



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

Whisper Verse: "The Lord watches over you."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you and 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 throughout every task we are given.
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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of eyes
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "The Lord watches over you."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Am with You" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Song Suggestions: "Father Abraham" "Trust and Obey"
		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: Canteen or bottle of water
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Hagar's Well	Small paper bag or cup, light blue paper, cross sticker or stamp, googly eyes or eye stickers, crayons or markers
		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
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 33 Color This Story: "Hagar and Ishmael"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Genesis 21:12-20	None
	Up to 10	Game: I Spy With My Little Eye	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 Lord watches over you

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm 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.** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "The Lord watches over you."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "(The) Lord"** Hand shape for the letter "L" moves from shoulder to hip as a royal sash.
- "watches (over)"** Hand shape for the letter "V" moves forward from the eyes, drawing attention to something to watch.
- "you."** Index finger points straight ahead. This is a natural gesture for indicating a person.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "The Lord watches over you," Psalm 121:5. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who keeps His promises. He kept one of His promises to Abram by giving him the new land. Then, God changed Abram's name to Abraham when He promised to make him the father of many nations.

God kept another promise to watch over Abraham's son Ishmael and Ishmael's mother Hagar. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse. Let's say it together and imagine the Lord saying it to Hagar and Ishmael in the desert. Review the Whisper Verse together: “The Lord watches over you.” Include sign language.



Let's sing that special promise as we give our offering today. Sing: “I Am with You” while the offering is collected.



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



The Lord kept His promise to watch over Ishmael and his mother Hagar. He saved them in the desert. He is faithful to keep all His promises. Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save” and “The Lord Is Faithful.”

Father Abraham asked God to watch over Hagar and her son Ishmael. It was a blessing to be one of Abraham's children. The Bible says we are connected to Abraham and his family. Sing: “Father Abraham” or substitute “How Wide?”



The Lord watched over Hagar and Ishmael

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned Abraham chose not to argue with his nephew, Lot. Today, we will see how God kept His promise to watch over Ishmael and his mother Hagar. Let's open our Bible to the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 21:17.

WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 21:12-20

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a canteen or bottle of water. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story picture, or any related picture.

- **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.**



When God saw Ishmael under the shade of the bush, what did He hear? (Ishmael crying.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Genesis 21:17 from the teacher's Bible.

Did the Lord keep His promise to watch over Hagar and Ishmael? (Yes.) Who else does the Lord promise to watch over? (Us!) The answer is in our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together, "The Lord watches over you." Include sign language or hand motions.



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.

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

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.

Directions:

1. Place a cross sticker on the **"The Lord"** water drop.
2. Place googly eyes or eye stickers on the **"watches"** water drop.
3. Using crayons or markers, children draw their own face on the **"over you."** water drop.
4. Children put the 3 water drop shapes into their wells (paper bags or cups).
5. Children 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 the snack and water.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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 remembers today's Whisper Verse?** ("The Lord watches over you.") **Let's say it together.** Say the Whisper Verse together with the motions.
 - **Who is watching over us now as we eat our snack?** (The Lord.)
 - **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 watching 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 Bradley sharing the toys." Give children time to share what they enjoy watching others do.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Hagar's Well" craft and tell someone how God watched over Ishmael and Hagar.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how we know God is watching over us.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Hagar and Ishmael." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Am with You," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions, then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **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.)

GAME: I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE

Purpose: Children experience seeing something special, just like God sees them.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Choose an object which everyone can see and say, **"I spy with my little eye, something that is shape or color of the item."**
2. The children take turns guessing what the object is.
3. Let the child who guesses correctly to choose the next object. He or she repeats steps 1-2. If the child has already been the caller, let him or her choose another child to be the caller.
4. Play until each child has a turn as the caller or as long as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am with you and 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 am with you and 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.

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.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



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! Read Genesis 21:12-20 with your family. Discuss how God kept His promise to Abraham and watched over Ishmael and Hagar in the desert. What miracle did God perform for them there? Talk about how God watches over your family, too.

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. Afterward, talk about how it feels to know God is watching over you.

Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse: Genesis 28:15

"I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go."