



Abraham Has Three Visitors

Genesis 18:1–19:29

Preschoolers are entranced by the larger world. They gaze with fascination at bugs and worms and squeal with delight when greeting a soft, lovable puppy. But each child may not make the connection to the Creator who made all these amazing things. Use this lesson to help kids understand and believe that God does amazing things.



► Bible Point
God does amazing things.

Key Verse
“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will see the amazing things God does and thank him.

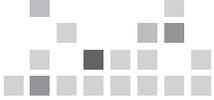
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Prayer Pillow Scramble Play a game, and lay their heads on a pillow.</p>	<p>Bible, small pillow</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers Hear why Theo has a special balloon.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, uninflated balloon, permanent marker, string Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Use a permanent marker to draw a sad face on one side of a flat balloon and a happy face on the other side. Tie the balloon to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Abraham’s Visitors Participate in a dramatization of what happened when three people came to visit Abraham.</p>	<p>Bible, small blanket, small pillow, 1 copy of “Sarah’s Script” (at the end of this lesson)</p>	<p>Have an adult leader pretend to be Sarah. Have her put the small blanket over her shoulders, hold the script on the pillow, and wait outside your meeting room door.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Sad, Mad, Glad Sarah Listen to “Sarah’s Poem,” and move a yarn mouth to show how Sarah feels.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, CD player, tape, crayons, one 3-inch piece of yarn per child Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.</p>
	<p>Center 2: A Meal for Angels Snack on rolls, cheese, and “camel’s” milk.</p>	<p>bread rolls, cheese, milk, cups, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: All Smiles Show that Abraham and Sarah are “all smiles.”</p>	<p>sticky notes, markers Teacher Pack: “Sarah and Abraham” poster</p> 	
	<p>Center 4: Abraham’s Amazing Visitors Make a play set to act out what happened with Abraham and Sarah.</p>	<p>pompom balls, index cards</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Take turns saying a prayer to God.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Abraham Has Three Visitors

Genesis 18:1–19:29

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A note about this lesson: You might be surprised that you’ve been asked to teach this Bible passage to children this age. For this age level, we only cover Genesis 18:1-15, the passage where the three visitors tell Abraham and Sarah that their long wait would soon be over—God’s promise to them of a son would be fulfilled within the year.

Abraham: Father of Many

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God changed Abram’s name, which means “exalted father,” to Abraham, “father of many.” Abraham and all the males of his household then went through the covenant of circumcision. God also renamed Sarai. Her new name, Sarah, likely stressed that she was to be the mother of nations and kings.

Abraham Shows Hospitality

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In Abraham’s desert-dwelling culture, visitors were rare. A warm welcome and hospitality were requirements in the culture of that day, and Abraham knew what it was like to travel in the desert. Thus, he was ready to warmly welcome the travelers.

Many scholars believe that these travelers were angels (see Genesis 19:1). The fact that they knew Sarah’s name may support this, and in Genesis 18:10, it is clear that at least one of them was speaking for God.

For many years, God had been promising Abraham a son. Now God predicted the time of the birth to 99-year-old Abraham and 89-year-old Sarah: Within one year, their son would be born. Sarah’s laughter is understandable. Who would have thought that a 90-year-old woman could have a baby! God does truly amazing things!

Abraham Pleads With God

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When God made it clear that his intent was to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham was horrified.

He’d likely done business with people there, and his nephew, Lot, lived there with his family. So Abraham pleaded with God to spare the few who were still faithful. God said the whole city would be saved if only 50 righteous people lived there. It’s helpful to remember here God’s definition of *righteous*. Abraham was declared righteous because of his faith, not because of a righteous lifestyle. As Abraham voiced his pleas ever more carefully, God promised to spare the city if just 10 righteous people were living there. But not even so small a number of faithful people could be found.

God did an amazing thing in sparing the lives of Lot and his family. Lot didn’t appear to deserve it, just as we don’t deserve the grace God gives to us. But we can be thankful that God is wonderfully merciful and still does amazing things for us.

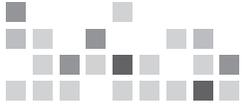
The Jesus Connection

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Jesus is God’s most amazing miracle. He gave us eternal life when we were dead in sin. You can thank God for his precious Son and his greatest miracle.

Look for miracles all around you, not just in big, dramatic situations but also in “smaller” things: the beauty of the sunrise, the happy gleam in a baby’s eyes, couples addressing their problems with forgiveness and love. Ask God to help individuals in your ministry to do the same. You can write your prayer here.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Kids, Come Join Us” (track 2), “Are You Going to Praise the Lord?” (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing “Kids, Come Join Us” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.” Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Kids, come join us on the floor,** (*make “come over” hand motion*)

On the floor, on the floor. (*point down*)

Kids, come join us on the floor. (*make “come over” hand motion*)

We’ll worship God today. (*wave hands in air*)

God is here with us right now, (*point up*)

Us right now, us right now. (*hug self*)

God is here with us right now. (*point up*)

We’ll worship him today. (*wave hands in air*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **One reason we worship God is because ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS! Let’s sing another song to praise God.**

Lead children in singing “Are You Going to Praise the Lord?” (track 6 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Are you going to praise the Lord?** (*hug self; then point up*)

I will praise him all the time. (*point to self; then point up*)

Remember all the things he has done. (*point to head*)

Jesus is a true friend of mine. (*shake hands with someone*)

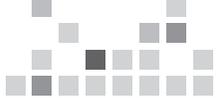
(Chorus)

Praise, praise, praise the Lord. (*wave hands in air*)

Come on, come on, let’s praise the Lord. (*make gathering motion*)

(Repeat.)





Praise him for his goodness to me. (*point up; then point to heart*)
 He is always loving and kind. (*hug self*)
 He died for me and forgave all my sins. (*spread arms to make a cross*)
 Jesus is a true friend of mine. (*shake hands with someone*)

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

Come on, come on, let's praise the Lord. (*make gathering motion*)
 Come on, come on, let's praise the Lord. (*make gathering motion*)

Say: I love praising God because ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.** Today we'll hear about a really amazing thing that God did for Abraham.



2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Prayer Pillow Scramble

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Luke 11:9, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Luke 11:9, says, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." This means when you pray, God will hear you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you: **"Ask and God will hear you" (Luke 11:9).**

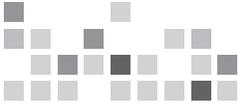
Say: **When some people lay their heads on their pillows at night, they like to talk to God by praying.** Hold up the pillow. **When you pray, you can tell God about your day, you can thank God for all the things he does, and you can ask God for things you need. Our Key Verse promises that if we ask, God will hear us. Let's play a game to help us remember the Key Verse. It's called Prayer Pillow Scramble.**

Invite one child to be the "Prayer Person." He or she will hold the pillow and walk around the outside of the circle. As the child walks around the circle, the rest of the group will say the Key Verse together: Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9). On each word of the verse, have the Prayer Person tap the next person in the circle. Have the Prayer Person drop the pillow behind the child that he or she tapped on the word *you*. Then the child with the pillow behind him or her will grab the pillow and stand up. Encourage this child to lay his or her head on the pillow and say a short prayer, either aloud or silently, to God. That child becomes the next Prayer Person, and the first child sits down in the circle. Play until each child has a turn to pray.

Prayer Pillow Scramble Supplies

Bible
small pillow





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
uninflated balloon
permanent marker
string

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4), "Laugh It Up"
(track 28)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Use a permanent marker to draw a sad face on one side of a flat balloon and a happy face on the other side. Tie the balloon to Theo's paw.

BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards for younger classes meeting later, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about some times you pray.
- Tell about some ways God can answer your prayers.

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS**. God always hears our prayers, and God can do amazing things when he answers our prayers, too. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time. Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9)**.

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

Theo: This is a special balloon.

Teacher: What makes it special?

Theo: You'll have to blow it up to see.

(Untie the balloon from Theo's paw; then blow it up and show both sides to the children.)

Teacher: Look, friends! There are two faces on this balloon. One is sad, and one is happy.

Theo: I drew the surprise picture on it because I woke up kind of sad, and then something amazing happened. I wanted to share my happiness with all of you.

Teacher: I'm so glad, Theo! That reminds me of what we'll be reading about in the Bible today.

Theo: Someone was sad in the Bible?

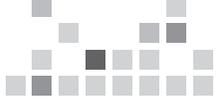
Teacher: Yes. A woman named Sarah was sad, but God did something amazing for her, too. Friends, let's say our Bible Point for Theo.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.**)*

Theo: How great! I think I want to go show my balloon to some more friends now. Have fun learning from the Bible!

Teacher: Thanks! Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What surprised you about what happened with Theo?
- Tell about something amazing in your life.

Say: **We know ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS** because he did amazing things in many people’s lives in the Bible. We also know because he’s done some in our own lives. As we read the Bible today, we’ll hear about a lady who laughed because she was so surprised and excited about the amazing thing God said he’d do for her.

Play “Laugh It Up” (track 28 on the CD). I hear laughter right now. Let’s find out what happened!

Bible Time: Abraham’s Visitors

What You’ll Do

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Genesis 18, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **God did an amazing thing for Abraham and Sarah. And ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS** in our lives, too.

Say: **We have a special visitor coming today. Let’s see if she’s here yet.** Open the door to your room and invite “Sarah” in.

Say: **Come in, Sarah. Welcome.** Turn and speak to the children. **Friends, you might remember Sarah. Her name used to be Sarai, and her husband’s name was Abram. Well, God changed their names because he wanted them to remember that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.**

Turn to Sarah and say: **Sarah, tell us about the promise God gave you and Abraham.**

Follow along as Sarah acts out the script.

Say: **Sarah sure was amazed by what God did!**

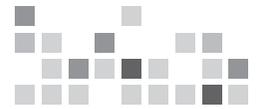
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was amazing about what happened to Sarah?
- What amazing things has God done for you?

Say: **God gave Sarah a baby when she was very old. That was so amazing. And ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS** for us, too.



Bible Time: Abraham’s Visitors Supplies

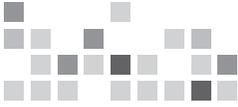
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- Bible
 - small blanket
 - small pillow
 - 1 copy of “Sarah’s Script” (at the end of this lesson)

Bible Time: Abraham’s Visitors Easy Prep

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Have an adult leader pretend to be Sarah. Have her put the small blanket over her shoulders, hold the script on the pillow, and wait outside your meeting room door.





Center 1: Sad, Mad, Glad Sarah Supplies

My Bible Hugs
CD player
tape
crayons
one 3-inch piece of yarn
per child

Teacher Pack

CD: "Sarah's Poem"
(track 24)

Center 1: Sad, Mad, Glad Sarah Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
11 pages from each
My Bible Hugs student
book, and write
children's names on
them.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Sad, Mad, Glad Sarah

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Hugs Lesson 11 page. Point to the face on the page, and say: **This is Sarah. We'll make her face show us what she's feeling.** Have kids color in the eyes. As they do, give a piece of yarn and two pieces of tape to each child.

Say: **In the Bible, we read that Sarah was happy some of the time and other times she was sad.** Have kids tape the ends of the yarn to Sarah's face to make a mouth. Make sure kids leave slack in the yarn so they can move the center up and down.

Say: **Sarah really wanted to have a baby, but God didn't give her a baby for a very long time.** Have kids move the yarn on Sarah's face so she has a frown.

Say: **But when she was very old, God did bring her a son named Isaac.** Have kids move the yarn on Sarah's face so she has a smile.

Say: **Let's listen to Sarah's poem. As you listen, move Sarah's yarn mouth to show how she feels.**

Play "Sarah's Poem" (track 24 on the CD). Lead children in moving the yarn mouths when appropriate.

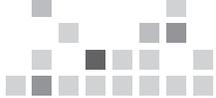
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to move Sarah's mouth with each new feeling?
- Tell about a time you were very sad like Sarah.
- What did God do for you to help you feel better?

Say: **God always takes care of us. Sometimes he does amazing things and we don't even realize it was God doing it. God can send other people to help us feel happy. Next time you're sad like Sarah, remember that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.**



CENTER 2:

A Meal for Angels

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack.

Say: **When Abraham saw the three visitors, he brought them back to his tent for some bread.** Give each child a napkin and a bread roll. **And some cheese.** Give each child a slice of cheese. **And some camel's milk.** Pour some milk for each child.

Lead children in a prayer, and let them eat as you continue the activity.

Say: **The three visitors told Abraham and Sarah that they were going to have a baby! Now that was amazing to Abraham and Sarah, who were old enough to be your great-grandparents!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What would be some impossible things for your grandparents to do?
- Why could God do something impossible like this for Abraham and Sarah?

Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS** for us, just as he did amazing things for Abraham and Sarah.

CENTER 3:

All Smiles

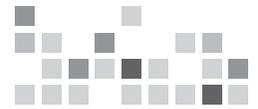
What You'll Do

Show the children the "Sarah and Abraham" poster.

Say: **Abraham and Sarah were happy because there was a little baby growing inside of Sarah. Sometimes when someone is happy like that, we say, "She's all smiles." And Sarah certainly had something to be "all smiles" about. God did such an amazing thing for her and Abraham, giving them a baby after they'd waited for so long.**

Say: **Let's make some smiles now.** Give each child one or two sticky notes and a marker. Allow time for each child to draw a smile on each sticky note.

Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS** that make us smile. **Sometimes those amazing things are talents or abilities he gave us. What are some really neat things you can do?** Invite children to show some things they can do that they're really proud of—such as somersaults or other tricks. After each child shows something, encourage the group to clap wildly for him or her.



Center 2: A Meal for Angels Supplies

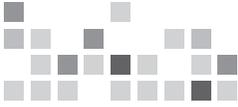
- bread rolls
- cheese
- milk
- cups
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: All Smiles Supplies

- sticky notes
- markers
- Teacher Pack**
- "Sarah and Abraham" poster





Say: **When ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS** in our lives, and when he gives us amazing talents and abilities, it makes us feel really good. Think of something that makes you all smiles—maybe it’s that you just got to show your great talent, or maybe it’s that you have your own baby brother coming, too. Encourage kids to tell the things they thought of, and for each thing a child shares, have him or her put a smile on Abraham or Sarah. Continue until every child has a chance to make Abraham and Sarah “all smiles.”

Point at the poster and say: **Abraham and Sarah really were all smiles!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things that make you “all smiles”?
- What things about God make you happy?
- What can you do to thank God when you’re “all smiles”?

Say: **God did such an amazing thing in Sarah’s life that her smile burst into laughter. God can do amazing things like that in our lives, too. Sarah was so old that she didn’t think she’d ever have a baby. But because of God, she did! ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS—for Sarah and for us. Whenever you’re “all smiles,” remember to thank God because he’s always a part of it.**

■ CENTER 4:

Abraham’s Amazing Visitors

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Give each child an index card, and spread the pompom balls over a table.

Say: **Abraham and his wife Sarah had quite a wonderful message one day while they rested in their tent.**

Have kids each pick one pompom ball to represent Abraham and one for Sarah. Then have kids fold the index cards in half. Show them how to set up the index cards so they stand on their own like tents. Have each child put Abraham and Sarah in their tent.

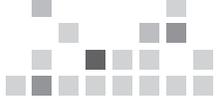
Say: **Three visitors came to give Abraham and Sarah a message.** Have each child choose three more pompom balls to represent the visitors. Have kids put them outside the tents.

Say: **When Abraham noticed the visitors, he invited them in and fed them.** Have kids pretend their Abrahams are talking to the visitors and then move the visitors into the tents.

Form pairs, and let kids act out the rest of what happened with the pompom balls.

Center 4: Abraham’s Amazing Visitors Supplies

pompom balls
index cards



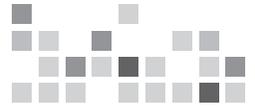
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's your favorite part about what happened to Abraham and Sarah?
- Tell about a time you got some really exciting news from someone.
- Why do you know God will do amazing things for you?

Say: **The visitors had great news! They said that God would do amazing things for Abraham and Sarah. ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS for us, too!**



5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. I would like each of you this week to choose a way to thank God for amazing things he does.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

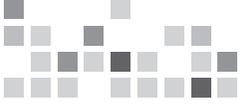
- Find something amazing and thank God for making that amazing thing.
- Have your mom or dad read to you about a miracle in the Bible, like the ones described in John 9 or John 20. Thank God for the amazing thing he did in those verses.
- Look through a book about babies—they could be animals or people. Tell your parents why one or two of the babies seem amazing to you.

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **I'll start our prayer. Then each of you can have a chance to thank God for something amazing.** Check for understanding.

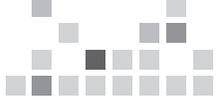
Lead kids in the following prayer: **Dear God, Thank you for all the amazing things you do. Thank you for...** Invite kids to say words or phrases about amazing things. Then end the prayer. Say: **God, you did all these amazing things. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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





Sarah's Script

Say: **Hello, friends. How are you today?**

Address one boy. Say: **I always wanted a little boy like you.**

Direct specific greetings and comments to each child, hugging or touching the kids as you address them. Say: **Abraham and I weren't able to have children for a long time.**

Pretend to cry a little.

Say: **I waited so long that I thought I was way too old. I was old enough to be your great-grandma.**

Stop crying and laugh. Say: **One day God did an amazing thing. My husband, Abraham, and I were resting in our tent.** Put head to pillow for a moment. **He saw some men near our tent and ran to them.**

Say: **Pretend to run with me.** Have kids run in place. Then have them sit again.

Look into the distance. Then say: **Abraham came back, asking me to make a meal for the visitors with our best milk and cheese. He thought these men were from God.**

Address kids again. Say: **Well, don't just sit there looking at me. Come help me. Why should I do all the work around here? Can't you see how old I am?** Lead children in pretending to stir the food with you.

Say: **Now we have to milk the camel. Help me out.** Lead children in pretending to milk an animal.

Say: **Give me your milk. We'll serve it to those men out there.** Pretend to gather the milk from the children.

Say: **It sure is nice to have you wonderful boys and girls helping me today.** Pause. Act surprised, and then excited. **What are they saying?** Put your hand to your ear.

Listen for a short while. Then snicker. Laugh louder until laughing hilariously.

Say: **Did you hear that? Those men told Abraham that I was going to have a b-b-baby! An old lady like me?**

Bumble out of the room laughing. Put the pillow under your costume or clothes, and then return to the room.

Say: **Those men were right!** Show off the big belly. **I'm going to have a baby. God really can do amazing things. I've got to go tell everyone. Goodbye, friends.**

Leave the room laughing and repeating: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS!**

OK
TO COPY

