



**TURN "CHILDREN'S TIME"
INTO FAMILY TIME**

GOD BLESSES



GENESIS 15:1-6; 21:1-7
SEASON 1 WEEK 2

WELCOME

Welcome to the Big God Project, where Children's Time becomes Family Time! If this is your first time working with our curriculum, take some time to familiarize yourself with our model and answer any questions you might have by visiting our website at BigGodProject.com

THE GAME

The game this week is "Hidden Objects". The goal is to find each of the objects named on the screen within the scene. Once all the objects are found, the theme can be unlocked.

To use this game in your service, copy the slides into your Powerpoint where the Children's Time would normally go. Use the arrow keys on your laptop, or a remote clicker, to move through the slides during the service, as you play the game with the kids. The game is designed so that the slides always move forward. We suggest you play the game before the service on your own, so you can help the kids if they get stuck.

THE THEME

This week's theme is "**GOD BLESSES**". This theme reminds us that God gives us good gifts, even when we don't understand the timing or the sometimes even the gift itself! You can help explain the idea of a "blessing" by going through their answers to the Question.

THE QUESTION

This question is week is: "What is something nice that somebody did for you this week?" The connection to the theme and story is that a blessing is a gift - something that God does for us. Our kids understand what it means when someone does something kind or caring for us. In the same way, God has many ways of blessing us in our lives.

THE STORY

This week's story is about Abraham and Sarah. God made a promise to them that they would both receive a blessing, and be a blessing to the world. God promised the elderly couple a baby – a baby who would lead to an enormous family of descendants. And that family would ultimately be a blessing to the world. This story shows us that when God blesses us, it is often so that we can in turn bless others in God's name!

THE JOURNAL

This week's journal questions are:

1. Which “blessing” do you think Abraham and Sarah were more excited about: getting to have baby Isaac, or being part of God's plan to bless the world? Why?
2. How were you blessed by God's blessing to Abraham and Sarah? (hint: the most famous people in the Bible came from their family tree!)
3. What have you been blessed with in your life? How could you imagine using these gifts to bless others?

The purpose of these questions is to get the kids thinking about the idea of a blessing in a bigger way than just a present or a gift that we get to help ourselves. God invites us to use our gifts to bless those around us, and in that way we honour and bless God in return!

THE ACTIVITIES

The activities for this Sunday are described below. These can be integrated with the other parts of your Sunday School time (prayer time, snacks, singing, etc).

Note that there is also an **instructional video** available for each week's lesson on the Big God Project website (www.BigGodProject.com). You



can either send the video to your teachers to help them prepare the lesson, and/or you can play the video in the classroom for the children, before they do the activities themselves. If you have a laptop or a tablet, you can use this to stream the video in the classroom.

ACTIVITY #1 - STICKER STARS

SUPPLIES

- star stickers
- black paper
- white crayons, pens and/or pencil crayons

1. Have children write the God Statement at the bottom of a black sheet of paper.
2. Explain that they will see how many stars stickers they can fit on this page, because God blessed Abraham and Sarah not only with Isaac, but promised that their offspring would be more numerous than the stars in the sky.
3. When they are done challenge them to count the stars on their page.

ACTIVITY #2 - FLASHLIGHT STARS

SUPPLIES

- disposable cups
- pen, pencils or golf tees (for poking holes)
- several flashlights or other small light sources
- elastics
- tin foil

1. Give each child a disposable cup with the bottom already cut out.
2. Have them put a piece of tin foil over the hole in the cup and secure it with an elastic band.
3. Let the children gently poke small holes in the tinfoils.
4. Dim the lights as much as possible, and take turns placing a flashlight inside the cup to create stars on the ceiling.
5. If time allows, the children can decorate their cups to take home.

DIG DEEPER (OLDER KIDS)

The **DIG DEEPER** section is for your older children, in order to challenge them to dig deeper into the meaning and application of the scripture passages. The questions included most weeks in the Big God Journal are a good place to start. This section gives additional ideas and resources.

ACTIVITY #1

Choose one of the crafts above to do with your older kids.

ACTIVITY #2 - DISCUSSION

Can you think of any things that have happened in your life, or in your parents lives, that didn't really seem all that great at the time? But then later, it actually turned out to be a "blessing"? What does that tell us about the way God works in our lives?

Imagine some more things that could seem bad, but turn out to be a blessing. Draw them, and then share them with the bigger group.