

## Story 23: The Birth of Isaac

God was pleased with Abram's life. When Abram was 99 years old, God appeared to him and reminded him of the promises he had given him:

Abram would be the father of many nations.

Some of his descendants would be kings.

The land of Canaan would belong to his family forever.

Then God changed Abram's name to Abraham. God told Abraham that all of his descendants must promise to obey Him. As a sign of their promise, every man and boy must be circumcised. Abraham obeyed God and circumcised all the men and boys in his family. God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. She was 90 years old. God told Abraham, "Next year, you and Sarah will have a son." Both Abraham and Sarah laughed. They did not understand how they could have a son in their old age. But God said, "Nothing is too difficult for Me!" God kept his promise. The next year Sarah had a son, and Abraham named him Isaac.

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Read this entire story in the Bible in Genesis 17:1-27; 18:1-15; 21:1-4

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### Words to Know

**sign** – something that stands for something else; something visible that represents another thing that cannot actually be seen

**circumcise** – to cut off the foreskin of the penis

### Questions

1. How did God feel about Abram?
2. When Abram was 99 years old, of what did God remind him?
3. What was Abram's new name?
4. What promise did God require of Abraham's descendants?
5. What was the "sign" of that promise?
6. When did Sarai get a new name? What was it?
7. What did God say would happen "next year?"
8. Why did Abraham and Sarah laugh?
9. What is too difficult for God?
10. What did Abraham name his son? Do you know what is interesting about this name? (See Genesis 21:6)

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