

Together @ Home



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of God keeping his promises to Abraham.

You can find the story in your Bible in:

Genesis 21:1-21

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Abraham that reminds us that you always keep your promises.

Thank you that you give abundantly, that you kept your promise to Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael. Thank you that you care for each of us and can give us all that we need and more.

We pray for all those in the world who are struggling to have what they need, that you would be their provider and protector.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children
What promises had God made to Abraham?

God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations – Abraham and his wife Sarah doubted that God could give them a son, so Abraham had a son with Hagar, a boy called Ishmael. When Isaac came along there was rivalry between Abraham's two wives and sons.

But God always keeps his promises and his love is big enough to go around. God showed his love and protection for both Ishmael and Isaac. Isaac would be the father of Jacob from whom all the Israelites came. Ishmael would also have many descendants who would be known as Ishmaelites. Many years later they would play a key part in the story of Joseph, we'll be thinking about that story in a few weeks. God kept his promise twice over!

A question for children to ask adults
Can you think of a time when God kept a promise to you?

The Bible is full of promises, it is great to recognise when God fulfils his promises to us in the small things as well as the large. God provides for our needs on a daily basis and is with us wherever we go.

Family Activity 1

You will need: Pens, paper, craft materials



In today's story God remembered his promise to Abraham and fulfilled it for both his children. We can read God's promises to us in the Bible and know that they are for all of us and for all those who accept God's love.

Find a promise verse in the Bible, write it out and decorate it then deliver it to another family or take a photo to send to them. Here are some great promises you might like to choose.

Isaiah 40 v 29

Isaiah 41 v 10

1 John 1 v 9

2 Chronicles 7 v 14

John 3 v 16

Mark 11 v 24



A verse to remember

Psalm 86 v 5

Lord, you are kind and forgiving and have great love for those who call to you.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it. Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week?

Family Activity 2

How far can you stretch? God's love stretches wider than we can imagine – it stretches beyond our mistakes and in today's story God stretched out his love and provision to both Ishmael and Isaac.

Set up a marker – if you are outside you could use a chalk mark on the floor, or indoors use an object to mark your starting point. As a family see how far you can stretch – make sure you stay connected to one another, but see how far a distance you can cover working together.

If you have a tape measure why not measure how far your family stretched and challenge another family to see how far they can stretch!

Make sure you warm up first!



Helping Older Children

The world is full of hurting and angry people at the moment crying out for Justice. The story of Ishmael could easily be one of injustice – Sarah forces out Ishmael and Hagar, Hagar works as a slave and fears for the life of herself and her son.

You could use this story as a starting point for a conversation about Justice. Our God is a God of Justice – and God's love, mercy and provision are for all. God heard the cry of Hagar and responded. He hears our cries, our prayers and our thirst for Justice in this time as well.

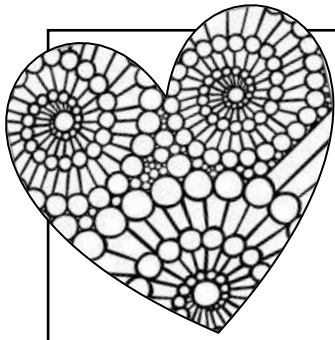
Active Prayer

In a time when many are struggling to provide for themselves and their families it is good to pray to our God of provision. Just as there are many stories in the Bible of God multiplying food and providing for others why not pray while you prepare or eat food and ask God for his provision for your family and for those in your community.

Why not actively seek to share from your own provisions with those around you – drop off a meal for a neighbour, share some baked goods with another family, buy some extra goods and donate them to the foodbank.



A colouring page you could print and colour together



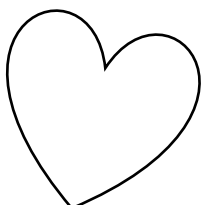
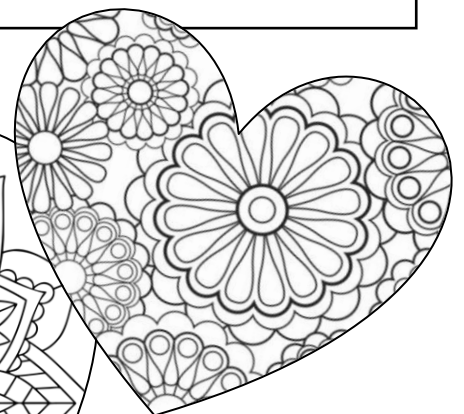
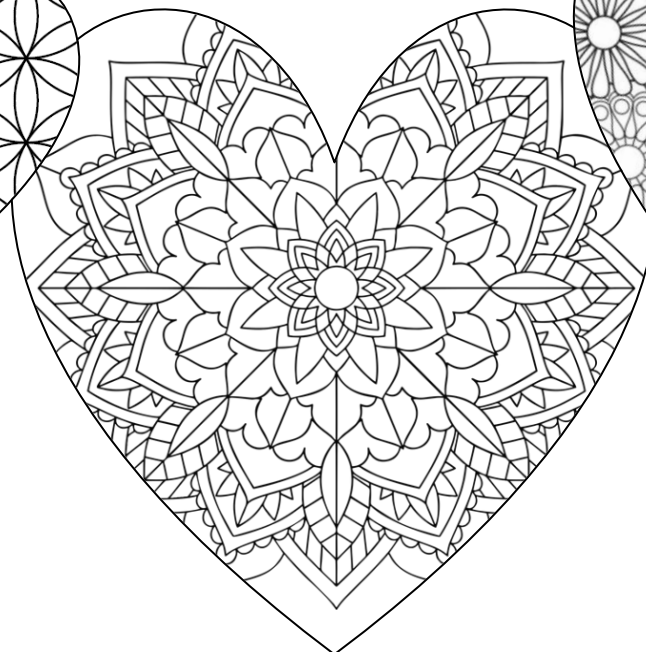
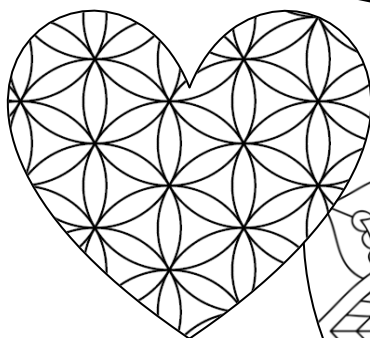
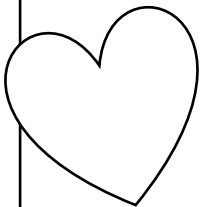
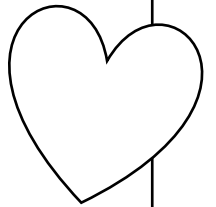
PSALM 86 V 5

LORD, YOU ARE KIND AND

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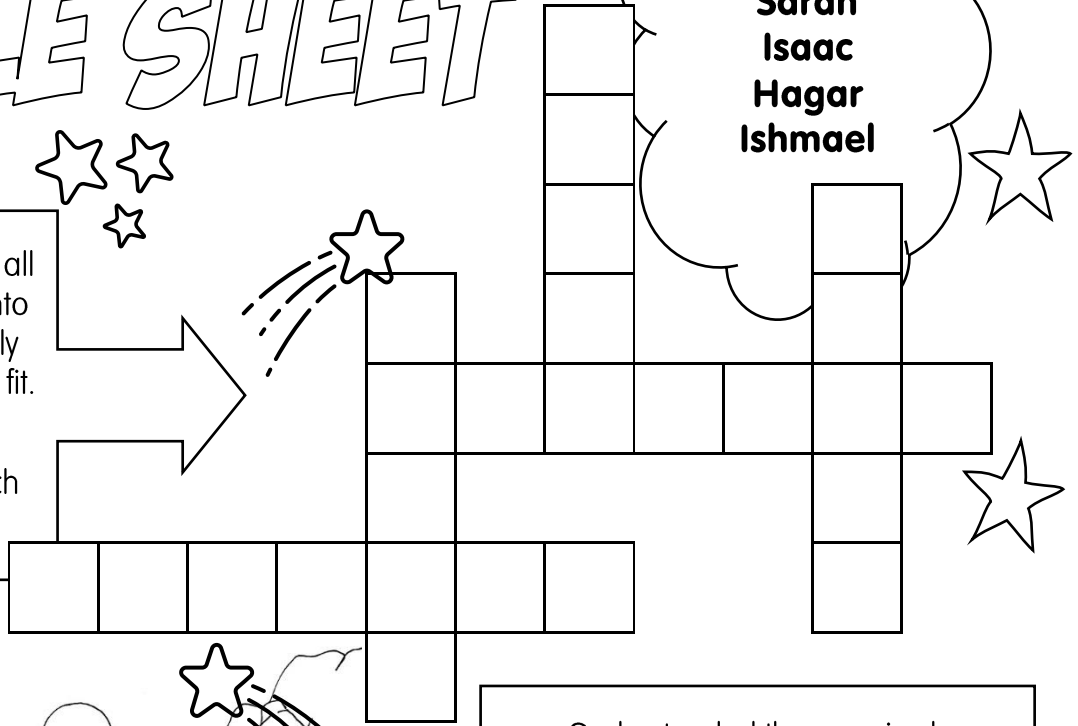


PUZZLE SHEET

Abraham
Sarah
Isaac
Hagar
Ishmael

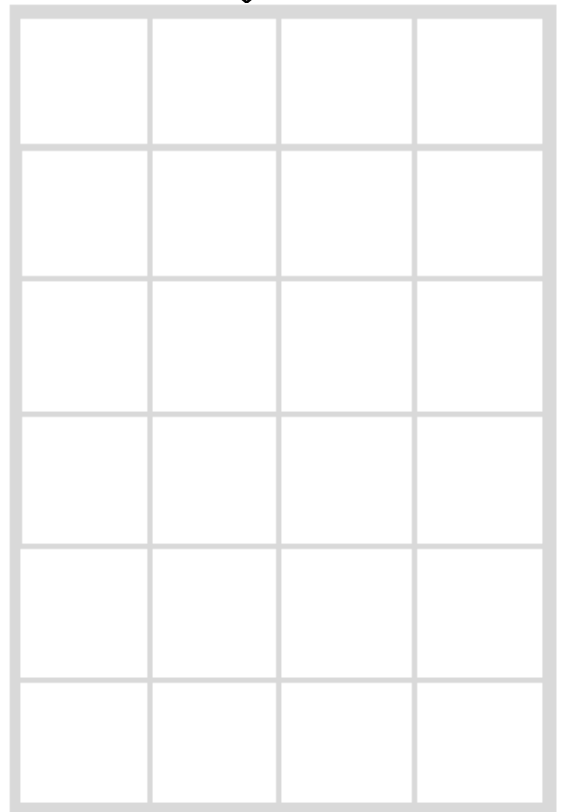
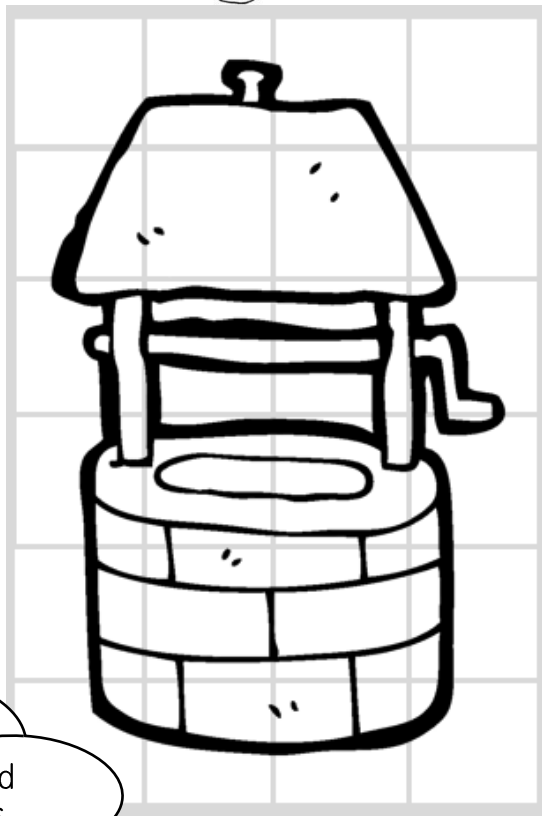
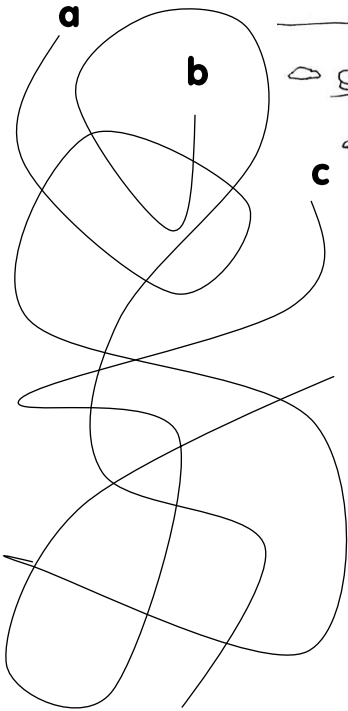
Can you fit the names of all the people in the story into the puzzle? There is only one way that they will all fit.

CLUE: try counting the number of letters in each name.



Which path should Hagar take to reach the well?

God extended the promise he had made to Isaac and also made it to Ishmael. Can you copy the picture on the left into the grid on the right?
Copy one square at a time!



God had promised Abraham that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky. How many stars can you find on this page?

There are 12 stars hidden on the page.
Path b leads to the well.

