

God Almighty, part 2

Objective: To understand the amazing and mighty beginning of the nation of Israel.

Link:

Can you remember a time when you laughed? Not when you were watching a funny TV show, or hearing a joke. But you laughed at something that happened in your daily life. (give time for response. Teachers, be ready with an example. We laugh over cute things children say or do. We laugh for joy when they begin to walk. There is also laughter that makes fun of people.)

Some people say that people are different from animals because they can laugh. That is a difference. But the Bible teaches that there are other, more important differences.

Review:

We have been studying the story of Abraham and Sarah. Do you remember what God called Himself? (God Almighty) We are studying about God Almighty. God Almighty said that He would give Abraham and Sarah a son. He waited many years to give them the son to show His very great power. Today we will continue the story.

Questions:

- When did everything happen? (at the time God had said it would. In God's time.)
- Who made Sarah laugh? (God made Sarah laugh)

Read Genesis 21: 1-7

Answer the questions

Go on.

Why do you think Sarah laughed? (give response time. She was so happy to have a baby. She had waited a long time to have a baby. She was thinking how funny it was for a very old lady to have a little baby.)

God made Sarah laugh. God gave Sarah a baby when everybody thought that it was impossible. At that time women were ashamed if they didn't have a baby. Sarah had been ashamed all her long life. Now, finally, God has given her a baby! Of course, she laughed!

This is the story of the beginning of the nation of Israel. The people of Israel are called 'God's chosen people' in the Bible. (write on board) God chose the nation of Israel for three reasons. First, to give them His holy law. The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called 'the law.' Second, to show His character through them. And third, to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ.

God prepared for the coming of Jesus in two ways. First, He gave Israel many prophecies about Jesus. The prophecies are written in the Bible. Jesus often called the Bible 'the law and the prophets.' The main things in the Old Testament are God's holy law, and the prophecies. Second, almost all of Jesus' ancestors were in the nation of Israel. Jesus was a Jew, sent to the Jewish people. (Note: No need to get off the track with Rahab, Ruth, etc. if you remember that they were in fact allied with the nation of Israel by the time they gave birth to the ones who would become Jesus' ancestors.)

The nation of Israel had a very special purpose, and God gave the nation of Israel a very special beginning. But now, Jesus has come, and the nation of Israel is replaced by the church. And anyone can join the church! Anyone who believes that Jesus is God who became man and who is baptized can join the church and become one of God's people. I am hoping that all of you will believe in Jesus someday.

That's all for today.