

October 18, 2020 Lesson

Abraham's Visitors- Genesis 18:1-14

LESSON:

This story announces the coming of a child for Sarah and Abraham. The story is broken into two scenes, Abraham's hospitable welcome of three visitors, and the visitor's announcement of Sarah's pregnancy and the birth of Isaac. In the Bible hospitality to travelers and strangers was very important. When the visitors arrive, Abraham goes out of his way to welcome the three by generously providing nourishment and caring for their physical comfort. He even brings water for them to wash their feet, which was a custom of the time. The identity of the three visitors is somewhat unclear. The fact that they appear "suddenly" adds to the feeling of mystery. The feeling of mystery continues with the announcement of the forthcoming birth of Isaac, the son of Sarah and Abraham. Sarah laughs when she hears this prophecy. Abraham and Sarah are both very old, so how could this possibly be? The Lord's response to her laughter is one of assurance, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14) When you are young, you can't do everything you want. But with time and with God, things become easier, and God always goes with you.

Today's faith word is *faith*. Faith is to believe in God's presence and hope.

Wonder together:

- Who had faith in the Bible story?
- Who helps you have faith?
- What helps you have faith in God?

Visitors came to give Abraham and Sarah an important message. Abraham welcomed the visitors, shared a meal, and he and Sarah were very surprised by their news!

God promises to go with us, but God also asks us to have faith in God and all that God will do. Like Abraham and Sarah's special visitors, God also gives us others to remind us that God is with us and doing big things in our lives.

ACTIVITY:

Print Match the Story, Faith Color Sheet, and Celebration Chart. Or, use paper and art supplies to decorate your own paper with the word "Faith" and create your own celebration chart.

PRAY:

Thank you, God, for faith. It is not always easy to have faith. It requires patience. But when we remember your promises, we can know that you are always with us. Amen.