



Hagar and Ishmael

Lesson Aim: To know God watches over us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 21:12-20

What He Has Done: God kept His promise when He rescued Hagar and Ishmael in the desert.

THE WAY - BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-11, 14-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To see how to live in peace with one another.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 21:12-20	God kept His promise when He rescued Hagar and Ishmael in the desert.	To know God watches over us.
34	Abraham's Visitors, Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14	God sent three men to say His promise would come true.	To know God can do anything He promises.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-46, 61-67	God helped Abraham's servant find Rebekah.	To show how to obey and pray.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11	God kept His promised plan for each brother.	To know we can forgive each other.
37	Life of Jacob: The Dream, Genesis 28:12-17	God told Jacob in a dream He would keep His promise.	To trust God to keep His promise to be with us wherever we go.

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."

TEACHER'S TIP

Promises, promises! Throughout this unit, we're talking about "The God who keeps His promises." You can create a teachable moment by making a promise to the class yourself. You might say, "After we play a game, I promise we will have snack." After they're sitting for their snack, ask them if you followed through on your promise. Ask them who else keeps their promises. (God.)



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 20	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of eyes
		Coloring Center: Hagar and Ishmael	Coloring pages of Hagar and Ishmael, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: What Do You See?	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Activity Center: I Spy with My Little Eye	None
		Activity Center: Water from God	Soft ball for tossing
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Am with You" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "Guide Me in Your Truth" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Will Listen to the Lord" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Song Suggestions: "Father Abraham" "My God Is So Big" by Mary Rice Hopkins
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 33
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Genesis 21:12-20	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 21:17 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, binoculars
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Hagar's Well	Small paper bag or cup, light blue paper, cross sticker or stamp, eye stickers, crayons
		Game: God Watches Over You	Soft ball
		Game: Guess Who's Crying	Poster of a bush, low bookcase or a chair, tape
		Snack: Water to Drink	Any favorite snack with water
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 33
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Genesis 21:12-20	None
	Up to 10	Game: Stand Up and Say It!	None
	Up to 10	Game: Wherever You Go	Chairs (optional)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God watching over us

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure. Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of eyes. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of eyes remind you that God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and He watches over you.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: HAGAR AND ISHMAEL

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Hagar and Ishmael, crayons

DO

Children color their pictures while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

Can you help me name people who watch over us and help keep us safe? (Parents, teachers, firemen, police, doctors, nurses, etc.) **What do they keep us safe from?** (Getting hurt, fires, bad guys, sickness.) **Today, we will hear how God watched over a mother named Hagar and her son Ishmael. God is always watching over us, too.**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: WHAT DO YOU SEE?

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children create a face and something God made with the play-dough while discussing today's lesson aim.

TALK ABOUT

In our story today, we will hear how God watched over a boy named Ishmael and his mother Hagar. What part of our body do we use to watch things? (Eyes.) **Where are your eyes?** Children point to their eyes. **Let's use the play-dough to make a face with eyes, ears, nose, and a mouth.**

God made many things we can watch with our eyes. What do you like to see that God created? (Animals, flowers, people, etc.) **Let's see if you can make that with the play-dough you have.**

THE WELCOME *continued ...*

ACTIVITY CENTER: I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE

SUPPLIES

None

DO

Play "I Spy." Choose an object in the room without revealing what it is to the children. Say, "**I spy with my little eye, something that is name the color of the object.**" Have children take turns guessing which object you chose. Play as long as children have interest. Allow the children to take turns choosing an object.

TALK ABOUT

Did you know you are very special to God? (Children respond.) **He loves you very much. He loves you so much that He is always watching over you and caring for you. Let's play "I Spy" and see if we can spy some special things in our classroom.**

ACTIVITY CENTER: WATER FROM GOD

SUPPLIES

Soft ball for tossing

DO

Children toss the ball to each other while naming things they are thankful God has given them.

TALK ABOUT

In our story today, a boy named Ishmael and his mother Hagar wandered in the desert for so long that they ran out of food and water. But, God was watching over them and He gave them water to drink. Do you think Ishmael and Hagar were thankful for the water God gave them? (Yes.) **When I toss you the ball, tell me something you are thankful God has given you.**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Once the service has begun, clean up and begin the planned activities.

Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away. Praise any child who helps.

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"I will
watch over you
wherever
You
go."
Genesis 18:15**

(I) Point to self.
(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
Index finger points straight ahead.
Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to God. He always keeps His promise to watch over us. Let's talk to Him now. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for watching over us and taking care of our needs. Amen.**



Father Abraham asked God to watch over Hagar and their son Ishmael. We know God is faithful to keep all His promises. Sing: "Father Abraham" or "The Lord Is Faithful."

Today, we will hear how God kept His promise to watch over Abraham's son Ishmael and Ishmael's mother Hagar. He kept them safe when they were in the desert. As we give our offering, let's sing about how mighty God is. He is mighty to save! Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save" while the offering is collected.



Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know the story of Hagar and Ishmael. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: *God of Wonders* Unit 7, Lesson 33.



Where do we find God's promises? (In the Bible.) One of God's promises is to watch over us wherever we go. That's our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together with the motions. Practice with the motions a few times.

**"I will
watch over you
wherever
You
go."
Genesis 18:15**

(I) Point to self.
(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
Index finger points straight ahead.
Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "I Am with You."



The Lord watched over Hagar and Ishmael

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 21:17, picture of the Bible story, binoculars

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Use the binoculars to view and call the names of several of the children, mentioning something they are doing or that you can see about them.

"I see child's name sitting so quietly."

"I see child's name has a nice smile."

"I see child's name helped another child's name find a place to sit."

With these binoculars, I can watch what you are doing. Do you know who is always watching over you? (God.) That's right. In our story today, we learn God loves us and He is always watching over us. Let's listen. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 21:17.



WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 21:12-20

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Ishmael and Hagar were sent to the desert sand.**
- **This worried and upset Ishmael's father, Abraham.**
- **God promised to watch over Ishmael and his mother.**
- **Abraham made sure they set out with food and water.**

- **They wandered in the desert 'til the water was gone.**
- **Hagar found a shady bush for her crying son.**
- **Then she sat down and she started to cry.**
- **God sent an angel calling Hagar from the sky:**
- **"What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid.**
- **God heard Ishmael crying in the shade.**
- **Lift your son up. Take him by the hand.**
- **I'll make him into a great nation in another land."**

- **God opened Hagar's eyes to see a well of water.**
- **She ran to the well and filled up her bottle.**
- **God was with Ishmael, watching him grow**
- **And Ishmael learned to shoot with a bow and arrow.**

Did God keep His promise to watch over Hagar and Ishmael? (Yes.) Who else does He promise to watch over? (Us!)



The Lord watches over you

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: HAGAR'S WELL

Purpose: To remember God watches over us and provides what we need.

Note: A craft template with instructions and a sample are available at ResourceWell.org or use the following instructions to design your own.

Supplies: Small paper bag or cup, light blue paper, cross sticker or stamp, eye stickers, crayons

Prepare: From light blue paper, cut out three water drop shapes. Make the drops as large as possible while still being able to fit into the paper bag or cup. Print: "**The Lord**" on the first water drop, "**watches**" on the second drop, and "**over you.**" on the third drop.

Optional: Draw the outlines of stones on the outside of the bag or cup for the children to color.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. The suggested googly eyes have been removed for ages 2-3 as they are a potential choking hazard for young children.

Directions:

1. Place a cross sticker on the "**The Lord**" water drop.
2. Place eye stickers on the "**watches**" water drop.
3. Draw your face on the "**over you.**" water drop.
4. Put the 3 water drop shapes into the well (paper bag or cup).
5. Draw and/or color in stones on the outside of the well.

Craft Discussion:

- **What miracle did God do for Hagar in the desert?** (He showed her a well of water.)
- **Have you ever been very thirsty?** (Children respond.) **Hagar and Ishmael were in the middle of the hot, dry desert. How do you think it would feel to be as thirsty as Hagar and Ishmael were?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: GOD WATCHES OVER YOU

Purpose: Children will learn God watches over each of them everywhere and every day.

Supplies: Soft ball

Even now, God is watching over us. When the ball comes to you, tell us something God has watched you do today.

Directions:

1. Have children stand or sit in a circle.
2. If the children are standing, toss the ball to a child. If they are seated, roll the ball to a child.
3. Lead the children in saying, "Child's name, child's name, God watches over you. Tell us what God watched you do!"
Sample: "Charlie, Charlie, God watches over you. Tell us what God watched you do!"
4. The child with the ball shares an activity such as "God watched me play" or "God watched me come to church."

GAME: GUESS WHO'S CRYING?

Purpose: This version of Hide-and-Seek shows that just as God heard Ishmael, He hears us.

Supplies: Poster of a bush, low bookcase or a chair, tape

The Lord heard Ishmael crying under the bush in the desert. He hears us, too. Let's play a game where we pretend to cry as Ishmael did in the desert.

Directions:

1. Hang the bush poster from a low bookcase or a chair.
2. Children hide their eyes while the teacher chooses one child to be Ishmael.
3. Ishmael "hides behind Ishmael's bush" by hiding behind the bookcase or chair that the bush poster is hanging on. Ishmael pretends to cry.
4. The teacher signals for the other children to open their eyes.
5. The teacher chants:

Guess who is crying. The Lord knows who!

For the Lord hears both me and you.

Is it name of a seated child? Children answer no.

Is it name of a seated child? Children answer no.

Is it name of the child hiding behind the bush? Children answer yes!

6. Repeat the game until each child has a turn pretending to be Ishmael.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: WATER TO DRINK

Purpose: To remember the Lord is watching over us.

Snack Suggestion: Any favorite snack with water

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who is watching over us now as we eat our snack?** (God.)
 - **Pretend you are very thirsty. Take a sip of your water. Doesn't the water taste good?** (Children respond.) **How do you think Hagar felt when she had no water?** (Sad, afraid, thirsty.) **How do you think she felt when God showed her a well of fresh water?** (Happy, thankful, special to God.)
 - Share with each child a favorite thing you enjoy seeing him or her do. Be as affirming and specific as possible with each child. For example: "I love to watch Madeline smile." "I am so happy when I see Ben sharing the toys." Give children time to share what they enjoy seeing others do.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"I will watch over you wherever You go." Genesis 18:15	(I) Point to self. (watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you. Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side. Index finger points straight ahead. Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: GENESIS 21:12-20

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Ishmael and mother Hagar were sent to the desert sand.** (Point far away.)
- **This worried and upset Ishmael's father, Abraham.** (Pretend to be worried.)
- **God promised to watch over Ishmael and his mother.**
(Shield eyes with your hand. Look left and right.)
- **Abraham made sure they set out with food and water.** (Pretend to drink.)
- **They wandered in the desert 'til the water was gone.** (Walk in place.)
- **Mother Hagar found a shady bush for her crying son.** (Rub eyes, as if crying.)
- **Then she sat down and she started to cry.** (Rub eyes, as if crying.)
- **God sent an angel calling Hagar from the sky:** (Point to sky.)
- **"What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid.** (Shake head no.)
- **God heard Ishmael crying in the shade.** (Rub eyes, as if crying.)
- **Lift your son up. Take him by the hand.** (Hold hands.)
- **I'll make him into a great nation in another land."** (Point far away.)
- **God opened Hagar's eyes to see a well of water.** (Point to eyes.)
- **She ran to the well and filled up her bottle.** (Pretend to drink.)
- **God was with Ishmael, watching him grow** (Point to heaven.)
- **And Ishmael learned to shoot with a bow and arrow.** (Pretend to shoot an arrow.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15

GAME: STAND UP AND SAY IT!

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us. We can remember that promise by saying it to one another. Practice saying the Bible Memory Verse together a few times.

Directions:

1. Say, **"If you are a girl, I want you to stand and say God's promise together."**
2. The girls stand and say, **"I will watch over you wherever you go."**
3. Repeat steps 1-2 with various groups such as:
 - If you are a boy.
 - If you love God.
 - If you are wearing something blue.
 - If you have a brother or sister.
4. Play as often as you like, announcing different groups each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: WHEREVER YOU GO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Chairs (optional)

Prepare: In this game, the children will pretend to travel to various locations. You may choose to set up two rows of chairs next to each other as a pretend car or the children can sit in rows on the floor.

In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us wherever we go. What are some of the places we go? (e.g., Grandma's house, store, playground, doctor's office.)

Directions:

1. Children sit in the chairs or sit in rows on the floor.
2. **Let's pretend we're riding in a car.** Ask one of the children, **"Where should we go?"**
3. Have fun pretending to drive the car to that location. Pretend to stop for traffic or to take a wrong return. When you arrive, say, **"We're here!"**
4. You may choose to have the children get out of the car and act out an activity they might do at that location, such as hugging grandma, buying milk, or running in place for the playground.
5. Ask, **"Is God with us when we are at name of location?"**
6. Lead the children in saying, **"God says, 'Yes! I will watch over you wherever you go.'"**
7. If the children got out of the car, have them take their seats again. Play as often as you like or as long as children are interested. You may choose to change the vehicle into a bus, train, or airplane depending on the location to which you are traveling.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God watching over us.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 33: Hagar and Ishmael

PONDER! God promised to watch over Hagar and Ishmael in the desert (Genesis 21:12-20). Did God keep His promise? Does God watch over you?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for watching over our family just as You watched over Hagar and Ishmael. We hope You are pleased with all You see. Amen."

PLAY! "I Spy." Take turns as the caller saying, "I spy with my little eye, something that is _____," and describe an object you can see. The rest of the family guesses the object. Take turns being the caller. Afterward, talk about how it feels to know God is watching over you.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I will	(I) Point to self.
watch over you	(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
wherever	Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
You	Index finger points straight ahead.
go."	Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Genesis 18:15	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.