

ISAAC



THINK ABOUT IT:

How does God answer your prayers?

Introduction

Ask the children if they have ever anticipated receiving a special gift or waited for a special event to take place. What words would they use to describe how they were feeling?

Message

1. Say, "In our story today we learn that God promised something very special to Abraham, but he had to wait for what must have felt like a long time! We will also learn how God answers our prayers."
2. Read Genesis 15:5. Say, "Abraham and Sarah had prayed to God for children, but when God talked to Abraham, he still didn't have any. He was in his 80s! His wife, Sarah, was old as well. Here God was telling them, at a very old age, that they would have many descendants. Do you think God could still answer their prayers to have a child?"
3. Say, "Let's talk about prayer for a moment." Show the visual of the traffic light and ask children to identify the picture and what the different colors mean. Ask the children where they have seen traffic lights and what purpose they serve. Tell the children the traffic light can be used as a representation for how God answers our prayers. Explain how the colors relate to answers to prayer (top to bottom of light): Red = No, Yellow = Wait, Green = Yes!
4. Ask which light Abraham and Sarah were on.
5. Read Genesis 21:1-3. Say, "We move forward in the Bible and read that Sarah did indeed have a son! At this point Abraham was 100 years old! He was waiting for his prayer to be answered for 15-25 years. While that must have seemed like a long time, it does show us that *God always answers our prayers.*"
6. Say, "Isaac must have been very special to Abraham and Sarah, especially after all the waiting they did before he was born."



SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15
Genesis 21:1-7
Psalm 38:15
Psalm 65:2



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Visual - Traffic Light *
- Scrap piece of paper for each child
- Pencil for each child

* Available in the Member Toolbox



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark Bible verses

**IDEA!**

Share some personal answers to your prayers.

7. Say, "God promised that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. You and I are part of that family. How does God answer your prayers?"

Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Ask, "What does waiting look and sound like?" (*still, quiet*)
2. Read Psalm 38:15.
3. Ask, "What promise do we have while we wait?" (*the Lord will answer*)
4. Read Psalm 65:2.
5. Say, "David was confident God would answer his prayers. How does God answer your prayers?"
6. Do a prayer request activity. Have the children write a prayer on a piece of paper. It could be one they have already prayed or a new request. If children are comfortable sharing their prayer request, they may do so.
7. Pray over the papers, asking God to bless those who wrote them and asking for patience when we need to wait and understanding when our prayers are answered differently than we think they should be. Thank God for always answering our prayers and knowing what is best for us.

More Great Verses About Prayer

- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- **Ephesians 6:18** Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.
- **James 5:13** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.