



Hagar and Ishmael

Lesson Aim: To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20

What He has done: God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.

Key Verse: Genesis 16:13

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Matthew 6:26, 31-33

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18; 14:21-23	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how trust and the desire to please God are the keys to being a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith by offering their lives as a living sacrifice.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To see God is fully present in the jobs we are given. He calls us to obey, pray, and give ourselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:22-34; 27:41	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To consider the importance and long term consequences of our choices.
37	Life of Jacob: The Family, Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To encourage overcoming obstacles and perseverance in relationships with God and family.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 23. Please join us in praying, “Thank You, God, for watching over us, hearing our cries, and rescuing us. Comfort the children with this story of rescue and promise. Amen.”

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Water From the Well	Small spray bottle or squirt gun and two buckets per team, optional: adhesive tape, plastic tarp (if playing indoors)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 121:1-8	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 33 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	Map—Canaan, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Matthew 6:26, 31-33	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Bird feather, W's, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Well Water	Blue gelatin (in cups or cut into shapes)
	Up to 10	Game: My Eyes See	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Well of Water	Play-doh or colored modeling clay in blue and brown (or yellow)
	Up to 10	Discussion: Name Change	Bibles
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite drink?

GAME: WATER FROM THE WELL

Purpose: To introduce the story about Hagar and the well as teams race to be the first to fill their bucket with water.

Supplies: Small spray bottle or squirt gun and two buckets per team, optional: adhesive tape, plastic tarp (if playing indoors)

Prepare: If possible, play this game outside. If the game will be played indoors, protect the play area with a waterproof tarp or see dry variations of the game below. Mark the start and finish lines and place a bucket for each team on each line. Fill the start line buckets with water. If the buckets are large or are not the same size, use adhesive tape to mark a fill line inside each finish line bucket. Be sure the fill line represents the same amount of volume in each bucket and can easily be reached during the time allowed for your game.

Today, we are going to learn the story of Hagar and Ishmael. We will discover God watched over them by showing them a well full of water when they were thirsty and in the desert. Let's pretend we are in the desert and there are people nearby that need water. The only way you can get the water to them is by using your spray bottle to fill their well.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into two teams and line them up behind their start line buckets. Give an empty spray bottle to the first person on each team.
2. On your signal, players fill their spray bottles and race to their team's finish line bucket (well).
3. At the well, players squirt water into the bucket five times. Then, they race back to their team and hand the spray bottle to the next person in line. That person repeats the relay. As needed, players should refill the spray bottle before racing to their well.
4. Play continues until one of the teams wins by reaching the fill line on their well.

Variations: Instead of spray bottles, use sponges or cups to transfer the water. For a dry version of the game, fill the start bucket with small stones, marbles, rice, or confetti and use spoons or cups to transfer the "water" to the well.

Small classroom or a large number of players: Use one of the suggested dry versions of the game and form two teams. Place the buckets at either end of the room and have each team sit between their buckets. The player next to the start bucket fills a spoon or cup with the "water" and passes it to the next player, and so on down the line, until the "water" is emptied into the finish bucket. You may choose to give each team one cup or spoon that is passed up and down the line or to give each child a cup or spoon that the "water" is transferred to from the start line to the finish line. Play continues until one of the teams wins by reaching the fill line on their well.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promise to always watch over us. In today's story, we will read how God watched over Hagar and her son Ishmael. He made a special promise to them and provided for them in the desert.



As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to always watch over us by singing Psalm 121. Sing: "I Lift Up My Eyes" while offering is collected.



Read: Psalm 121:1-8.



Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God watching over us.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 33.



God watched over Hagar and Ishmael

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Abram acted as a peacekeeper with his nephew Lot. When Abram moved to the new land, what did he do to keep the peace with Lot? (He let Lot choose his land first.) **Today, we will read how God watched over Hagar and her son Ishmael and gave them a special promise.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 16:13.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Sarai and Abram did not want to wait any longer for a son, so Sarai told Abram to marry her servant Hagar. When Hagar became pregnant, she and Sarai didn't get along, so Hagar ran away. Let's read what happened next. If a map of Canaan is available, point to Shur between Kadesh and Bered and to the desert of Beersheeba. Read Genesis 16:7-16.

A few years after Ishmael was born, God changed Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah. For more information, see the NAME CHANGE game in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **When Sarah and Abraham finally had their son Isaac, Sarah sent Hagar and Ishmael into the desert. Let's read.** Read Genesis 21:9-20.

Teacher Tip: If questions arise, explain that thousands of years ago in Abraham's culture, it was not unusual for a man to have more than one wife at one time.



God watches over you

THE WAY

Sarai waited many years for God's promise to give her and Abram a child, but she still had not become pregnant. So, instead of continuing to wait and trust God's plan, Sarai made her own plan. She told Abram to marry Hagar, so Hagar could give Abram a child. Did God keep His promise and give Sarai and Abram a baby? (Yes.) Sarai became pregnant with Isaac about 14 years after Hagar and Abram had their son Ishmael. How might Sarai's life have been better if she had waited and trusted God's plan? (She would have been the mother of Abraham's first son. She would not have had problems with Hagar or Abraham.)

After Hagar ran away and heard the angel, what did she call God? (The God who sees me.) Why do you think she called God that? (Children respond.) What did the angel tell Hagar to do when she ran away? (Go back to Sarai.) What did the angel tell her about God's plan? (Her son would be a strong man. She would also have many descendants.)

Have you ever wanted to run away from your problems? (Children respond.) How might it help if an angel said God sees your misery and has a good plan for your life? (Children respond.) God wanted Hagar to stay close to Him as she faced her problems, trusting His plan for her. Ishmael was a teenager when Isaac was born. What did Ishmael do to Isaac which caused Sarah to send Hagar and Ishmael away? (He mocked Isaac.) God comforted Abraham with the promise about His plan for Ishmael. What was that promise? (He would be a nation.)

Why did Hagar cry in the desert? (She thought her son would die of thirst.) How might Hagar have reacted differently if she had trusted God's plan for Ishmael as told by the angel years earlier? (She would have trusted that Ishmael would live to have a family that would become a nation.)

As you read Jeremiah 29:11-13 (from a Bible or the Bible Memory Verse poster), think of it as God's plan for your life. What are the promises God makes to you in these verses? (He has plans to prosper us and give us hope and a future. We will find Him when we seek Him. He will listen to our prayers.) How can these promises encourage you when you are going through a long wait as Sarai did or a hard time as Hagar and Ishmael did? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 2000 years after the angel told Hagar that God saw her misery, Jesus reminded us that God sees our every need. Check out what Jesus told us to do instead of worrying about what we need.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Matthew 6:26, 31-33. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Matthew 6:26, 31-33.

God promises to watch over us; He always sees our needs. What are some of the things you worry about? (Children respond.) How might Jesus' words help you with your worries? (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, _____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a bird feather. When you look at the feather, remember the Bible tells us in Matthew 6 that God watches over the birds, so He is definitely watching over and caring for you! Take the feather home and tell others how God cares for them, too.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #33. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Hagar and Ishmael drinking water from the well in the desert. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: WELL WATER

Purpose: To enjoy a snack while reviewing how God watches over us.

Snack Suggestion: Blue gelatin (in cups or cut into shapes)

In today's story, we discussed how God watched over Hagar and her son Ishmael. He helped them see the well in the desert so they could get the water they needed to stay alive. As we enjoy our own refreshing water and a snack that looks like water, let's talk about times when we knew God was watching over us.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you known God was watching over you?"**

GAME: MY EYES SEE

Purpose: This version of "I Spy" reminds children that God sees the details of our lives.

Supplies: None

Hagar called God "the God who sees me." God notices everything about us. He even sees what we are wearing right now. Let's see how quickly we can see something God sees about each of us.

Directions:

1. Choose a child as the "Spy" to stand in front of the room.
2. The Spy silently chooses something, such as a piece of clothing or jewelry, on another child to "spy" and whispers to the teacher what the object is.
3. The Spy completes the sentence, **"My eyes see something _____."**
Example: "My eyes see something round," or "My eyes see something blue."
4. The remaining children take turns guessing what the object is and who it is on.
Example: Joy's round earrings.
5. When a correct guess is made, the teacher says, **"Spy's name's eyes see item and wearer. God's eyes see everything about the wearer of the item."**
Example: "Maya's eyes see Joy's round earrings. God's eyes see everything about Joy."
6. Repeat this game until everyone has a turn as the Spy.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: WELL OF WATER

Purpose: Children create a well to remind them that God is watching over them, just as He watched over Hagar and Ishmael.

Supplies: Play-doh or colored modeling clay in blue and brown (or yellow)

God showed Hagar and Ishmael He was watching over them. He promised their family would one day be big enough to become an entire nation. God provided water for them when they were thirsty in the desert. God watches over each of us, too. He is with us in good times and in bad times. Let's make clay wells full of water to help us remember God is watching over us, just as He did for Hagar and Ishmael.

Directions:

1. Divide the two colors of clay into equal parts and hand out to the children.
2. Suggest they form the well by creating a cup shaped out of the brown clay.
3. Fill the well with blue clay. Encourage them to create splashes or bubbles in the water.

DISCUSSION: NAME CHANGE

Purpose: For children to engage in a deeper discussion of the day's lesson.

Supplies: Bibles

Today, we discovered God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Let's discuss why God changed his name. Let's look up and read Genesis 17:3-8. Read Genesis 17:3-8.

God repeats His promises to Abraham several times throughout his life. Let's see if we can pick out all the promises God gives Abraham in this passage.

- Abraham will be the father of many nations, have many descendants - including kings.
- God's promise will also be good for Abraham's descendants.
- God will be their God, and Abraham and his family will own the land of Canaan.

Why does God change Abram's name? (Because he will be the father of many nations.) Abraham means "father of many." God wanted Abraham's name to tell people who he was and how God had blessed him.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

The Tower of Babel Why did God stop the building of the Tower of Babel? (Because the builders were trying to make themselves famous instead of God.)

Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) Initially named Abram, God later changed his name to Abraham. What was the first thing God asked Abram to do? (Go to a new land God would give to Abram and his family.) What did Abram do to keep the peace with Lot? (He let Lot choose his land first.)

Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) What did God do for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert? (He watched over them and gave them water.) What promise did the angel make to Hagar? (God would make Ishmael into a great nation.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)