
At-Home Sunday School Lesson for 2nd Sunday of Lent

Adult and Elementary (Grades K-6)

Read: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Reflect: I used to commute to school with one of my neighbors named Aisha. We would meet right out on the sidewalk in front of our houses. One day, Aisha forgot her the keys to her house so she stayed over at my house until her parents came home.

There is a similar thread in today's reading as we see the word *covenant* again in this Scripture. This time, God is making an agreement with Abram. God will not forget God's promises. How reassuring! There is an additional layer of meaning and purpose in God's covenant, or agreement, with Abram. God changes Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name is changed to Sarah. This is an example of how God blesses us. We might forget things from time to time, but God will not.

Respond: Are there times when you need reminders? During your bedtime routine, don't forget to brush your teeth. While brushing, say to yourself: “I almost forgot, but God never forgets!”

Adult and Youth (Grades 7-12)

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Reflect: Abram and Sarai (soon to be Abraham and Sarah) were childless. In ancient times, not having children was viewed as a punishment from God. Clearly, there was something “wrong” with Abram or Sarai or they had done something to anger God. These feelings often result in feelings of brokenness, unworthiness, and shame. God sees us differently. God says there is nothing we can do that separates us from God’s love. In today’s reading, God lifts the burden of shame. God tells Abram that God wants to be in relationship with him and there is nothing that can change that. God asks Abram to stay in relationship and to be trustworthy and God will give Abraham and Sarah many descendants. Those descendants will also remain in relationship with God.

Have you ever felt like you were not enough? Have you ever felt like there was something so wrong with you that would keep God and others from liking, accepting, and loving you?

Respond: The world often “tells” us we’re not enough. There seems to be an “ideal” we are supposed to attain in order to be worthy. God says otherwise. Sometimes we need to be reminded that our very existence blesses others. Do this activity with someone else: take out a piece of paper (invite them to do this, too) and write down all the things about you that make you special. Start the list with “I am a beloved child of God.” After you have finished your list, make a list for the other person start the list with “You are a beloved child of God.”