

Big Idea:

God's new name for Abram and Sarai help us know more about God's promise to bless them and all people through them.

And when God promises to do something ... he will never fail.

Starter conversation

Who knows what their name means?

Share what your name means ...

(Maybe have a few back ups ready to share!)

Bible story

In our bible story today, God gives Abram and Sarai new names.

God's new name for Abram and Sarai help us know more about God's promise to bless them and all people through them.

How? God was preparing to send his promised King Jesus!

But there's a problem.

So far ... Abram and Sarai are really old ... and they still have no children!

God promised to give them lots and lots of children ...

(review last week dust / stars concept if it suits)

... but they didn't even have one child, and Sarai was already too old to have children.

It seemed impossible!!

Abram and Sarai **struggled to trust** God's promise because it seemed impossible!

So Abram and Sarai came up with their own solution ... Sarai gave Abram her servant Hagar as a second wife. She had a son ... and they named him Ishmael.

But God said, even though he would bless Ishmael ... he wasn't the one that would fulfil God's promise.

God reminds Abram again of his promise ... his covenant ... God promises to give them a son through Sarai.

Let's read about Abram first.

Read Genesis 17:1-7

How old is Abram?

99

What's his new name?

Abraham

What does his new name mean?

Father of nations

How long will God's covenant or promise last?

Everlasting ... forever!

And Sarai is given a new name too!

Let's read about her story now.

Read Genesis 17:15-19

What is Sarai's new name?

Sarah

Why does God give Sarai a new name?

Because she will become a mother of nations and kings of peoples will come from her! (17:15-16)

How old is Sarai?

90

What does God promise Abram and Sarai?

A son ... they are to call him Isaac (v.16,19)

Through Abram, and his son Isaac ... God will establish his everlasting covenant. (v.7,19)

God will be their God, and the God of their descendants!! (17:7)

God tells Abram that kings will come from the child he gives them. A king who can rule an everlasting kingdom.

So - God promises to make a way to have a relationship with his people that would last forever!!

How long does God say he keep his promises for?

Forever

**God wants a relationship with his people that will last forever ...
so he promises to send a king who will be able to rule forever.**

Who is the king who rules forever?

Jesus!!

Conclusion

Isn't it exciting to see how God's promised plan is coming true!!

God's new name for Abram and Sarai help us know more about God's promise to bless them and all people through them.

God wants a relationship with his people that will last forever.

And so he promises to send King Jesus!

Jesus is the king who will rule forever.

And when God promises to do something ... he will never fail.

Pray

Thanks God

- that you kept your promise to send your everlasting king Jesus.
- that you kept your promise to Abram and Sarai even when they didn't always trust you
- that you keep reminding us of your promises because you want our trust in you to grow and grow

We ask that

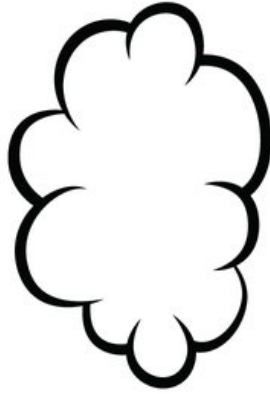
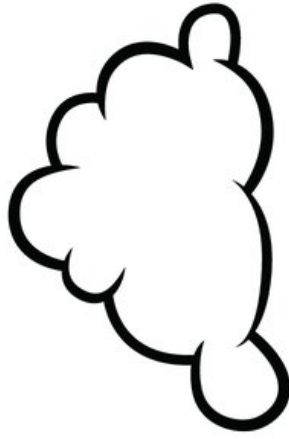
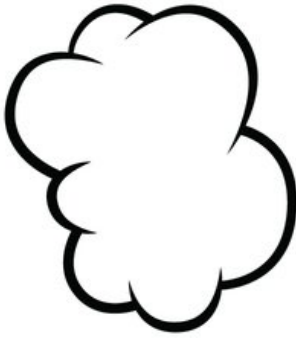
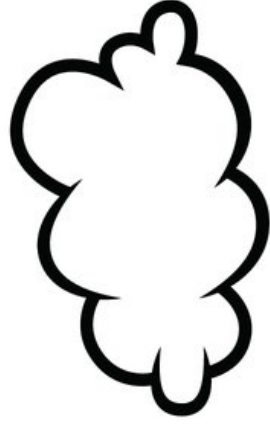
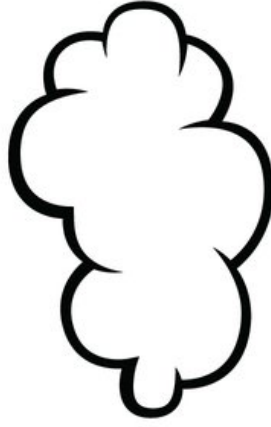
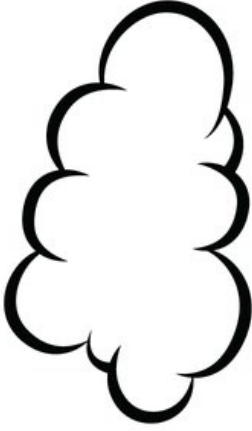
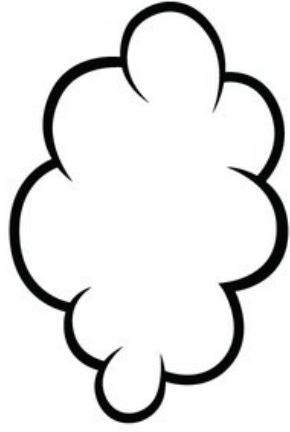
- you help our trust in your promises to grow and grow

Amen

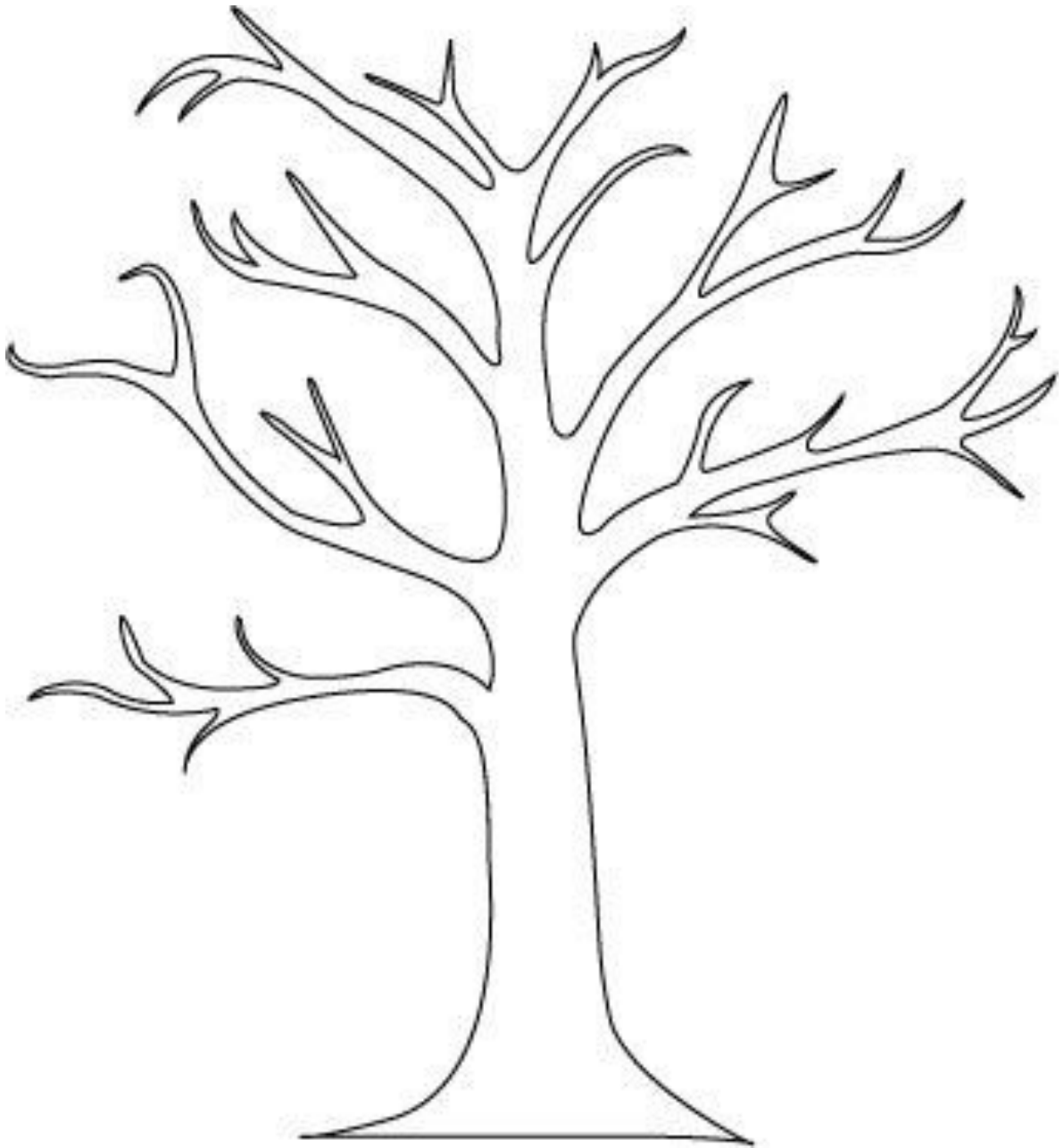
Suggested Activity

"Names in my family" activity sheet.

Or just talk about name meanings! And discuss Matthew 1:21 together.



Names in my family



Matthew 1:21

“She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and they will call him
Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”