



EKids at home with your family: Sunday 21st March 2021

Genesis 16:1-15 The Results of Unbelief



The Big Idea: Abram and Sarah stop trusting God and come up with their own plan to have a family. In doing so they disobey God and hurt people along the way. God hears and sees the pain that they cause Hagar and blesses her.



Aim: to see that although it can be hard to wait on God's promises and sometimes tempting to stop trusting God and to make our own plans, our plans are never as good as Gods. We need to wait on him, obey him and keep trusting him.

The story so far... God has promised Abram that he will have a huge family, but Abram is getting old and as time goes on, he begins to doubt that God will keep his promises. In our passage today, Abram and his wife Sarai decide to try to make their own plans to have a family, rather than patiently waiting on God's promises to them. The results are very sad as we shall see...

The Passage Genesis 16:1-15

Sarai, Abram's wife, had no children. She had a slave girl from Egypt named Hagar. ² Sarai said to Abram, "Look, the Lord has not allowed me to have children. So have a baby with my slave girl, maybe I can have my own family through her."

Abram did what Sarai said. ³ This was after Abram lived ten years in Canaan. And Sarai gave Hagar to her husband Abram. (Hagar was her slave girl from Egypt.)

⁴ Hagar became pregnant. When Hagar learned that she was pregnant, she began to hate her mistress Sarai. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is your fault. I gave my slave girl to you. And when she became pregnant, she began to hate me. Let the Lord decide who is right—you or me."

⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, "You are Hagar's mistress. Do anything you want to her." Then Sarai ill-treated Hagar, and Hagar ran away.

⁷ The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the desert. The spring was by the road to Shur. ⁸ The angel said, "Hagar, you are Sarai's slave girl. Where have you come from? Where are you going?" Hagar answered, "I am running from my mistress Sarai."

⁹ The angel of the Lord said to her, "Go home to your mistress and obey her." ¹⁰ The angel of the Lord also said, "I will give you so many descendants they cannot be counted."

¹¹ The angel also said to her,

"You are now pregnant, and you will have a son.

You will name him Ishmael, because **the Lord has heard your cries.**

¹² Ishmael will be like a wild donkey. He will be against everyone.

And everyone will be against him. He will attack all his brothers."

¹³ The slave girl gave a name to the Lord who spoke to her. She said to him, "**You are 'God who sees me.'**" This is because she said to herself, "Have I really seen God who sees me?" ¹⁴ So the well there was called Beer Lahai Roi.^[a] It is between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ Hagar gave birth to a son for Abram. And Abram named him Ishmael.

Things to note:

- V2- Sarah blames God for not being able to have children even though God has promised her this!!! It seems mad when we read it but then she has waited a long time and had no baby. You may want to spend a little time thinking about how it would have felt for her, but remember that the real problem is her lack of trust in God- he has said he will give her a child and his word is trustworthy.
- **God hears and sees all things-** God sees what has happened to Hagar and really cares about her. He does not ignore her suffering or her cries but listens and meets her in her needs. (parents, Psalm 10 that we looked at last week has a verse similar- Psalm 10:14 "But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand.")
- **Remember that God is kind and gracious.** We all mess up and disobey him. We need to come back to him and say sorry and he will forgive us because of Jesus. Abraham and Sarah mess up big time here, and yet God remains faithful to them. We should be amazed at God's unconditional love here, and be encouraged to want to obey him *because* he loves us, not *so that* he will love us.

Pebbles and Rocks:

Retelling the passage and explaining it:

Last week we saw how God reminded Abraham of the promise he made to him that he would have a HUGE family by showing him the stars and telling him that his family would be as many as the stars in the sky!

A number of years pass by, and Sarah, Abraham's wife still hasn't had a baby. One day she says to Abraham "God hasn't allowed me to have a child, so I would like you to marry my slave girl Hagar and have a baby with her, then I can be a mum after all".

But this wasn't God's plan. It was Sarah's plan. She had grown impatient, waiting for God to keep his promise so had decided to make a plan of her own to have a family. But God had told Abraham and Sarah that he would give them a son of their own, not this way. So what Sarah did was wrong.

A few months later Hagar was expecting to have a baby, and she was upset with Sarah. They fell out and Sarah started being cruel to Hagar. So Hagar ran away into the desert.

The angel of the Lord found Hagar by a spring of water in the desert and said to her "Hagar, where are you going?"

Hagar told the angel that she was running away from her mistress Sarah.

Then the angel told Hagar something very special. The angel said that God had seen all that had happened to Hagar, and had heard her cries. He told her that she would have a baby boy, and that she should name him "Ismael" which means "God Listens". He told her to return to Abraham and Sarah .

Hagar was amazed that God had spoken to her and had cared about her, so she replied "you are the God who sees me" and returned home where she had her baby boy.

Points to draw out:

- Because Sarah stopped trusting God to keep his promises, she came up with her own plan that involved doing things that God would not be happy with, and ended up hurting other people .
- Sometimes we can find it hard to trust God to keep his promises. Our job is not to make things happen in our own way without God, but to keep on obeying him and listening to him.
- Beautifully though, When Sarah and Abraham do disobey God and make their own plans, God doesn't give up on them. He is still the God who keeps his promises.
- God cares for Hagar who is hurt by Sarah's plan. He hears her cries and "sees her"

Prayer ideas:

Thank you God for caring for Hagar and for keeping your promises to Sarah and Abraham even though they stopped trusting you and made their own plans. Please would you help me to keep trusting you and to enjoy obeying you. Thank you that because of Jesus, you do promise to forgive me when I disobey you or don't trust you, but please help me always to say sorry and to return to you. Amen

Activities:

- **Listen to "Jesus strong and kind"** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYMh8Vn9JgY>
- **Story book craft (parents will need to help with cutting out and gluing)**
- **Colouring sheets**

*Contact helen.hawley@bramcote.church for the TnT activity sheets if you are accessing these resources from the website. *

Bounders and Rip Rap:

Think about: when is it sometimes hard to trust that God will keep his promises? Can you think of a time when you have been tempted to disobey God because you think that his plans for you are not going to work out?

Read the passage:

The Passage Genesis 16:1-15

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¹⁵ Hagar gave birth to a son for Abram. And Abram named him Ishmael.

Use the TnT work sheets to help you explore this passage further

Prayer:

Thank you God for caring for Hagar and for keeping your promises to Sarah and Abraham even though they stopped trusting you and made their own plans. Please would you help me to keep trusting you and to enjoy obeying you. Thank you that because of Jesus, you do promise to forgive me when I disobey you or don't trust you, but please help me always to say sorry and to return to you. Amen

Activities

- TnT worksheets (C) Boulders, (D) RipRap
- Listen to "Jesus strong and kind" and think about God's love for us through Jesus. Even when we make mistakes, we can come to him for forgiveness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYMh8Vn9JgY>
- Word search, Colouring sheets

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Story Book craft (colour in version)

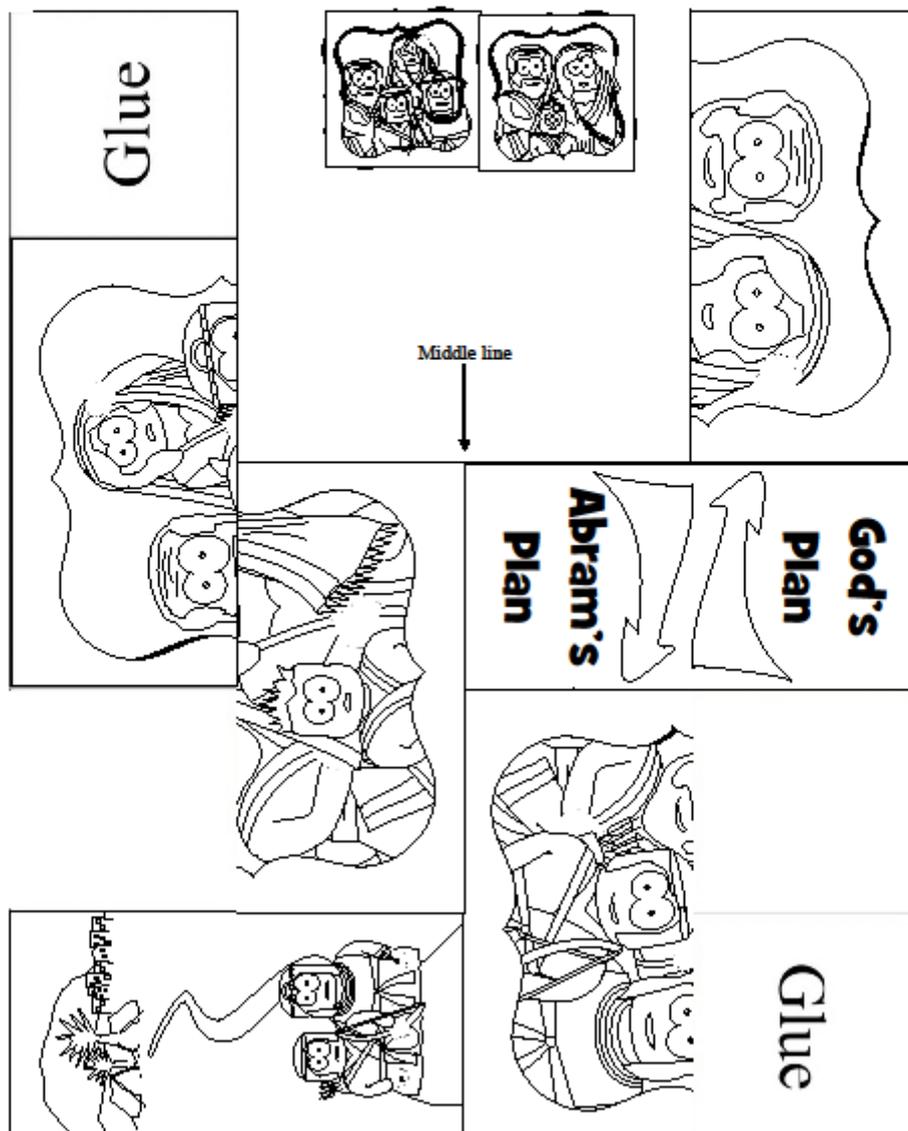
Instructions

Print the template onto paper, cut out the one big shape. glue the 2 sides together folding along the middle line.

Fold every square so that the fold goes both ways.

wrap the images around and add glue onto the 2 squares that say 'glue'.

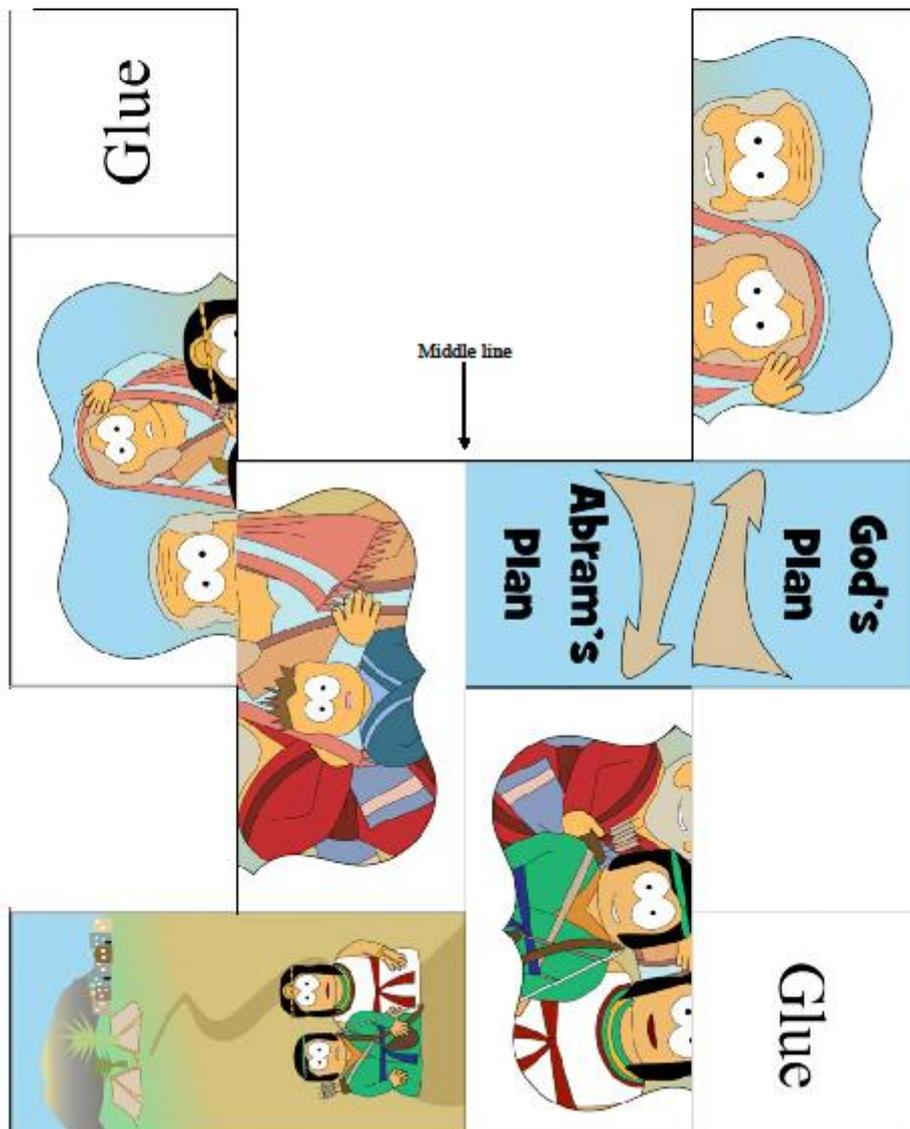
Fold the paper to reveal the four different images, repeat a few times so make the mechanism smooth.



Story Book craft (pre coloured version)

Instructions

Print the template onto paper, cut out the one big shape. glue the 2 sides together folding along the middle line.
Fold every square so that the fold goes both ways.
wrap the images around and add glue onto the 2 squares that say 'glue'.
Fold the paper to reveal the four different images, repeat a few times so make the mechanism smooth.



Story book craft instructions



For this craft you will need the [PDF printout](#), printer paper (card not advisable for this one), scissors and a glue stick.



Colour in the story book

Cut the whole shape out. Be careful with your cutting as it will help get better composite images and help you fold later on.



To make this 2 sided we are going to stick the 2 parts together, the middle line is marked with an arrow and it's the only place the two shapes line up perfectly too! If you can leave the glue a minute to set before continuing to fold.



Now comes the tricky bit, we need every square to be separated with a fold. These folds need to go both ways! Luckily in most cases you can line up the edges to make this easier.



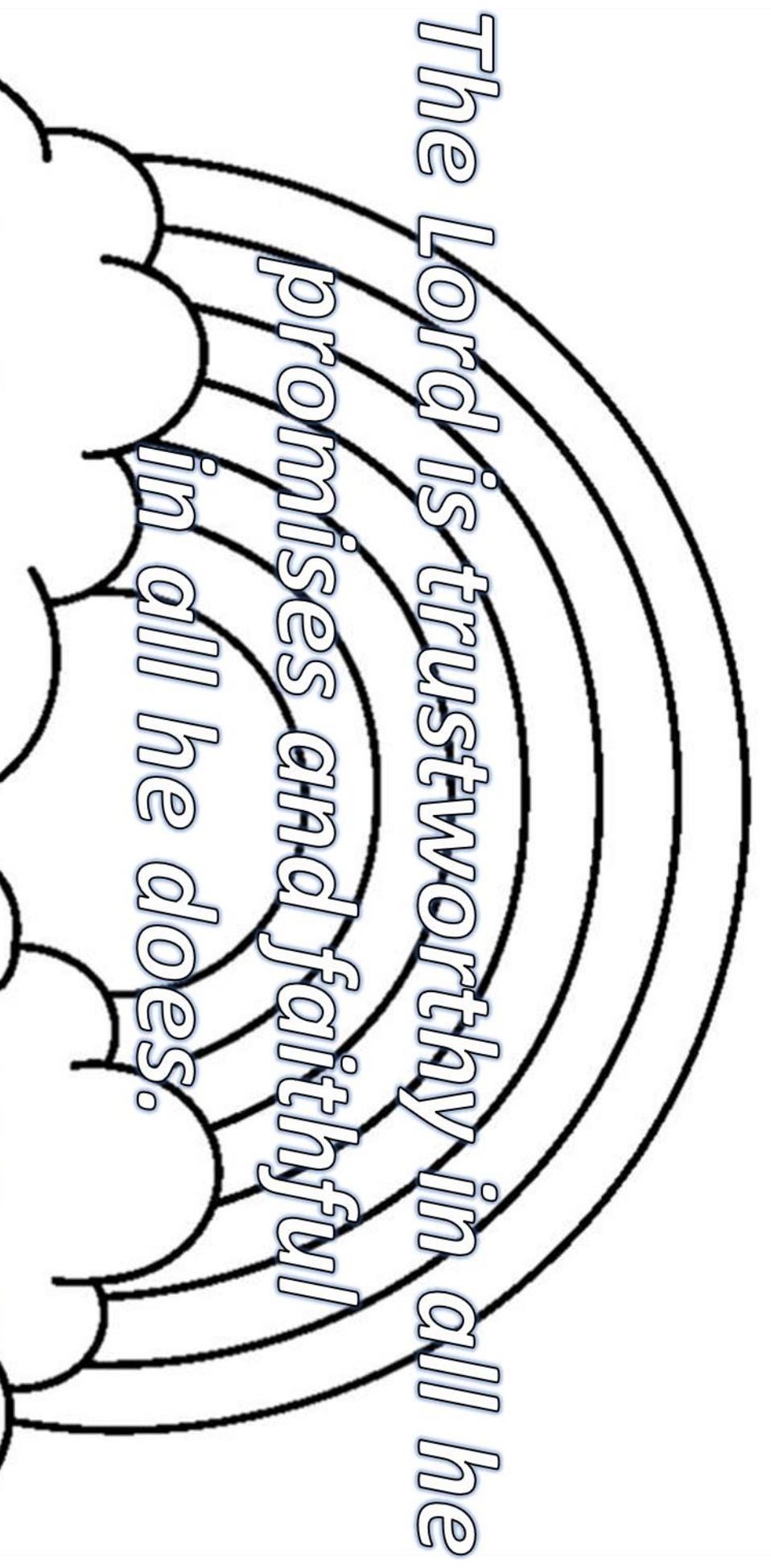
To combine you need to first fold the piece so you can see the picture of God's idea for Abraham and Sarah's family. Then turn over the whole thing.



Add glue to one of the 2 squares that say 'glue' and fold the picture over to stick them together. You'll know this is right if the second family portrait appears.



Now use your 4 images to tell the story!



The Lord is trustworthy in all he
promises and faithful
in all he does.

Psalm

145:13

Word Search

Genesis 16

C	E	Y	A	O	L	M	Y	Y	A	E	T	A	T
D	N	D	O	E	B	E	E	H	E	A	R	D	A
Y	E	E	B	L	S	B	H	S	L	M	R	H	T
N	D	E	R	E	O	H	Y	L	H	O	I	L	H
E	A	Y	N	B	G	P	R	L	E	E	L	E	A
R	N	N	I	S	R	Y	O	N	O	S	B	A	G
D	G	L	H	A	N	S	P	S	R	A	R	M	A
L	E	E	E	D	Y	E	E	T	M	L	D	H	R
I	L	T	M	H	S	E	S	R	D	S	E	S	Y
H	O	B	R	G	E	S	N	R	S	V	E	I	A
C	A	A	O	E	E	G	N	R	A	E	D	Y	H
N	E	B	E	P	S	E	L	L	R	R	E	D	E
H	A	Y	N	A	E	E	S	T	O	T	E	A	A
L	A	E	V	D	R	S	D	L	A	R	O	Y	N

SLAVE
SEES
HAGAR
SON
LORD
HEARD
ANGEL
EGYPT
DESERT
CHILDREN
OBEY
ISHMAEL
BABY

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2136470/>

