Unit 2 • Session 4
God’s Promise to Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE:
Genesis 25–26

STORY POINT: God reminded Isaac about His promises.

KEY PASSAGE:
Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

TEACH THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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REVIEW THE STORY
(10+ MINUTES)
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.
LEADER Bible Study

In His covenant with Abraham, God promised land, descendants, and a blessing to all the nations of the earth. (Gen. 22:17-18) God would keep His promise through every generation, choosing one person to carry the line until one day, a child would be born into the family who would be the promised One. God reaffirmed the promise to Abraham’s son Isaac. Isaac was the next child chosen to carry the family line.

After 20 years of marriage, Isaac and Rebekah still did not have children. Isaac prayed that God would give Rebekah a child, and God answered his prayer. Rebekah became pregnant with twins, but the pregnancy was difficult. The twins fought inside her, and Rebekah asked God, “Why is this happening to me?”

God explained His plan for the twins. The boys’ families would become two nations (from Esau, the nation of Edom; from Jacob, the nation of Israel), one stronger than the other. And the older son would serve the younger. This was uncommon; the firstborn had a birthright—a double portion of the inheritance. But this prophecy showed God had chosen the younger twin to inherit the promise made to Abraham.

Jacob and Rebekah’s boys were born and the older, Esau (EE saw), was unlike the younger, Jacob. Esau became a hunter, and Jacob stayed at home. One day, Esau agreed to give his birthright to Jacob in exchange for some bread and a bowl of stew.

Isaac may have perceived the conflict between brothers as a threat to the covenant. But God appeared to Isaac at Gerar and reaffirmed His promise of land, descendants, and a blessing to all the nations of the earth. (Gen. 26:4) He encouraged Isaac to be faithful like Abraham. God was at work in each generation. He showed grace by extending the promise to those who had no innate right to it, to those who did not deserve it.

God Formed a Nation
Abraham’s son Isaac married Rebekah. After many years, they still did not have any children. Isaac prayed and asked God to give them a baby. God answered Isaac’s prayer. Rebekah became pregnant with twins—two babies!—but the babies fought inside of her.

Rebekah was worried. “Why is this happening?” she asked God. God told Rebekah part of His plan. God said, “Your sons will grow up and their families will be two separate nations. One nation will be stronger than the other, and the older son will serve the younger.”

When Rebekah’s babies were born, the older was called Esau (EE saw). He was red-looking and hairy. The younger was named Jacob.

When the boys grew up, they were very different. Esau was a hunter, and Jacob stayed at home.

One day, Jacob was cooking stew. Esau came in from the field and said, “Let me eat some of that.”

“OK,” Jacob said, “but first you have to sell me your birthright.” A birthright was something only the firstborn son was supposed to get. Esau did not care about his birthright, so he agreed to give it to Jacob for some bread and stew.
Some time later, Isaac went to Gerar (geh RAHR) because there was not enough food in the land. God appeared to him and said, “Live in the land I will tell you about. I will be with you and bless you. I will keep the promise I made to your father Abraham.”

God said He would give Isaac a big family—as numerous as the stars—and land for his family. God would bless the earth through His family. God said, “I will do this because Abraham listened to Me and kept My commands.” So Isaac made his home in Gerar.

Christ connection: God’s promise for Abraham was for Isaac too. When Esau gave up his birthright, that meant Jacob would get the blessings God promised. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family. He would bring blessing and salvation to the world.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- Move with the story: Move all the way across the room when Isaac goes to Gerar and tell the rest of the story from a new location.

- Use props: Use dolls, people figures, or other toys to play out the story of Jacob and Esau.
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Welcome and worship with song
Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “My God Is Real” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in the theme song, “You Are God.”

Watch or tell the Bible story
Invite the preschoolers to tell about their brothers or sisters if they have any. Ask if they have ever met twins before.

SAY • God’s promise to give Abraham a big family was for his son Isaac too. Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Listen closely to our Bible story to see which twin would get the blessings God promised.

Open your Bible to Genesis 25–26. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill
Place the key passage marker at Galatians 3:29. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Invite preschoolers who wish to say the key passage from memory to do so.

SAY • One day, God would send Jesus to earth through
Jacob’s family. He would bring blessing and salvation to the world. When we trust in Jesus to forgive our sins, we are a part of that promise.

Sing the key passage song “If You Belong to Christ” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • God reminded Isaac about His promises and gave him two sons. God chose to bless Jacob not because Jacob was so great but because God is faithful. **Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.**

Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • God’s promise for Abraham was for Isaac too. God reminded Isaac about His promises. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family. He would bring blessing and salvation to the world.

Sing “You Are God” and “Yahweh Is Good” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Wherever You Go.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You that all the stories in the Bible are true. Thank You for reminding us today that You are faithful and we can trust in You. Thank You for sending Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family so we could have salvation. We love You, amen.

Transition to experience the story

God Formed a Nation
Sing a “Father Abraham”

Lead preschoolers in singing and performing the motions for “Father Abraham.” If you are unfamiliar with the tune or the motions, check them out online before class.

**SAY** • God made a promise to Abraham that he would have a big family, and all of the world would be blessed through his family. **God reminded Isaac about His promises.** Isaac was Abraham’s son. Jacob was Abraham’s grandson. Many years later Jesus would be born into Jacob’s family to bring blessing and salvation to the world.

Pack for a trip relay

Provide a suitcase and a set of clothes, such as a hat, adult T-shirt, pants, and a pair of flip flops, for each team. Form two teams of children and guide teams to line up on one side of the room next to their suitcase. Across from each team, place the clothes. When you say go, the first child in each line will run to the clothes, grab an item, and run it back to put it in the suitcase. Then the next child will go. Continue until each team has finished packing.

**SAY** • Isaac moved his family to Gerar (geh RAHR). God promised to be with him there. **Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.**
Look at stars
Poke holes in a sheet of construction paper. Dim the lights and shine a flashlight under the paper to project the “stars” onto the “sky.” Invite preschoolers to try to count the stars.

SAY • Think of how many stars are in the sky outside. God promised Abraham and Isaac that their family would have as many people as the stars in the sky and the sand on the shore. Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful. God sent Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family. Jesus brought blessing and salvation to the world.

Make stew art
Provide each child with a foam bowl, dried macaroni or red lentils, and glue. Invite children to glue the macaroni in the bowl to look like stew.

SAY • God reminded Isaac about His promises. God gave Isaac two sons, Esau and Jacob. They were very different. God promised to bless Jacob.

Look at books featuring generations
Set out books featuring different generations of people for preschoolers to browse. Discuss generations in families. Read a book as a child shows interest.

SAY • God reminded Isaac about His promises. God’s promise for Abraham was for Isaac too. Before Isaac’s twins were born, God chose to bless Jacob and send Jesus into his family. God did not choose Jacob because he did anything special but because God is faithful to keep His promises.

Transition to review the story

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Review
Point to the giant timeline as you review today’s Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. How many children did God give Isaac and Rebekah? (2, Esau and Jacob)
2. How was Esau different than Jacob? (Esau was born first, red-looking, hairy, and a hunter.)
3. What did Esau sell to Jacob for bread and a bowl of stew? (his birthright)
4. Whom did God promise to be with and bless him like his father? (Isaac)
5. Who else did God promise to bless? (Jacob)
6. **Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.**

SAY • God reminded Isaac about His promises to Abraham and gave him two sons. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family. Jesus would bring blessing and salvation to the world.

Sing the theme song, “You Are God” or the key passage song, “If You Belong to Christ.”

Pray
Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.
**Missions moment**

God promised He would send His Son, Jesus, through Isaac’s family to save us from our sins, and He did! DJ’s friends, Auntie Hellen and Uncle Donald, are telling people in South Asia this good news. Watch the video to see how they are loving children from the slums.

Show the “They Matter to Jesus (Part 2)” video.

**Make a trade**

Give each preschooler a toy from the room and instruct them to sit in a circle. Stand in the center of the circle with an additional toy. Go around the circle, asking each child one at a time if he would like to trade toys with you.

God reminded Isaac of His promises, and those promises were for Jacob and not Esau.