



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for September 16, 2007
Released on Wednesday, September 12, 2007**

“Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac”

Lesson: Genesis 15:5–16.

Read: Genesis 15:1–6; 18:1–15; 21:1–8.

Times: about 2085 B.C.; 2066 B.C.; and 2065 B.C.

Place: Canaan

GOLDEN TEXT: “Is any thing too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis18:14a).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

Genesis 15:5, 6

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 18:11–14a

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD?

Genesis 21:1–8

1 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.

4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.

5 And Abraham was a hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age.

8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Christians have put their faith in God to deliver them from their sins and from terrible, eternal judgment and separation from God. How is it then that so often they still fall under the weight of doubt in God's ability to help them in other matters of life?

It is only fair to state that Christians are merely human (obviously) and subject to all the cares, worries, and doubts that all people face. Believing in Christ does not automatically exclude believers from the cruel realities of sin in this world.

Some people (unbelievers, mostly) trust in things that are fleeting and that have no eternal substance. Some put their confidence in themselves and their abilities, ignoring the fact that it is God's grace that permits them to achieve any success.

Some people believe that they can trust in some unknown force in the universe that will make all things turn out right. All we humans have to do is just get along, do right, and "just believe."

Christians have an advantage over these and other beliefs, however. Their trust is placed in Someone real. Christians can face problems knowing that there is nothing too hard for God to accomplish or take care of.

This week's lesson tells about a time when God promised an old man named Abraham and an old woman named Sarah that they would have a son. That son would be the first of innumerable children in Abraham's family.

This probably would not sound like much of a declaration from God, but both Abraham and Sarah were well beyond the age of conceiving and bearing children. However, that would not stop God's plans for starting a nation, a particular people for Himself.

God told Abraham to look at the stars and try to count them. Of course, that would be impossible for Abraham. But God was making the point that if Abraham could count all the stars in the night sky. That is how many children would be in his family. That is what God meant when He said, "So shall thy seed be" (Gen. 15:5). His "seed" would have physical and spiritual implications for the world.

When Sarah was told she would have a baby, she laughed at the possibility of having a child at her age (she was ninety when Isaac was born). But God assured her that what He had planned would come to pass. It was pointed out to her that there is nothing too hard for God to do. He can do anything.

In time, Isaac was born and his parents celebrated. They laughed—this time not in doubt but in joy.

We can share in that joy because Abraham's "seed" would produce the Redeemer of the Jews and the Gentiles. Galatians 3:29 states, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye

Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Believers are God's "chosen generation" (1 Pet. 2:9).

God was faithful to Abraham and Sarah. They learned to trust in Him, and He counted it to them for righteousness.

Our righteousness comes from Christ as we trust in Him as our Saviour. Sin and death might seem to be undefeatable foes, but nothing is too hard for God. He defeated them both through Christ's death and resurrection.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that there is nothing too difficult for God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Nothing is too difficult for God to accomplish.
2. God keeps all the promises He makes.
3. Through Abraham's descendants the Saviour would be born.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, have a picture of the night sky showing innumerable stars.

For Helping to Remember, bring dark blue construction paper and gold star stickers. Prepare a slip of paper for each child by printing the words "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14) on each one.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Ask your students to name things that are impossible for humans to do. If they have trouble thinking of things, give them some ideas, such as starting and stopping the rain, holding back waves of the ocean, or making the sun stand still.

Then ask your students whether they can name anything that we can read about in the Bible that tells us of God or Jesus doing something that is impossible for humans to do.

If they cannot name any or if they name only a few, here are some suggestions for you to use: creating the world and everything in it (Gen. 1–2); causing water to flood the whole earth (Gen. 6–8); making the sun and moon stand still in the sky (Josh. 10:12–14); making a donkey talk (Num. 22:8–30); calming stormy water (Mark 4:35–41); dying for the sins of the world (Mark 27:33–50); rising again from the dead (Matt. 28:1–6). There are many other examples that you could share if class time permits.

We can praise God that there is nothing He cannot do. He can cause miracles to happen. Our lesson today is about a miracle that He caused to happen in the lives of Abraham and his wife, Sarah.

TELLING THE LESSON:

One night, a long time ago, God was talking to Abraham. God told Abraham to look up into the night sky and try to count the stars. *[Show the picture of the night sky.]* There were probably thousands of stars that he could see. He could not count them all.

God said, "Look at the stars. Can you count them? That is how many people will be in your family in years to come." Abraham believed God, and his trust in God made him just and holy in God's eyes. God saved him from his sins.

Now Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were very old. They were too old to have a child. He was probably 99 or 100, and she was at least 89 or 90 when God said they would soon have a son!

Sarah laughed when she heard she was going to have a child. She believed she was too old for that. But she soon learned that nothing is too hard for God to do. God did just what He said would happen.

Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy, and they named him Isaac. His name meant "to laugh." They named him that not because Sarah had laughed about being too old to have a child. They named the baby Isaac because they laughed with joy about having him.

Abraham and Sarah celebrated Isaac's birth. They praised God for being able to work a miracle in their lives! Isaac would become the father, grandfather, and great-grandfather of many important people. God sent His Son Jesus to earth through the family of Abraham and Isaac.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

God can do anything. He worked a miracle in Abraham and Sarah's lives, and she had a baby when she was very old.

Abraham's family became very large. He had many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. The family became so large that a nation was started. The people of Israel—the Jews—came from Abraham's and Isaac's descendants. The people of Israel were a blessing to the entire world because thousands of years later, Jesus Christ—the Son of God, a descendant of Israel—was born.

Jesus is also God. He is both man and God. That is more proof that God can do anything. Jesus came to earth as a baby boy. He lived on earth for a little more than 30 years. He died for our sins, and then He rose again and went to heaven. That is a very wonderful and important miracle.

There is no greater miracle than Jesus' dying for us and rising again. Only God could do that for us!

You can trust God with any problems and feelings that you have. Pray to Him and ask for help. Read God's Word, the Bible. You can find many answers to your questions there.

God will take care of you. There is no one wiser or stronger than He is. He loves you, and He will do what is best for you.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Help the place gold stars on the dark blue paper. Talk about what Abraham saw when God told him about how big his family would be in the future. Talk about how God promised Abraham as many people in his family as there are stars in the sky. God always keeps His promises.

Have the students glue onto their papers the slips of paper you have prepared with the words "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14). Talk about how God can do anything and wants only what is best for each of us.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14).

God created everything. He made the largest planets and the smallest bugs. Because He did all that, it was not hard for Him to help Abraham and Sarah have a baby boy when they were very old.

God can do anything. Nothing is too hard for Him. Because He can do anything, we know He can take away our sins and one day take us to heaven. He planned a long time ago to send Jesus to die for our sins, and He did just as He had planned. Have you accepted Jesus as your Saviour from sin?

We can also trust God with everything else in our lives. We can pray and ask Him for help with anything. He does not always answer our prayers when we think they should be answered, and the answer might not be what we wanted. But we can trust God to always do what is best for us.

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:

**“ABRAHAM, SARAH and ISAAC”
(GENESIS 15:5—6; 18:11—14; 21:1—8)**

W D L I H C G Q P T M S W E O
Q S Y F B W X Y G L G G Z F T
T T H F Y J G E R C A D K J A
A A U O N N R L E Y A U K T N
U Z T S A E F N W L F A G E R
U S Q P N S Q V J I H E S H P
B D S O M Z I A T O A P Q I I
O J S E H K P Q B V W Z J J Q
R N E K O P S H A R A S D Z D
N Q S O L B H T B Q A L B Z J
H I I O D Z Z A I Z O H B K Q
E K L C R F I Q A U D C A C R
W E A N E D V F M R X C R M I
R T S F E H V H O A P Q B T L
J D J K U N B L X N E I K I S
S T A R S Y E L B Y K S M I K

**ABRAHAM
LAUGH
SPOKEN
GREW**

**ISAAC
SON
FEAST
STARS**

**SARAH
CHILD
OLD
SKY**

**BORN
LORD
WEANED**



MEMORY VERSE:

"Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14).



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