

## Bible background

Genesis 18:1-16, 21:1-8

## Aim of lesson

To show that God knows everything that we do and think.

To show that we should trust what God says because it will come true.

## Preparation required

Colour or collage the activity sheet as a background picture. You might like to use sacking or brown material for the tent, and put green paper leaves on the trees. You will need materials for collage, sticky crayons, plasticine, scissors and glue.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the class of Abraham. Tell the children that Abraham and his wife are now old (he is 99) and they haven't any children. Show your picture and tell the class that one day Abraham was sitting outside his tent when three men came and stood near him. Ask the children to make models of the characters out of plasticine and stand them in front of the background.
2. Go on to tell how Abraham offered the visitors food, and have the conversation between them. Tell the children about Sarah's reaction when she heard what the men said.
3. Discuss with the children how the men knew that Sarah had laughed. Were they just ordinary men? Who do the children think they were? (You might like to use this opportunity to introduce the idea that angels often appeared as ordinary people.) Go on to talk about how God knows everything about us.
4. Tell how, about a year later, Sarah gave birth to a boy whom they called Isaac. The children can make a model of Sarah with the baby to put next to Abraham.
5. Ask the children to colour and collage their own background sheet and either make their own plasticine figures, or make collage figures and stick them on to the pictures.

## Alternative activities

1. Make a tent and provide some unbreakable cooking/eating utensils. You could also provide some dressing up clothes. Depending on the numbers in your group, let the children take turns to be Abraham or Sarah, visitors and servants. You could provide some dough or modelling clay so that Sarah and the servants can make food for the visitors.
2. Provide some small mirrors so that the children can look carefully at their faces. (Choose child-friendly Perspex or supervise very carefully) Get the children to make different faces to show different emotions e.g. happy, laughing, sad, angry, frightened, surprised. Give each child a sheet of paper with 4-6 circles drawn on (a jam jar lid is about the right size). Get the children to draw or stick on features to show different emotions. Talk about how Sarah felt. Did God know? Does he know how we are feeling?

## Relevance to the children's lives

How much does God know about them? Draw out that God knows everything they say and do and think, and knows whether they are happy or sad, frightened or excited.

## Prayer

Make a class prayer thanking God that he still loves us even though sometimes we say, think or do things that make him sad.

## Verse

'Is anything too hard for the Lord?' Genesis 18:14.

## Song

### Abraham, Abraham (Continued from lesson 5)

v.3  
Abraham, Abraham, come with me,  
Abraham, Abraham, you will see,  
Laughter and joy come into your home  
For God said, I'll give you a child of your own,  
A child of your own,  
A child of your own;  
God said, I'll give you a child of your own.