



# God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

Genesis 21:8-21

Preschoolers like to talk to God. It helps them feel powerful and secure to know that someone as important as God hears them and wants to listen to them. Help them discover that God will hear us anytime and anywhere. Use this lesson to help preschoolers know that God always hears them.



**► Bible Point**  
God hears us when we pray.

**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 talk to God daily.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>God Will Hear</b> Sing a song, and talk about how they ask for things.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b> Hear how Theo received a drink of water.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, cup, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Tape the cup to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: Hagar and Ishmael</b> Participate in telling what happened to Hagar and Ishmael.</p>	<p>Bible, empty box <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “God Provides” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Place a box off to the side of your room to represent a well.</p>

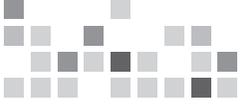
**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: God Hears Ishmael</b> Hide Ishmael, and retell what happened with him.</p>	My Bible Hugs, scissors, crayons, five 3-inch yellow sticky notes per child	Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: A Desert Dessert</b> Make a snack that looks like a desert.</p>	vanilla cookies, vanilla pudding, spoons, napkins, bowls, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Never Seeing, Ever Hearing</b> Try to find a hidden timer.</p>	kitchen timer	
	<p><b>Center 4: A Loving Listener</b> Make praying-hands hearts to remind them that God always hears them.</p>	red construction paper, scissors, markers	Make a large construction-paper heart for each child.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Ask God for something they need.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





## 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: ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY, and he hears us when we sing. It’s great to talk to God and to sing to him. Let’s sing another song about 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*)

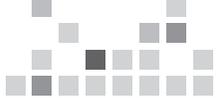
*(Chorus)*

**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: ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY** and sing. **We'll learn more about that today.**



**2**

**KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

## God Will Hear

### 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: **We can talk to God out loud, like this.** Lead children in a one-sentence prayer. Invite a few children to pray out loud, as well.

Say: **We can talk to God in our heads. Right now, in your mind, tell something to God.** Allow time.

Say: **We can write something to God, too.** Have kids pretend to write.

Say: **There are so many ways we can ask God for things. We can even sing to him. Let's do that now.**

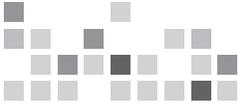
Lead children in singing "Ask and God Will Hear You" (track 26 on the CD) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."

**Ask and God will hear you pray,  
 Morning, noon, or night or day.  
 Ask and God will hear you pray,**

### God Will Hear Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Ask and God Will Hear You" (track 26)





And his love will always stay.  
 Ask and God will hear you.  
 Ask and God will hear you.  
 Ask and God will hear you.  
 The Bible tells me so.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Say: Sometimes we want something, but we don't ask for it. This week, remember, you can talk to God anytime and in many different ways because ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you do when you want something?
- What is a good way to ask for something you want?
- What can you ask God for?

Say: Sometimes we want something, and we forget to ask God for it. But ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.** God loves us very much, and he wants to answer our prayers. Many times God gives us what we need even before we ask, but sometimes he waits for us to ask. And sometimes we have to wait patiently for him to answer. Let's say our Key Verse 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

#### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
 Theo puppet  
 cup  
 tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

#### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the cup to Theo's paw.

#### 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?

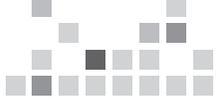
**Theo:** This is my cup.

**Teacher:** Why do you have your cup with you?

**Theo:** I was thirsty, and someone gave me a drink of water.

**Teacher:** That was nice! It's no fun to be thirsty when there's no water around.

**Theo:** Yeah, I was really thankful that someone found me some water.



**Teacher:** That reminds me of what we're reading in the Bible today. God gave a young boy a drink of water. The boy was very thirsty and cried for God to help him. Friends, let's say our Bible Point for Theo.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.)*

**Theo:** I bet that boy was thankful.

**Teacher:** Whenever we cry to God or talk to God, he always hears us!

**Theo:** I'm so glad. I'm going to go home right now. Have fun talking to God!

**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 things have you talked to God about?
- Tell about something God's given you.

Say: **Theo asked a friend for water, and his friend gave him water. When we need something, we can ask God because ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. Let's hear how God heard a boy named Ishmael and answered him by giving him water.**

## Bible Time: Hagar and Ishmael

### What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Genesis 21, and show children the words. Tell them that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll read about a boy named Ishmael and his mother, Hagar. We'll learn that ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**

**Whenever I put my hand up to my ear and lean toward you, I want you to say, "But ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY."** Practice the gesture and its response with your children.

Say: **Ishmael and his mother lived with Abraham and Sarah under the big shady bushes.** Have the children wave their hands in front of their faces, trying to feel a breeze.

Say: **One day, Ishmael and his mother had to leave the tents and shady trees to go out into the desert all alone.** Lean toward the kids with your hand cupped around your ear, and help them respond, **"But ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY."**

Say: **Abraham got up very early, while it was still dark, to help Hagar and Ishmael get ready for the trip. He gave Ishmael and his mother some food and water.** Have the kids stand up and pretend to carry loads of stuff on their backs as they walk around the circle. Then have them sit down again.



### Bible Time: Hagar and Ishmael Supplies

Bible

empty box

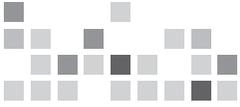
#### Teacher Pack

"God Provides" poster  
(from the Big Bible  
Poster Pack)

### Bible Time: Hagar and Ishmael Easy Prep

Place a box off to the side of your room to represent a well.





Say: **So Ishmael and his mother were sent off into the desert. This was scary because there are many dangers in the desert, like poisonous spiders and snakes. It's also super hot in the daytime and very cold at night.** Have kids act as if they're hot and then as if they're cold. Alternate saying "day" and "night," having kids act how they would feel during each.

Say: **Ishmael and his mother wandered around in the desert, trying to find a place to live. And they got lost.** Lean toward the kids with your hand cupped around your ear, and lead the response, "**But ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**"

Have kids stand up, close their eyes, and turn around to experience being lost and confused in the desert. Then have them sit down.

Say: **We don't know how many days Ishmael and his mother were out in the desert. But we know that they ran out of food and water. Ishmael cried to his mother.** Lean toward the kids with your hand cupped around your ear, and lead the response, "**But ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**"

Say: **Ishmael's mother didn't know what to do. She saw a bush and told Ishmael to lie under it so the bush would give him some shade. Ishmael crawled under the scrubby little bush and cried and cried.** Have the children scrunch in a ball, pretending to be under a scrubby bush.

Say: **Ishmael thought that no one heard him.** Lean toward the kids with your hand cupped around your ear, and lead the response, "**But ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**"

Say: **Hagar sat down in the hot, blazing sun, and she cried, too.** Show children the "God Provides" poster.

Say: **God heard the boy crying. God loved Ishmael, and God loves you, too. God sent an angel, who said to Hagar, "Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying...Lift the boy up and take him by the hand."**

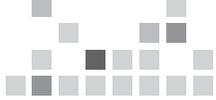
**The angel told Hagar that Ishmael would grow up and live a long life. And all of a sudden, Hagar saw a well!** Have the group walk with you to the box that represents the well.

Say: **A well is a deep hole in the ground. At the bottom of the hole is water. Hagar pulled up some water and gave it to Ishmael, who was dying of thirst. Then Ishmael got better.** Pretend to give each child some water and have them pretend to drink.

Say: **God was with Ishmael as he grew up. He and his mother lived in the desert, and God helped them.**

### Talk With Kids

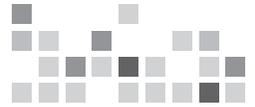
Lead children in this discussion.



Ask:

- What do you think about what happened to Hagar and Ishmael?
- Tell about a time you needed help.
- What things can God do when you need help?

Say: **When you need help, you can always talk to God because ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. Just like God heard Ishmael and his mother, God will hear you.**



## 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:

## God Hears Ishmael

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Hugs Lesson 13 page and five yellow sticky notes.

Point out Hagar and Ishmael on the page. Say: **Hagar and Ishmael were in the desert.** Have each child place sticky notes over the well and the buckets of water. Explain that the sticky notes represent the sand in the desert.

Say: **Hagar and Ishmael were hot and very thirsty. They couldn’t find water anywhere—all they could see was sand everywhere.**

Have the kids color Ishmael.

Say: **Since they were so hot, Hagar told Ishmael to hide from the sun.** Have each child place a sticky note over Ishmael to make him “hide.”

Say: **Ishmael and Hagar cried because they didn’t know what to do. And God heard them.** Have kids remove the sticky notes from the well.

Say: **Hagar was so excited that she found water.** Have kids remove the sticky note from the buckets of water.

Say: **She went to her son to give him water, too.** Have kids uncover Ishmael and remove the rest of the sticky notes.

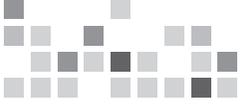
### Center 1: God Hears Ishmael Supplies

- My Bible Hugs crayons
- five 3-inch yellow sticky notes per child

### Center 1: God Hears Ishmael Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.





### Center 2: A Desert Dessert Supplies

vanilla cookies  
vanilla pudding  
napkins  
spoons  
bowls  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

### ! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

### Center 3: Never Seeing, Ever Hearing Supplies

kitchen timer

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you hid like Ishmael.
- Explain whether you think there's a place you can hide where God can't hear you.
- What are some ways you can talk to God?

Say: **Just as God heard Hagar and Ishmael when they really needed something, God hears us, too. We can talk to God anytime, and God will always hear us. We can talk to God out loud, or we can talk to God silently. No matter how we talk to God, ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**

### ■ CENTER 2:

## A Desert Dessert

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Give each child two vanilla cookies, a spoon, a napkin, and a bowl. Scoop a small amount of vanilla pudding into each child's bowl.

Say: **Hagar and Ishmael were in the desert surrounded by sand.** Encourage kids to make "sand" by using their fists to crush two or three vanilla cookies on a napkin. Have kids sprinkle the crumbs into the pudding and stir.

Invite one child to pray, thanking God for the snack and for always hearing us.

Encourage children to tell their favorite parts of what happened with Hagar and Ishmael as they eat their desert desserts.

Say: **God heard Ishmael and Hagar in the desert and ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. No matter where we are, God knows what we're thinking and how we're feeling. We can always talk to God, and God will hear us.**

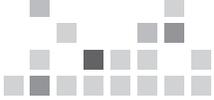
### ■ CENTER 3:

## Never Seeing, Ever Hearing

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

This simple game illustrates that God hears us and helps us when we think we're all alone.

Say: **When God heard Ishmael crying, God sent help to him. Let's play a game where you can hear something even though you can't see it.** Set a timer for about 20



seconds. Have children close their eyes while you hide it. Encourage kids to follow the sound to the hidden timer. Allow the child who finds it to hide it again. Give every child a chance to find the timer.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you do to find the timer?
- What do you think God does when we hide from him?

Say: **It's wonderful to know that we can always talk to God and that ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. No matter where we are, he sees us and he hears us.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

# A Loving Listener

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Give each child a red paper heart. Encourage children to place their left hands on the left sides of the hearts and trace them using the markers. Then have them do the same with their right hands, but on the right sides of the heart. This way, when the heart is folded, the hands will look as if they are coming together in prayer.

Say: **God heard Ishmael and Hagar, and ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. You just made praying hands on your paper hearts.** Show kids how to fold the hearts so they show praying hands.

Have kids practice saying the Bible Point as they make praying hands with their paper hearts: ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**

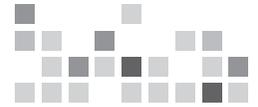
**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What things do you want to talk to God about?
- What do you like about the fact that ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY?**

Say: **God always listens to us! God listens to all our prayers because God loves us and wants to help us. Ishmael cried out to God, and God heard him. ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY, too.**



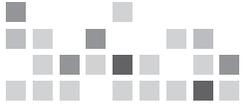
**Center 4: A Loving Listener Supplies**

- 
- red construction paper
  - scissors
  - markers

**Center 4: A Loving Listener Easy Prep**

Make a large construction paper heart for each child.





## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

# 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 HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. I would like each of you this week to choose a way to talk to God.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

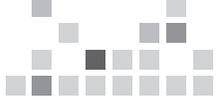
- **When you're in the car, sing your favorite song or make up a song to sing to God because he hears you no matter where you are.**
- **In the morning, say a prayer for each person in your family.**
- **Blow some bubbles. As you blow each bubble, say a prayer to God. Imagine that your prayers are floating up to God, just like the bubbles!**

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!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Encourage the children to ask God for things they need. Let them pray their own prayers. Then lead the group by closing the prayer.



## 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](http://group.com/digital).

