

# THE BIG PICTURE

Elementary  
Week 1

## PARENT BIBLE STUDY

### Read: Genesis 12-24

God promised to bless Abraham (Genesis 12:2) and give him offspring that would outnumber the dust of the earth (Genesis 13:14-16). He told Abraham and Sarah that their children would be as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5). He promised to increase their numbers (Genesis 17:2) and give them a son (Genesis 17:16). God made promise after promise after promise, yet long after their childbearing years were over, Abraham and Sarah remained childless.

Childlessness was attacking Sarah's very identity as a woman, and Abraham was wrestling with his own questions (Genesis 15:2-3), so we can hardly blame them for laughing at God (Genesis 18:12) and trying, in their own power, to bring a resolution to what they saw as a promise forgotten and unfulfilled.

We've all been there. We know that every word of God is true, that he is faithful, and that he can be trusted. But we wait and wait and we don't see him working. Our identity and our faith – the foundations of who we are – are attacked, so we laugh at God and come up with our own plan out of fear and desperation. But faith is having full trust and confidence in something that we cannot see. This is where the rubber meets the road. Will we still trust that God is good, even when we can't see the big picture? Will we have faith in a God we cannot see, and believe that he is working in our life, even if we don't see a tangible solution in front of us? It was 25 years between God's first promise to Abraham and the moment he and Sarah were holding Isaac in their arms. They didn't trust him perfectly, and their faith wavered at times, but God remained faithful, good, and true to his word. He continued to remind them of his promise and blessing. And when Isaac was born, it was at the very time God had promised him (Genesis 21:2). The perfect time.

When we're walking a road like Abraham and Sarah's, a road of endless waiting and unfulfilled promises, God is with us. He remains steady even when our faith is wavering because he is the Lord and he does not change (Malachi 3:6). And if we ever question his goodness and faithfulness, all we have to do is look to Jesus, who at just the right time died on the cross to save us and give us life (Romans 5:6). It is the ultimate promise fulfilled, and all the proof we need that God is always for our good.

**How do you trust God's promises and character in a season of waiting/when you can't see the big picture of what God is doing?**

**How does the story of the faith of Abraham and Sarah strengthen your own faith and give you hope?**