

God Almighty

Objective: The students will consider Abram and Sarai's faith in God.

Note to teachers: This is a bit long, looking at several passages. Be aware of the time. Be aware of the flow of the Bible time. Keep a good pace, but don't rush through it. There are so many great concepts to convey through this story (God continuing to build their faith, God's high view of marriage, etc.).

The flow: Abram was 99/God almighty -> God changed names/building their faith -> Sarai is 90/ Abraham still doesn't understand..

Link:

Do you know any really old people? For example, someone who is 80 or 90 years old? (time for response) Tell us a little bit about them. (what can they do, can't they do? Can they take care of little children? Who knows the oldest person?)

Introduction:

We have been studying the story of Abram. How old is Abram in our story? (86) God made some promises to Abram. What did God promise Abram? (that he would have a son.) What did Abram and Sarai do to try to get the son? (Sarai gave her slave Hagar to Abram to have a son.) Abram and Sarai's way was not God's way. But it's easy to understand their thinking because it's hard to believe that they could have a child when they were so old.

Abram and Sarai did not wait for God, so there was trouble. Hagar ran away, but God saw her. Last week we learned that God cared about Hagar. God cared about Sarai, too. She was Abram's only wife. God's promise was for Abram and his wife. Marriage is important to God.

So today we will see God's mighty power. Will God give Abram a son when he is 86 years old? Let's see. We will read a couple of different verses today. Let's start with Genesis 17: 1,2.

Questions:

- What does God call Himself? (God Almighty)
- How old is Abraham? (99!)

Read Genesis 17: 1,2

Answer the questions

Go on

Abram was 86 when Ishmael was born. Now he is 99! God looks for people with faith in Him. He wants to show His mighty power. It would be powerful to give a man who was 86 years old a child. But it takes even more amazing power to give a man who is 99 years old a child. I wonder how old his wife Sarai is?

Now God starts changing names. Look at verse 5. In verse 5 (read Gen. 17:5 to them slowly and clearly, remembering to chunk) God changes Abram's name to Abraham. He changes Abram's name because Abram is going to be a father of many nations! But he is 99 years old, still without a child by his wife.

Now look at verse 15. In verse 15 (read Gen. 17:15 to them) God changes Sarai's name to Sarah. In verse 16 God gives the reason. (read Gen. 17:16 to them.) God changes Sarai's name to Sarah because she will be the mother of many nations. But she doesn't have a child yet! God is building her faith. You see, Abraham and Sarah had great faith, but they did not have perfect faith. They were old, but God was still teaching them, still caring for them. God loves and cares for his children always.

Now let's read from verse 17 to the beginning of verse 19. We know that Abram is 99 years old. Here is a question: How old is Sarah? (90) [Read Gen. 17:17-19a. Answer the question.]

Abram is wondering about this promise. He still doesn't understand. He thinks it is impossible. He wants God to accept Ishmael. But God says "No." In verse 19, God says "No, Sarah your wife will have a son."

God wants to clearly show His power. Abraham is now 99 years old, and has been waiting at least 14 years for a son. Sarah is 90 years old with no children. Try to imagine this old couple. We talked about older people at the beginning of Bible time. Try to imagine the older people that you know having a new baby. It seems silly.

But God is doing something new and important. He is starting a new nation, to worship and serve Him. He is starting the nation of Israel, and Israel will be special among all the nations, because someday God's own son Jesus will be born in the nation of Israel. So God is giving the new nation a powerful and amazing beginning.

That's all for today. We will finish this story next week.