

Lesson 4: Hagar and Ishmael

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 16: The events of Hagar and Ishmael
- 2) Learn that if we want God to lead our lives we need to be patient and not try to “fix” our problems ourselves because we will only make things worse.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Hagar and Ishmael – Break the Code Activity Sheet – one per child
- Hagar and Ishmael Color Page – one per child

Optional:

- Storybook of the life of Abram with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board with the story of life of Abram etc. (if available)

Snack: (S'mores)

- Graham Crackers 2 per child
- Marshmallows one large one per child
- Chocolate pieces one piece per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

“Last week what did we learn about?”

We learned that God again made a promise to Abram about getting the land of Canaan for his descendants and that He sealed the promise with a covenant of blood. God promised Abram would have descendants like the stars – too numerous to count and God promised Abram that God would be his shield.

This week we will continue to study about the life of Abram we will see the big mistake Sarai and Abram make and the consequences of being impatient that not only affected Abram and Sarai, but other people too!

2) Hagar and Ishmael

10 minutes

Optional: if you have a book with pictures showing this story or if you have flannel characters, etc. you can use those as visuals while reading from the Bible.

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to **Genesis 16**.

Before reading the story, explain to the students:

Earlier we studied that God promises Abram a son, even though Sarai was barren, meaning unable to have children, and both Abram and Sarai were well past the age of having children. Abram believed God that this would happen. But, after many years Sarai became impatient and told Abram a plan to have a child through one of her maidservants Hagar. Abram incorrectly agreed and so Hagar became pregnant and was to have a son for Abram even though Abram was married to Sarai.

Let's read the story and see what problems happen because Abram and Sarai were impatient.

Read Genesis 16:1-6. Then ask:

What problems came up because of Sarai's plan to have Hagar bear a child for Abram?

Hagar began to despise or hate her mistress Sarai. Abram and Sarai argue and Sarai then mistreats Hagar and Hagar runs away.

Read verses 7-16 then ask:

What happened to Hagar in the desert? An angel comes and tells her to return and tells her that that her son would be blessed.

What descriptions were given about Ishmael? He was a boy, to be named Ishmael and that he was going to be numerous in descendants and be against all his brothers – he would be against everyone.

How old was Abram when Ishmael was born? 86!

All the tribes of Arabia or all the Arab people today come from Hagar and Abram through Ishmael! Ishmael does still have descendants.

We will continue this story in a few minutes to learn more about Ishmael and Abram.

Allow for questions, state that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big for you to deal with this week and address the person next week if appropriate.

3) Hagar and Ishmael – Break the Code Activity Sheet 10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencils. Read the directions aloud and then go around the room helping the students if needed break the codes. Make sure you read the descriptions aloud at the end and confirm the right answers were found.

Answers to Break the Code Activity

- 1) God Hears
- 2) You are the God Who Sees Me

4) Talking about Patience and Hagar Color Page 10-20 minutes

Hand out one sheet and crayons to each student.

Say to the students:

Each day we will face situations that test our patience. These can be small things, like someone taking their time when you are in a hurry or very big things, like waiting on God to heal a family member from a sickness. As we learn to be patient in the small things, God will prepare us to go through the bigger things.

What are some things you have had to be patient about or examples of other people you know who were being patient? Raise your hand if you have an example.

Listen to answers and help direct answers where needed to remain on topic.



Some simple examples of being patient might be putting a challenging puzzle together, waiting in line at the grocery store, waiting in a traffic jam, waiting at school for the bell to ring, or waiting at school for the teacher to finish helping other kids with school work before coming to you.

When we are struggling to be patient with another person, we should remember God's patience toward us. We should also remember that when we are impatient, like Sarai was, that problems happen because we try to force things to happen that shouldn't.

Abram and Sarai had waited many, many years for the promise God had made of giving a descendant for Abram. They were patient but at some point, they lost patience and tried to intervene on their own. If God has said He will do something He will! We have to be patient and wait – even if it seems to take longer than we want – Abram waited from age 75 to age 86 before taking matters into his own hand and having a child without consulting God. He waited a long time, but not long enough!

Abram did not have a child with Sarai as God had originally stated until Abram was 100 years old! Sometimes our time is not God's time – Abram needed to wait 25 years not just eleven!

5) Memory Verse

1-2 minutes

Recite the Memory Verse **Genesis 15:6** as a group. You can choose from one of the following:

Abraham believed God, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. (NKJV)

Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness. (NIV)

*Remind students that this means because Abram was a good, faithful man who obeyed God, God said Abraham was righteous or made right before God. Abraham was right for believing God and that belief led him to obey and be faithful.

6) Optional – Snack: S'mores

5 minutes

Hand out 2 graham crackers, a piece of chocolate and a marshmallow to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **"When we think of sleeping in tents it usually means we have a camp fire and eat s'mores. When Abram lived in tents they didn't eat s'mores but they had all the other things that come with sleeping in tents – blankets, trying to keep warm, keeping bugs and animals away, packing up and setting up the equipment. Let's remember how hard it must have been living in tents for many years as we enjoy our s'mores!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song**

2) **God Made Me**

– Sung to Farmer in the Dell Tune

God made the sun, (Raise arms in circle overhead.)

God made the tree, (Spread arms out to indicate branches.)

God made you, (Point to another person.)

And God made me! (Point to self.)

God made Abram. (Point to the boys.)

God made Sarai. (Point to the girls.)

God made you,

and God made me.

(Point to others and then yourself.)

3) **Twinkle Twinkle – Abraham’s family Song**

– Sung to “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” Tune

Twinkle Twinkle little stars
No one knows how many there are.
God promised Abraham a son.
Isaac was the promised one.
Now Abraham’s family is like the stars.
We can’t count how many there are.

4) **Father Abraham Song with Actions** – see lyrics from lesson 3.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Pray that God will give us patience to wait for His promises to come true in our lives. Pray that we will be patient with those around us and pray for those who could not come today due to weakness or sickness and pray that God will help them to return soon.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!