



Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21:1-6

Third-and fourth-graders are still young enough that gifts and surprises captivate them and bring them great joy. They're also old enough to begin to understand they can thank gift-givers not only because that's what they've been told to do, but because gift-givers deserve thanks. Use this lesson to launch kids' discovery of God's gifts and how we can respond to God with thanks.



► Bible Point
Thank God for his gifts.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Golden Oldies <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Attempt to perform tasks as if they were 100 years old.	small bowl, copy of the "Golden Oldies" handout (at the end of this lesson), colored markers Teacher Pack: game spinner	Cut along the dotted lines on the copied pages, and color the dot on each piece with the designated color. Fold the strips so kids can see the colored dot but not the words, and place the strips in a small bowl.
2 Bible Exploration	The Big Surprise <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Read how God was gracious to Sarah and Abraham.	Bibles	
	What's in a Name? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear about the birth of Isaac, and talk about ways to respond to God's gifts.	Bibles	

Key Verse
"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

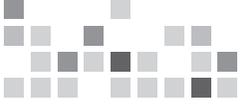
Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will respond to God's many gifts by joyfully thanking God.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
2 Bible Exploration <i>(continued)</i>	Laugh It Up <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to make each other laugh, discuss joy, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Silly Smiles <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Write about how God has brought joy to their lives.	pens Teacher Pack: “Silly Smile Punch-Outs” 	Separate the “Silly Smile Punch-Outs.”
	Joy Cradles <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make Joy Cradles, share treats, and commit to thanking God for his gifts.	Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, lyrics handouts from the “Laugh It Up” activity, Laffy Taffy or other treats, 3 index cards or pieces of card stock per child, several pairs of scissors, tape, washable markers, glue sticks Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Silly Smiles from the “Silly Smiles” activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Golden Oldies Supplies

small bowl
copy of the “Golden Oldies” handout (at the end of this lesson)
colored markers
Teacher Pack
game spinner

Golden Oldies Easy Prep

Cut along the dotted lines on the copied pages, and color the dot on each piece with the designated color. Fold the strips so kids can see the colored dot but not the words, and place the strips in a small bowl.

1

GETTING STARTED

Golden Oldies

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **We’re going to pretend that 90 or so years have gone by, and you’re each 100 years old. You’ll each get a turn to spin the arrow on the game spinner. When the arrow points to a color, choose a slip of paper marked with a dot in that color. Then act out what’s on your paper while the rest of us try to guess what you’re doing. The catch is, you must perform your action as if you were 100 years old.**

Invite a willing child to go first and spin the game spinner. Then have the child choose a paper with a dot matching the color the arrow points to. Have the child act out the activity as other kids try to guess the action. Give everyone a turn to act.

Say: **Doing certain tasks usually becomes more difficult as we get older. A gift from God that you might not realize you have right now is your youth. There are many things you can do well while you’re young.**

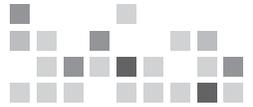
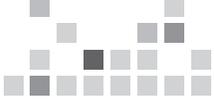
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain whether or not you agree that being young is a gift from God.
- What do you think are other gifts God gives us?
- Tell about a gift or a surprise that made you really happy.
- What did you do when you opened that gift or first saw your surprise?
- What have you done to respond to God’s gifts?

Say: **In the Bible today, we’ll hear about two people who thought they were too old to experience certain joys in life. But God had a different plan! Let’s find out how they responded to the joyful surprise God had for them and how we can ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS.**



The Big Surprise
Supplies

.....
Bibles

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

The Big Surprise

What You'll Do

Say: **In the Bible, God promised a man named Abraham and his wife, Sarah, that after *many* years of not being able to have a family, they'd have a baby. What made God's promise even more amazing was that Abraham was about 100 years old, and Sarah was 90! Without God's help, it's impossible for people that age to have babies. It's a gift from God usually reserved for when people are still young adults.**

Let's play a game to find out what people we know who've had babies have in common. Spread out around the room and when I ask a question, talk to others in the room about your answer to the question and link arms with people who have similar answers. Then I'll invite you to share your discoveries.

Ask kids these questions as you play, and allow kids to share their answers after each.

- **Who in the group remembers when their mother was pregnant with a younger brother or sister? Tell about it.**
- **Who in the group knows someone who's pregnant right now? Tell about that person.**
- **Who in the group has seen a pregnant woman with gray hair and wrinkles? Tell about how old you think that person was.**
- **Tell about how old the oldest people you know are, and figure out who in the room knows the oldest person.**

Say: **We've learned a lot about what the people we know who have had babies have in common. Let's read the Bible and find out more about what made Abraham and Sarah's baby such a special gift from God.**

Distribute Bibles, and help kids find Genesis 21. Invite a willing child to read aloud Genesis 21:1-2.

Talk With Kids

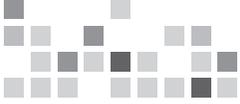
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **These verses say that God was gracious to Sarah. What do you think it means to be gracious?**
- **What do you think about the way God showed grace to Sarah when he gave her a son?**
- **Sarah had been hoping to have a child for a *long* time. Tell about something you've been hoping for.**

Say: **God gave Sarah and Abraham a gift they'd hoped to have for many years.**





What's in a Name? Supplies

Bibles

Sometimes God blesses us with wonderful gifts we've been hoping for, too. When that happens we can ► **THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS**. Let's find out more about what God did for Abraham and Sarah.

What's in a Name?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs, and distribute Bibles. Invite a willing child in each pair to read aloud Genesis 21:3.

Say: **Abraham gave his son the name Isaac, which in Hebrew means "he laughs."** With your partner, imitate some different kinds of laughs—such as happy laughs, nervous laughs, fake laughs, and any others you can think of. Then take turns guessing what kind of laugh your partner made. Allow kids to play for two minutes.

Say: **Talk with your partner about which of the laughs you imitated best fits this Bible passage and Isaac's name.** Invite willing pairs to share their answers, and then invite willing kids in each pair to read aloud verse 5. Say: **Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born.**

Have pairs answer the following questions. After each question, invite willing pairs to share their answers.

Ask:

- **What's amazing about Abraham and Sarah having a baby when they were that old?**
- **What can you learn about God's gifts from the way he kept his promise to Abraham and Sarah—even when it seemed impossible?**

After kids have responded, invite a willing child to read aloud for the entire group verses 6-7.

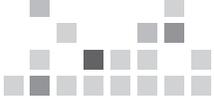
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Explain whether you think laughter like Sarah's is a good response to God's gift.**
- **What are good things in your life you believe are gifts from God?**
- **Based on the way Abraham and Sarah responded to God's gifts, how can you ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS?**

Say: **God gives us many gifts. Sometimes we have to be very patient, like Abraham and Sarah were when they waited many years to receive the gift of a family. When God blessed them with baby Isaac, they were so happy and thankful. When God blesses us with gifts in our lives, no matter how long they take, we can ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS.**



Laugh It Up

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle with their hands folded in their laps.

Say: **The Bible tells us to rejoice, and that means to be glad, happy, and delighted. It's the kind of joy that's contagious. Let's see what I mean. Try to do whatever you can to make each other laugh and at the same time keep from laughing yourself. You can't get up or move your hands. If you do start to laugh, turn around and face away from the circle.** Play "Laugh It Up" (track 22 on the CD).

Afterward, have kids turn around to face into the circle.

Ask:

- **What made it difficult when you were trying not to laugh?**
- **Why do you think it was difficult to keep from laughing?**
- **What did you like about finally giving in and laughing?**

Say: **That's what joy is all about—being so happy that you just can't help laughing out loud! God wants us to have fun, and he loves to hear us laugh. In fact, the Bible tells us to have joy and rejoice. Let's look at today's Key Verse, Philippians 4:4.**

Make sure everyone has a Bible, and help kids look up Philippians 4:4. Lead kids in repeating the Key Verse: **"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).**

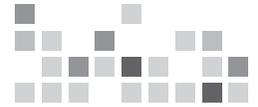
Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 23 on the CD). Sing along with the kids.

 **Rejoice! Rejoice!**
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

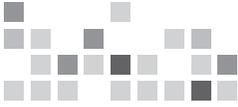


Laugh It Up Supplies

Bibles
 CD player
 copies of the lyrics page
 (at the end of this
 lesson)

Teacher Pack
 CD: "Laugh It Up" (track
 22)
 "Rejoice in the Lord
 Always" (Philippians
 4:4) (track 23)





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What about God's gifts makes you happy?
- What do you like about singing to God to show your joy?
- What are other things we can do to show God our joy?

Say: There are many reasons to rejoice and be happy, but there's something very special about the happiness we feel when God blesses us with his gifts. Abraham and Sarah knew that joy, and it felt so great that Sarah couldn't contain her laughter. Through her laughs, she showed God her joy at what he'd done. We can laugh, sing, and do all kinds of fun things to ► **THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Silly Smiles

Silly Smiles Supplies

pens

Teacher Pack

"Silly Smile Punch-Outs"

Silly Smiles Easy Prep

Separate the "Silly
Smile Punch-Outs."

What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a pen and a "Silly Smile Punch-Out."

Say: **On your Silly Smile, write about one thing that represents a gift from God that has made you happy. Maybe you'll write about your family or friends, or your pet. Be ready to share what you've written.**

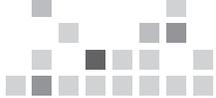
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you write on your Silly Smiles?
- What about those people and things makes you happy and thankful for God's gifts?

Say: **Isaac's name meant "he laughs," and his birth brought great joy to Sarah and Abraham. I can see by your Silly Smiles that you ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS, too. Just looking at those Silly Smiles makes me smile! Let's make something to remind us all week of how God makes us happy.**



Joy Cradles



Tip Jolly Ranchers candy is another great option for treats in this activity.

What You'll Do

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Give each child three index cards (or pieces of card stock), and have kids find the "Joy Cradle" section on their pages. Have kids follow the directions for making the cradles. Then let kids use markers to decorate the rocker portions of their Joy Cradles. As kids work, play "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 23 on the CD). When kids have finished making their cradles, play the song again and invite the kids to sing along, referring to the lyrics handout.



Talk With Kids

After the song, have kids sit in a circle, and lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **This week, what can you do with these cradles to remind you that God makes us happy?**
- **Why do you think it's important to remember that God makes us happy?**

Say: **It's important for us to recognize the joy God gives us and to ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS in our lives. I've brought a treat to help us do just that. We've already talked about some things God has done to bring us joy. Now let's get more specific.** Bring out the bag of Laffy Taffy candy or other treat of your choice.

Say: **I'm going to pass around this candy. When it comes to you, you may take a piece of candy to put in your cradle. First, though, you'll answer this question:**

Ask:

- **What's one thing that's given you joy so far today?**

If kids have difficulty coming up with specific things that have brought them joy, help them see God's gifts by suggesting simple joys, such as having something good to



Joy Cradles Supplies

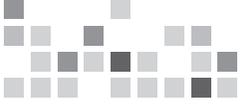
- Bible Truth Sleuth
 - CD player
 - lyrics handouts from the "Laugh It Up" activity
 - Laffy Taffy or other treats
 - 3 index cards or pieces of card stock per child
 - several pairs of scissors
 - tape
 - washable markers
 - glue sticks
- Teacher Pack**
CD: "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 23)

ALLERGY ALERT

Joy Cradles Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





eat for breakfast, seeing a friend at church, or getting along with siblings. Let everyone answer the question and take a piece of candy.

Ask:

- What can we do to be on the lookout for God's gifts every day?
- What will you do this week to appreciate God's gifts?

Say: **No matter where we are or what we're doing, we can ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. Sometimes he gives us big gifts, as he did for Sarah and Abraham, and other times he gives us small gifts, such as a kind word from a friend. But God is faithful in his love and because of that, every day of our lives can be filled with joy. Let's think of some ways we can respond to God's gifts with joy this week.** Let kids enjoy their candy.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Here are some ideas for ways you can ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS this week.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Say a prayer before dinner to joyfully thank God for his gifts.
- Ask your family to join you in listing everything you're thankful for.
- Ask God to bless a friend or family member with a special gift.

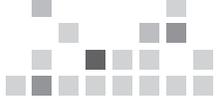
Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: **Abraham and Sarah were so excited about God's gift to them—baby Isaac—that they couldn't help but joyfully thank God. I know we'll be happy to ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

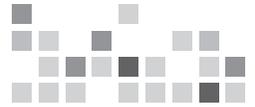


Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about thanking God for his gifts. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids hold up their Silly Smiles. Pray: **God, we’re thankful for your gifts and the way you give us joy. Thank you for...** Invite kids to say what they wrote on their Silly Smiles. **In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

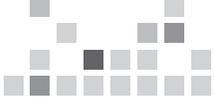
.....
Silly Smiles from the “Silly Smiles” activity



Golden Oldies

RED	Playing basketball.	GREEN	Picking flowers.	BLUE	Looking both ways, and then crossing the street.
RED	Tying a shoe.	GREEN	Going for a run.	YELLOW	Reading a book.
RED	Mowing the lawn.	GREEN	Taking something off the top shelf.	YELLOW	Checking the mailbox.
RED	Talking on the phone.	BLUE	Driving a car.	YELLOW	Playing volleyball.
RED	Playing soccer.	BLUE	Playing tennis.	YELLOW	Ice skating.
GREEN	Walking dog.	BLUE	Hiking up a hill.	YELLOW	Jumping into a pool.
GREEN	Grocery shopping.	BLUE	Building something with a hammer and nails.		

OK
TO COPY



Lyrics ■■■■

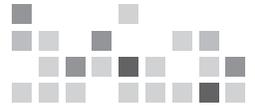
Rejoice in the Lord Always

Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!



OK
TO COPY



