

WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE

Staycation!

BIG IDEA

God always shows us compassion.

BIBLE

Abraham and Isaac: Genesis 21:1-7, 22:1-14; Psalm 145:8-14

LARGE GROUP TIME

We hope you're enjoying the family *Staycation!* This week we will learn about Abraham's son Isaac and God's command to Abraham. Even when things seemed really tough, God was compassionate toward Abraham. The same is true for us!

[Consider contacting families and letting kids come to church in their pajamas this month! Give your space a cozy feel with blankets, beanbag chairs, stuffed animals, cushions, and rugs. Play a fun song with a family or house theme as kids arrive. This week, check out "[We Are All Family](#)" (Hillsong Kids & Funny Man Dan).]

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Everyday I'm Blessed" (Crowder)
 - "Big House" (From "A Week Away")
 - "You and Me" (Grow Kids VBS)
 - "My Heart Your Home" (Maverick City Music)
 - "Boundary Line" (Elevation Church Kids)

ACTIVITY | Board Game Blitz

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out an assortment of board games. Divide the kids into groups and send each group to play a specific game. Set a timer for two minutes. Once the time is up, have them rotate to a different game. Have the kids rotate several times. At the end of the rotations, if kids want to go back and play a specific game, designate about 10-15 minutes of free board game play time.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Some kids may not want to switch to a different game at the end of two minutes or might feel overwhelmed by the quick succession of activities. Allow kids to have free play from the start if you anticipate this from any of the kids.*

- Board games are a highlight of every *Staycation!*, right? How many of you thought it was a little unfair to have to rotate? How many of you were glad to rotate because you weren't winning?
- I know the fast-pace may have cut one of your favorite games short, so take the next 10-15 minutes and go back to a game you'd like to play a little longer.

ACTIVITY | A Walk In Your Shoes

- Today we'll hear an amazing story from the Bible about God's compassion. One way to define compassion is simply *caring about others*. **It's hard to care about others if we don't know each other well, right?** So, today, we are going to get to know each other quickly.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids pair up and give them each one minute to share as much about themselves as possible. After the two minutes of sharing, have each pair swap one shoe so that each person is holding two different shoes. Have them sit back to back on the floor. Then ask a series of questions and have them lift the shoe of the person who they think the question pertains to most. See how many pairs can get their answers to line up!*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Preteens might be self-conscious or protective about their shoes so instead, go around the room to each kid, then ask the others to share something they appreciate about this individual. Make sure everyone gets a turn.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids who might have difficulty removing their shoes or they simply don't want to, allow them to use different items like small flags or pom-poms. You should allow them to sit facing their peers so they can follow cues from their partner as needed. For kids who don't wish to participate, consider allowing them to keep time.*
- Now that you've learned as much as you can about each other in two minutes, answer these questions. Hold up the shoe of the person you think fits the question most.
 - **Who likes animals more?**
 - **Who has more siblings?**
 - **Who likes soccer more?**
 - **Who is older?**
 - **Who likes to dance more?**
 - **Who has more pets?**
 - **Who likes Spiderman more?**
 - **Who has watched Encanto more?**

QUESTION | How have you shown compassion to others?

- Staycations can get messy sometimes, and I'm not just talking about how messy your room can get. When we're together for a while, it is easy to start to get frustrated or annoyed with each other.
- **Can you think of a time this happened to you? How did someone in your family show you compassion when you weren't being your best self? How have you shown compassion to others?**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 21:1-7, 22:1-14 (Abraham and Isaac)

- It's time to get cozy and comfy for our *Staycation!* story time! *[Show video.]*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up for the Bible story as though it's a slumber party! Wear pajamas (have kids come in PJs, too!), and have kids sit on the floor on blankets, cushions, and pillows. Show [this video](#) then continue teaching the story from Genesis 12:1-7, 22:1-14.
- Wow! What an amazing story! Let's read about it from the Bible.
- [Read Genesis 21:1-7, 22:1-14.]
- Last week, we talked about a man named Abram and this week, we are talking about a guy named Abraham . . . This is the same guy! In Genesis 17, God gave Abram a new name. God called him Abraham, which means "father of many." This happened when Abraham was 90 years old!
- The problem with this new name was that Abraham and Sarah didn't have any kids! They really wanted to have a child, but after years of waiting, they pretty much gave up on the idea of being parents. . . . but God was compassionate, and gave them a baby when Abraham was 100 years old!
- **Can you imagine, then, how hard it would have been for Abraham to think about losing his child?** That would have been devastating. God knew how much Abraham loved Isaac, and that his love for his son may have become stronger than his love for God. God wanted to invite Abraham to open his hands and not cling so tightly to Isaac. God had great plans for Abraham and Isaac, and God wanted them to be totally available to be a blessing to others. So, in God's kindness and compassion, God taught Abraham a lesson about letting go.
- In God's compassion, God didn't punish Abraham for holding onto Isaac too tightly. Instead, God taught them both about living with open hands. As Abraham obeyed, he saw that God provides. God provided the ram to be the sacrifice, and God also provided a chance for Abraham to see God's kindness and care.

BIG IDEA | God always shows us compassion.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare an empty drawer filled with odds and ends (pretty much anything) but write the Big Idea on one of the items. Pull out a bunch of items from the drawer until you find the right item. You could also invite a volunteer to come to the front and find it for you.
- Oh no! I've misplaced my keys again. Maybe they are in the junk drawer! The junk drawer is the one drawer in my house that holds all of the random stuff. **Do you have one in your house? What is in your junk drawer?**
- Oh, I wish I could find my keys! [Take several items out to really play this up.]
- Here they are! Look! I want to show you my new key chain. It's our Big Idea for today: **God always shows us compassion.**

VIDEO | Staycation!, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

VIDEO | "Surface Pressure"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this clip](#) from the movie, "Encanto."
- In this clip, Mirabel noticed that her sister, Luisa, was struggling. Even though Luisa said everything was okay, Mirabel noticed that Luisa wasn't acting like herself.
- Mirabel took the time to ask Luisa important questions and listen to her when she responded. Mirabel reminded Luisa that she didn't need to hang on to her own strength so tightly. She could let others in to help her.
- In a similar way, God doesn't want us to feel like we have to be strong all of the time. We can share with God how we are feeling and believe that God will help us through the most difficult times.
- When we are upset, angry, or worried, God doesn't expect us to try to fix things ourselves. God is there to help us. **God always shows us compassion.**

OBJECT LESSON | Do You Trust Me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Poke a very sharp pencil all the way through both sides of a baggie filled with water. If done correctly, the water won't leak. Check out this [video](#) to see how it is done.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider having preteens follow along with you or have one or more of them do the demonstration for the large group.
- One of the best parts about *Staycation!* is finding random supplies around the house and making science experiments.
- **This bag is filled with water, right? What do you think will happen if I poke it with a sharpened pencil? Would you believe me if I told you the water won't spill?**
- I imagine Abraham felt uncomfortable when God asked him to give up his son. He likely felt afraid or angry, when he thought about what could happen on that mountain. Instead of experiencing heartache and loss, Abraham experienced God's compassion and kindness.
- *[Poke the pencil through the bag.]* **Can you believe it? This situation didn't turn out the way you thought it would, did it?** In a similar way, Abraham found himself in a difficult situation, but it turned out better than Abraham could have imagined.
- God provided a ram so that Abraham could give that to God instead. God wanted to help Abraham learn to trust that God always wants what is best for us, even in the midst of challenging circumstances. We can let go and know that **God always shows us compassion.**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 145:8-14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 145:8-14.
- This passage of scripture reminds us that God is full of compassion — and not just compassion for us, but compassion for all.
- God showed love and compassion for everyone by sending Jesus, God's son, to earth. Jesus showed us the perfect picture of compassion as he cared for everyone around him, even those who were brushed aside by others.
- Jesus had such great compassion that he died on the cross so that we could be free from sin, and part of the family of God forever. The invitation to be part of the family of God is for everyone.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Even When

- Let's circle up together. Each person will take a turn saying an "Even When" statement. For example, "God shows me compassion even when I feel afraid."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have each kid share an "even when statement," by filling in the blank, "God shows me compassion even when _____." If they are stuck, you can help them. Here are some ideas:
 - Even when I make a bad grade
 - Even when I feel disappointed
 - Even when I disappoint others
 - Even when I lose my temper
 - Even when I feel like I don't measure up
 - Even when I am angry
 - Even when I argue
- In all of these circumstances, **God always shows us compassion.**

RESPONSE | Letting Go

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid three pieces of scrap paper. Have them write down times when they could have been more compassionate to someone else. After they write down three examples, have them crumple the papers and throw them into the trash can.
- It is easy to hang onto these times and feel like we've failed. Even if we missed an opportunity to be compassionate, **God is always compassionate with us.** God isn't shaking God's finger at us in disappointment. God is reminding us today that even if we didn't treat others with compassion in the past, God will give us the courage to be compassionate now.

MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

- "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using the same memory verse deck of cards from the first week, have volunteers come to the front and try to build a house of cards by putting the cards in order of the memory verse. (**Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs — a combination of SEE and ASL — available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Galatians6-10.)**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for always showing us compassion. Even when we don't understand what is happening, we can trust you to be kind and loving toward us. Help us to share your kindness and compassion with those around us. We love you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did God promise to Sarah and Abraham?
- What test did God give Abraham?
- What did God provide for Abraham to give to God?
- Read Psalm 145:8-9. What are some words in these verses that describe God's compassion for us?
- How would you describe compassion to someone?
- Can you remember a time when someone showed you compassion?
- What is one way you can show compassion to someone else this week?

ACTIVITY | Blessing in a Bag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give each kid the bag they decorated in Week 1. Have them add to their decoration this week with stickers, and then have them fill the bags with snacks. Finish your time by praying together as a group.
- We have received God's love and compassion, and now we get to share love and compassion with others!
- Through the next several weeks in our *Staycation!* each of you will be creating a Blessing in a Bag. At the end of our *Staycation!* we will be giving these bags to help someone in need.
- Let's add to our blessing bags today with stickers. Afterward, place the non-perishable snack you brought. As you place your snack in the bag, pray that the person who will receive this bag will experience God's compassion.
- Next week, please bring in small, new hygiene products like toothpaste, toothbrush, or soap.