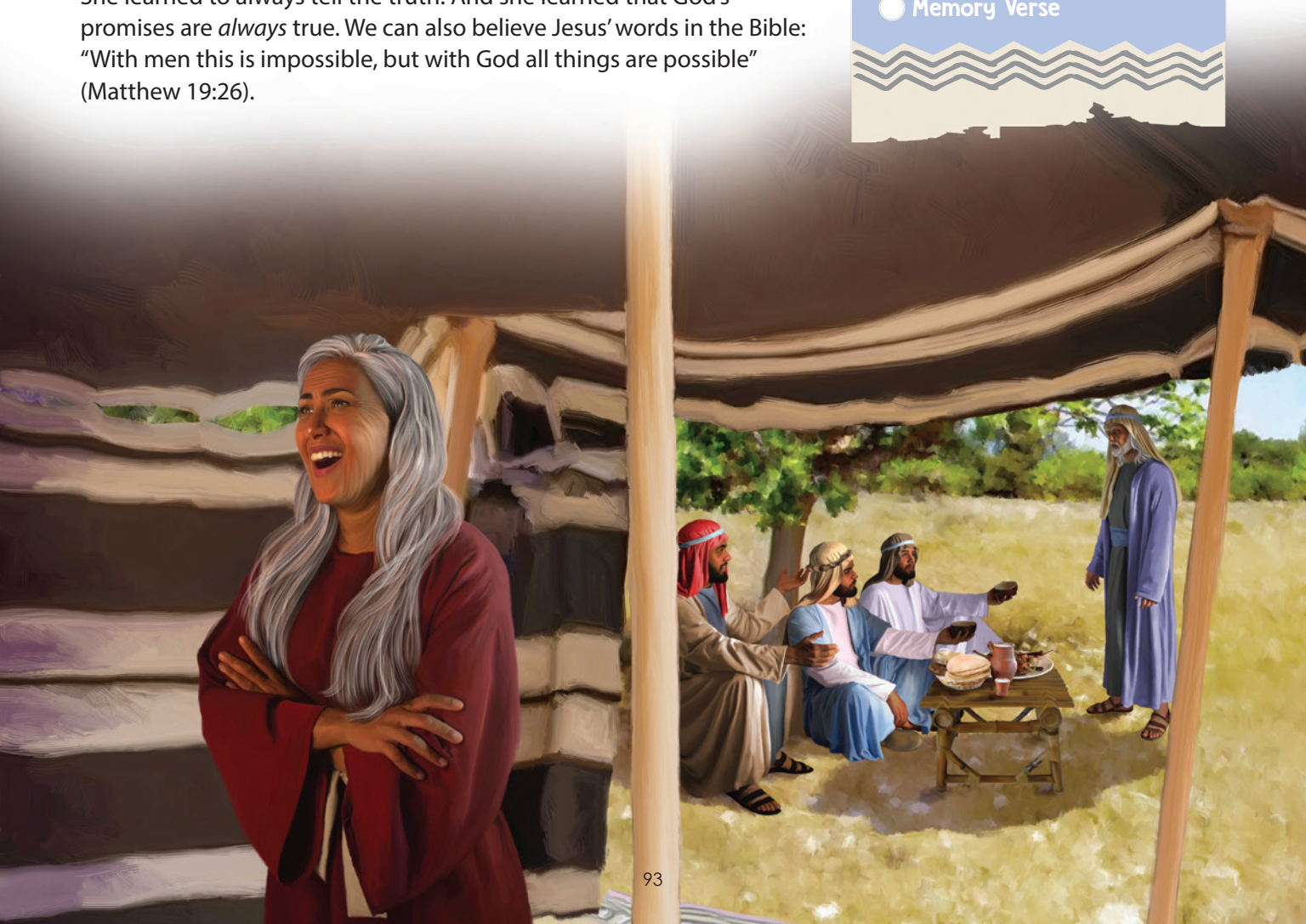
Prayer Idea

Thank God that He always keeps His promises, even if we need to be patient and wait a very long time.

Do

Say your memory verse as a whisper. Now try to say it silently in your head. Thank God that He always hears us. And that His words are always true.

Memory Verse





Friday

A Baby's Cry

Jesus told Sarah the most amazing, wonderful news: she would have her own baby very soon! Did God do what He promised?
Read **Genesis 21:2, 3**.

How happy everyone was when little Isaac was born. With big smiles they watched baby Isaac sleep and suck his fist. Sarah now laughed happily as she thought about God's kindness and love. Sarah said, "God has made me laugh. . . . No one thought that I would be able to have Abraham's child. But I have given Abraham a son while he is old" (Genesis 21:6, 7, ICB).

In Sarah's language the word for Isaac and "he laughed" sound the same. Isaac would always remind her of the happy laughter God gave her when she was older than a grandma.

Everyone knew that Isaac truly was a special gift from God. He was a miracle baby!

Is anything too hard for God? No. God can do ANYTHING! "Know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God" (Deuteronomy 7:9). God had made the impossible possible! We can trust that whatever God says He'll do, He always does.

Noticing Book

How did you do with last week's challenge to "notice" whenever someone does something in your home "just to be kind" or "just to do the right thing"? Well done for following Abraham's example.

I Wonder

» What is the best or biggest surprise you have ever had?

» What have you learned from this story?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the promises He has made happen, and the ones He is still making happen for all of us.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw and cut out 12 small stars. On each star, write a word from your memory verse (Deuteronomy 7:9). Mix up the words. Then help each other put them back in the right order and glue them into your journal. Talk about how God can take the impossible and make it all work out. He is faithful.

For You, Parents

"It is our privilege to open our hearts, and let the sunshine of Christ's presence in. My brother, my sister, face the light. . . . Ask Him to help you to bring into your work Christ's sweetness of character" (Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 199).

A Faithful God

Lightning flashed and thunder crashed. The little seaplane wobbled in the strong winds. This was a terrible storm! The pilot looked over at Ejler Jensen and nodded at the missionary. There was no choice. They would have to land the plane on the sea.

Ejler was a missionary in the cold, icy land of Alaska. He would often travel around on fishing boats and little seaplanes so he could visit people in faraway towns and villages. Ejler wanted everyone to know about the love of Jesus.

As the wild winds blew, the pilot landed the boat on the cold water. Ice quickly covered the wings and propeller. The plane began to sink!

Ejler and the pilot jumped into the freezing water and swam to the nearest shore. As they sat wet and shivering in the cold snow, Ejler prayed.

Suddenly an old, friendly Eskimo appeared, dressed in white. He waved at them to follow him. The men plodded through the thick snow, behind the Eskimo. Eventually they arrived at a little village. The local people gave them shelter until the storm passed.

Ejler asked the villagers about the Eskimo, but they told him that there was no such person. In that moment Ejler realized that God had done an impossible miracle to save them. He had sent an angel to guide them to warmth and safety.

"Remembering Jensen, 102, Was Adventist Pioneer to Okinawa," Adventist News Network, September 9, 2014, https://adventist.news/news/remembrance-jensen-102-was-adventist-pioneer-to-okinawa.

