

Genesis 18:1-15

God appeared to Abraham one hot day as he was sitting near his tent. Abraham looked up and saw three men coming toward him. He got up to meet them, saying, "Please, stay here a little while and rest. Let me bring you water to wash your feet and offer you some good food." So, they said, "Thank you. That would be very nice." Abraham ran into the tent and told Sarah to make some cake. He told his servant to prepare an excellent meal. They all sat down together in the shade of the tree and ate together.

One of them asked, "Where is your wife, Sarah?" Abraham said, "She's there in the tent." "The man replied, "I'll be back this way this time next year. She'll have a son in her arms when I come back." Sarah was listening to this from the tent.

Abraham and Sarah were way too old to have children. So, when Sarah heard this, she laughed to herself, thinking, "Really? Now that I'm old and my husband is even older, now I'm going to have a baby?"

The man asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh at what I said? Is anything too difficult for God? I tell you, by the time I come back next year, she will have had a son."

Sarah said, "I didn't laugh."

The man said, "Oh yes you did. I heard you. You laughed."

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Hallelujah!

We give you thanks, God, because you are good, and you never run out of mercy.

Who can remember all of your mighty acts or praise you as they should?

Happy are you if you tret others with justice and always do what is right.

Thanks, God for being good and never running out of mercy.

Include me when you are doing great things for your people.

Make sure I get a dose of your saving help.

I want some of the good things you've planned for us.

Thanks, God for being good and never running out of mercy.

Just as our fathers and mothers sinned, we have sinned too.

We've made poor choices that have hurt you and other people.

The people of Israel decided to worship a golden statue instead of you,

And they exchanged your glory for a statue of a cow that eats grass.

Thanks, God for being good and never running out of mercy.

They forgot that you were their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, and awesome things at the Red Sea.

You might have destroyed them if Moses hadn't stood up for them.

You changed your mind and turned away your anger.

Thanks, God for being good and never running out of mercy.

Matthew 22:1-14

Here's another one of Jesus' stories:

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who gave a wedding party for his son. He sent his servants to call those who had received invitations to the party, but they wouldn't come. He tried again to get them to come into the party, saying, "Tell them that I've prepared an awesome dinner for them. Everything is ready for them. Tell them to come and enjoy the banquet." But those who had been invited had other things on their minds and other things to do. And one even beat up the servant who was sent to invite him! The king was outraged. He sent his troops to destroy those murderers. Then he turned to his servants and said, "Our wedding party is ready, but we need guests. Go into the streets of the city and invite everyone you see to the banquet." So, they went out, and gathered everyone they could find, good people and bad people both. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. The king arrived at the party and noticed a man there who wasn't dressed for the party. He asked "Hi, how did you get in here dressed like that?" He had nothing to say. The king said, "Throw him out." Many are called, few are chosen.