

Multi-Age Worship

'Sarah Laughed' Multi-Age Talk - Genesis 18: 1-15

Today, as we read the Bible together we are going to hear some laughter. I wonder what makes you laugh? There are a few different types of laughter – tell the person next to you what makes you laugh.

(Allow a minute or two for this, and encourage the children to engage with the conversations among the rest of the congregation. You might then ask the children to share what they heard the grown ups say).

There is more than one kind of laughter: there's laughter like this:

<http://www.sound-effect.com/cat/laugh---giggle-149/>

(play a few different laughs; allow for the congregation to laugh a little)

Did you notice, how laughter can spread? It can be very, very catchy. Before we read the Bible we are going to do a short experiment to see just how contagious laughter can be.

(Organise the children to lie on the floor, with each person resting their head on another person's tummy. Once everyone is in place, the first person in the line begins to laugh...the laughter should spread...)

This picture on a screen might help show people what to do...



We are nearly ready to hear now from the Bible.

Sarah is old - as old as a grandma, and she is told that God will give her a baby. She thinks this is hilarious – and laughs, because it is impossible. But this baby that is promised is not impossible, and when he comes, he brings her a different kind of laughter – **happy, joyful laughter**. I wonder whether we will laugh when we hear the story of God in the Bible?

Will it be **'that's impossible'** kind of laughter? Will we laugh at God's big ideas?

Or maybe we will have a **'Wow!!!! We are so happy'** kind of laughter? Will we laugh because God's big ideas bring us joy?

When Sarah laughed, she thought she was just laughing to herself.

But God's ideas for Sarah weren't just Sarah ideas. The promise of her baby was an idea that was for many people. To show God's concern for whole families, whole tribes and the whole planet. Who would have thought?

"My idea," God said to Sarah's husband Abraham, "Is that this will be the start of something as big the sky and more uncountable than the stars. That's how many people this idea is about. It's an idea so that my good ways of **Love and Justice** will spread. I want my Love and Justice to be catchy and contagious, like laughter, not just being stuck with one person, or one family, or even one nation, but spreading to everyone everywhere."

Read Bible reading: Genesis 18:1-15.