因信得福

亚伯拉罕信了这话,就因信得福。今天也是如此。凡今天信的人,和亚伯拉罕一样都得福。—— 加拉太书 3:9 (国际儿童圣经版本)

嗨,孩子们,今天,我们来讨论一下动物宝宝! 让我们从一个庞大的动物开始——大象。你 知道吗? 大象通常一次只生一个宝宝噢,在一些极其罕见的情况下,大象可以生双胞胎,但绝不 会生三胞胎。一个可能的原因是大象的宝宝非常大。一头小象出生时的体重可达到 120 公斤(约 268 磅),那是一个非常巨大的婴儿!一只小象在妈妈肚子里长到这么大需要多长时间呢? 九个月 吗? 十二个月? 不对,正确答案是二十二个月。你相信吗? 要差不多两年的时间呢! 真是令人难 以置信,大象妈妈要等待这么长的时间才能等到宝宝出生!



今天的圣经故事是关于亚伯拉罕。我们所知道关于亚伯拉罕的一件事是,他也花了很长的时间才等到他的宝宝出生;我们还知道关于亚伯拉罕的另一件事是,神非常喜欢亚伯拉罕,神称亚伯拉罕为祂的朋友。



有一天,神对亚伯拉罕说: "亚伯拉罕,离开你的本族,往我所要指示你的地方去。我保证 会祝福你,照顾好你。"通常,当我们出去旅行时,我们会想先知道我们要去哪里,我们如何到 达那里,如果可能的话,我们还会弄清楚我们将会什么时候到达等等细节。但是神并没有告诉亚 伯拉罕任何一点具体细节,神只对亚伯拉罕说: "离开这里!"还有一件关于亚伯拉罕的事情我 们需要了解,就是亚伯拉罕是一个非常有信念的人。这就是说他真的相信神的话,如果神说了, 亚伯拉罕就信了。



亚伯拉罕相信神,于是他收拾好东西,按神的吩咐去做,离开本族。就这样,没有任何疑问, 亚伯拉罕和他的妻子撒拉一起出发,开启有神同在的伟大的冒险旅程。多么大的信心啊!神把亚 伯拉罕带到一个美丽的地方,就对他说:"亚伯拉罕,你举目观看,凡你所能看见的一切地,我 都赐给你和你的家人!"多么棒的祝福!但神的赐福远不只这些,神还赐给亚伯拉罕许多牛阿、 羊、骆驼还有许多仆人。哇,圣经还告诉我们,神也给了亚伯拉罕金银财宝。但是,有一样东西 亚伯拉罕非常非常想要的却还没有得到——亚伯拉罕和撒拉没有孩子。比起所有这些东西,他们 最渴望得到的是能有一个他们自己的孩子。



一天晚上,神对亚伯拉罕说: "亚伯拉罕,不要惧怕!我是你的盾牌,必大大赏赐你。到外 面来,看看天上的星星,你能数得过来吗?"神问了一个多么奇怪的问题,怎么可能有人能数完 天上所有的星星呢?神这样问到底是什么意思?神接着说: "亚伯拉罕,你会有孩子、孙子和曾 孙。你的家族会有很多人,他们就像星星一样多,这么多,你不可能把它们都数过来。"现在, 让我告诉你其它一些你需要知道的事实。当神给亚伯拉罕这个应许的时候,亚伯拉罕已经是个老 年人了,他的妻子撒拉也很老了。事实上,他们已经花了大半辈子的时间在等待他们孩子的到来, 而现在他们已经太老了,已经过了生育宝宝的年龄了,而神却在这个时候才给亚伯拉罕这个应许。



想象一下亚伯拉罕所有可能的反应,他本可以这样问:"呃?!我不会是听错了吧?主啊, 这个应许是不是有点太迟了?"他本还可以这样回答:"对不起,但撒拉年纪太大了,这么老了 不可能生得了孩子。"亚伯拉罕本可以有各种各样的质疑,但令人惊讶的是,亚伯拉罕并没有任 何怀疑或大惊小怪,而是信了。创世纪 15 章 6 节如此说:"亚伯兰信耶和华,耶和华就喜悦他, 因为他信了。因此,亚伯兰的信心使他在耶和华面前成了义人。"这节经文告诉我们,亚伯兰信 靠耶和华,他相信神一定会说到做到。亚伯拉罕明白,他所能做的部分不是去担忧"如何实现"、 "何时会实现"或"为什么",他所能做的部分而是仅仅去"信"。神总是会很好地实现祂所应 许的事,如果神说了,亚伯拉罕就信了。



这节经文还告诉我们,神喜悦亚伯拉罕,为什么呢?因为他很勇敢、很坚强吗?不是;那会 是因为他很聪明吗?也不是;圣经甚至也没有说因为亚伯拉罕是个大好人。所有这些都不是真正 的原因。神喜悦亚伯拉罕的真正原因是:亚伯兰信耶和华,亚伯兰因为信,耶和华就喜悦他,因 此,亚伯兰的信心使他在耶和华面前成了义人。想象一下,神微笑着对亚伯拉罕说:"嘿,亚伯 拉罕,我喜欢你,在我眼里你总是义人!"难怪神称亚伯拉罕为祂的朋友。



现在继续回到故事上来,所以,在神给亚伯拉罕这个美好的应许之后,撒拉接着很快就有了 一个孩子,是这样吗?而实际情况并不是这样,圣经告诉我们亚伯拉罕并没有马上就得到他的孩 子,他得继续等。也许你们中的一些人现在会不耐烦了,忍不住发问:"什么?!这是什么故事? 不是都有大团圆结局的吗?"如果这是一个童话故事的话,那么其故事情节就会使这样:"从前, 亚伯拉罕信靠神,神回应了他所有的祷告,从此他过上了幸福的生活。故事结束!"……但是, 圣经讲的可是真实的人,他们过着真实的生活。在现实生活中,事情并不总是按我们所期待的那 样发展。对亚伯拉罕来说,他得多等待好几年,他的儿子以撒才出生。但好消息是,亚伯拉罕并 不是无所事事地等,他经历了有神同在的各种各样的信心冒险历程。随着一次又一次的冒险经历, 亚伯拉罕越来越亲近神,也学会越来越信靠神。



那么,亚伯拉罕最后得到他想要的儿子了吗?答案是肯定的!对于我们的神来说,没有不可 能的事。时间到了,神使撒拉的身体又年轻起来,给了她和亚伯拉罕所渴望的孩子。他们的儿子 名叫"以撒",意思是"笑",也许他们很高兴,在以撒出生的时候大笑不止。接着又该如何理 解"**拥有的孩子像星星一样多**"这段经文呢?这部分应许也发生在亚伯拉罕身上吗?答案也是肯 定的!在亚伯拉罕的族谱中,有以撒、雅各、约瑟,也有摩西、约书亚和大卫这样的英雄人物, 还有,这世界的救主耶稣,在很久以后也出生在亚伯拉罕的家族中。每一次神应许赐福给亚伯拉 罕的时候,他都相信,神就喜悦。这对我们来说真是大好消息,为了能讨神的喜悦,我们只需信 靠神。当我们信靠神时,我们就像亚伯拉罕一样得祝福。



接下来,我告诉你一位女孩,在网上参加主日学学习时所发生的事。当课程快结束时,老师 在为孩子们祷告说:"正在听课的某位小朋友患有皮肤不适症状,主今天要医治你。"当女孩听 到这时,她很惊讶所提到的正是她。她手上患有皮肤发痒和疼痛症,任何药膏或涂挤都不起作用。 她赶紧说:"是我!就是我!我信我得医治!"祷告结束后,她就察看自己的手背,发现先前干 燥的皮肤消失了,手背变得柔软了光滑了,她激动地说:"谢谢耶稣爱我!"



孩子们,我们今天学到了什么?我们学了当亚伯拉罕相信神时,神就喜悦。这是个好消息, 因为真实发生在亚伯拉罕身上的事情,今天同样会真实地发生在我们身上。在圣经加拉太书第 3 章第 9 节就是这样说的:"亚伯拉罕信了这话,就因信得福。今天也是如此。凡今天信的人,和 亚伯拉罕一样都得福。"当我们像亚伯拉罕一样相信神的时候,我们就得祝福。让我们从相信这 节经文所说的开始:因为我们相信我们是蒙福的,让我们像亚伯拉罕一样相信并且得着。接着, 我们要告诉阿爸天父,告诉祂你信靠祂要为你做的事情,然后感谢和赞美祂所应许的一定会做到。 准备好你要祈祷的事了吗?让我们一起祷告:"亲爱的阿爸天父,我信靠你!今天我依靠你 ______(现在,告诉神你信靠祂要为你处理的事情)。我相信你爱我,一直

都对我好!我相信我就得着!感谢祢如此爱我!奉耶稣的名祷告, 阿门!"

孩子们,如果你正在听这个故事,你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命,成为你的主和救 主,你现在可以这样做,跟着我重复这个祷告: "亲爱的主耶稣,感谢你为我死在十字 架上。你是神的儿子,你死了,也被埋葬,第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪, 使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里,成为我的主和救主, 我永远是个义人,永远是有福的,永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名,阿门!"

BLESSED BY BELIEVING

Abraham believed this, and because he believed, he was blessed. It is the same today. All who believe today are blessed just as Abraham was blessed. Galatian 3: 9, ICB

Hey, Rock Kidz. Today, we want to talk about animal babies! Let's start with a really big animal, the elephant. Did you know that elephants usually have only one baby at a time? In some extremely rare cases, elephants can have twins but never ever triplets. One possible reason for this is that elephant babies are very big! At birth, a baby elephant can weigh up to 120kg, or 268 pounds! That's a very big baby! How long does it take for a baby elephant to grow to this size inside its mom? Nine months? Twelve months? No, the answer is twenty-two months! Can you believe it? That's almost two years! What an incredibly long time for the mommy elephant to wait for her baby to be born.

Today's Bible story is about Abraham, and one thing we know about Abraham is that he waited a very long time for his child to be born. Another thing we know about Abraham is that God liked him so much. God called Abraham His friend.

One day, God said to Abraham, "Abraham, leave your country and go to the place that I will show you. I promise to bless you and take good care of you. now, when we travel, we like to know the details of where we are going, how we are going to get there, and if possible, find out when we will arrive. But God didn't tell Abraham any if this, all God said to Abraham was, "Go!" Here is another thing we need to know about Abraham. Abraham was a man of faith. This means that he really believed what God said. If God said it, Abraham believed it.

Abraham believed God so much he packed his things and did what God told him to do, he left! Together with his wife Sarah, Abraham left his country and set out for great adventures with God, just like that, no questions asked. What great faith! God took Abraham to a beautiful land and said, "Abraham, look for and wide. Everything your eyes can see I give to you and your family." What a wonderful blessing! But God was not done. God also gave Abraham lots of sheep, cows and camels and lots of servants too! Wow. The Bible tells us that God also gave Abraham gold and silver. But, there was something that Abraham didn't have that he really, really wanted. Abraham and Sarah did not have any children. More than anything, they longed for a child of their own.

And one night, God said, "Abraham, don't be afraid. I am your shield, and your exceedingly great reward. Come outside and look at the stars. Can you count them all?" What a strange question for God to ask. How could anyone ever finish counting all the stars? What did God mean? Then, God said, "Abraham, you will have children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. You will have so many people in your family they will be like the stars! So many! You cannot count them all." Now, let me tell you something else you really need to know. When God made Abraham this promise, Abraham was already an old man. His wife Sarah was old too. In fact, they had spent most of their lives waiting and waiting for their baby to arrive, and now that they were so old, too old in fact to have a baby, God gives Abraham this promise.

Imagine all the things Abraham could have said. He could have asked, "Um, excuse me, God. Isn't this promise a bit too late?" He could have said, "Sorry, but Sarah is too old to have a baby." Abraham could

have said all kinds of things, but he didn't. The amazing thing is that instead of doubting or fussing, Abraham believed. Genesis 15: 6 tells us, Abram believed the Lord. He believed that what God said He would surely do. Abraham understood that his part was not to worry about the 'how' or the 'when' or the 'why'. His part was to simply believe. God was always good enough to do what He promise to do. If God said it, Abraham believed it. In Genesis 15: 6, it tells us, "Abram believed the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's faith, made him right with the Lord."

God was pleased with Abraham. Why? Because he was so brave and so strong? No. Because he was so smart? No. The Bible doesn't even say that is was because Abraham was so good. No, no, no. God was pleased with Abraham. Why? Because he believed. The verse then tells us, "Abram believed the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abraham because he believed. So Abram's faith made him right with the Lord. Imagine God smiling at Abraham and saying, "Hey Abraham, I like you, you're always right with me." No wonder god called Abraham, his friend.

Now, back to the story. So after God made Abraham that wonderful promise, Sarah had a baby, right? Wrong! There was no baby. The Bible tells us that Abraham continued to wait. But year after year, Abraham and Sarah still did not have any children. Maybe some of you are now going, "what?! What kind of story is this? Where's the happy ending?" Well, if this is a fairy tale, then it would go like this, "Once upon a time, Abraham believed God and God answered all his prayers and he lived happily ever after. The end." Haha. No, the Bible is about real people who lived very real lives and in real life, things don't always happen the way we expect. For Abraham, he had to wait quite a few years before his son Isaac was born. But the good news is that Abraham wasn't just sitting about doing nothing while he waited. No, Abraham was having all kinds of grand adventures of faith with God. With each adventure, Abraham grew closer and closer to God and learn to trust Him more and more.

So, did Abraham get the son he wanted? For sure! Nothing is impossible for our God. When the time came, God made Sarah's body young again and gave her the baby that she and Abraham wanted so much. Their son's name was "Isaac", which means "laughter". Maybe they were so happy that they laughed and laughed when Isaac was born. But what about the part about having as many children as the stars? Did that happen for Abraham as well? Yes! From Abraham's family, we have people like Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. We also have heroes like Moses, Joshua and David. Much later, Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was born into Abraham's family. Each time God promised to bless him, Abraham believed and God was pleased. This is such good news for us. To please God we simply have to believe. And when we believe, just like Abraham, we receive.

Let me tell you what happen to a girl when she joined a Rock Kidz session online. The meeting was almost over and the teacher was praying for the kids. "Someone listening has a skin condition. The Lord wants to heal you today." The teacher said. When the girl heard this, she was shocked. It was her. The skin on her hand was itchy and sore and none of the creams or lotions worked. She quickly said, "Me! I believe! I receive my healing!" Right after the service, she saw that the back of her hand was soft and smooth. The dry skin was gone, she said, "Thank you Jesus for loving me!"

Rock kidz, what did we learn today? We learned that when Abraham believed God was pleased. This is good news because what was true for Abraham is till true for us today. Let's take a look at our Bibles. Let's flip to Galatians 3: 9. You might to highlight this as well. It says, "Abraham believed. And because he believed, he was blessed. It is the same today, all who believe today are blessed just as Abraham was blessed." We are blessed when we believe like Abraham. What did Abraham believe? Abraham believed that God was always good to him. God was so good that whatever He promised, He would surely do. This believing not only made Abraham a man of faith, it also made him a man who was already blessed because he believed he was blessed. Today, when we believe like Abraham, we are blessed just as Abraham was blessed. The Bible is full of God's good and amazing promises for us. Do you believe that these promises are yours to claim? Maybe you have a skin condition like eczema that just wouldn't go away. Maybe you had prayed and prayed, but instead of getting better it just keeps getting worse. What do you do? Don't give up. Keep on believing. Let's start by believing what this verse says that because we believe we are blessed. Let's be like Abraham who believe and received. In a moment, we're going to talk to God. Tell him what you're believing for, then thank and praise Him for what god promises He will surely do. Are you ready? Let's pray. "Dear Daddy God, I believe in you. Today I am trusting You to ... (now, tell Him what you're trusting Him for.) I believe that You love me, and are always good to me. I believe and I receive. Thank you Lord, for loving me so much. In Jesus's name. Amen."

Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus'name," and everyone say, "Amen."