



# Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

## Small Stewards—Big Blessings

Biblical Stewardship Lessons for and with Children

*(“Small Stewards” lessons can be shared with children in Sunday school openings, classroom devotions, children’s worship messages, or other congregational settings. The lessons may also be used for family devotions or table talks. “Notes to Family” offers family applications and explorations.)*

**Texts: Genesis 17:15–19; 18:1–15; 21:1–2**

It’s important to learn when laughter is appropriate or inappropriate. It’s appropriate to laugh at ourselves, the antics of an animal, or a good joke. It’s inappropriate to laugh at someone else or to laugh at a crude comment. God comes to the tent of Abram and Sarah with the promise of the son they had been praying for. Sarah, who by this time is an older woman, laughs at God’s promise.

When the promise of God comes true and Sarah and Abram have a son, God tells them to name the boy Isaac. “Isaac” means “He laughs.” Abram and Sarah and their descendants would have reason to laugh because God kept His promise through Isaac. Through small Isaac God would bring big blessings to this family and to all families. God had promised Abram, “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2)

Many times we find ourselves in the sad world of sin. Because Jesus came to be our Savior, we have the joy of salvation. We can laugh at Satan, and we can laugh as we enjoy all God’s blessings to us. Remembering God’s promises we can have more than a small smile. We can have a big Isaac-like laugh.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund wants everyone to know about God’s promises and the joy of salvation. LCEF investors help build churches and schools where the laughter of children is heard in vacation Bible school experiences, Sunday school lessons, and joyful songs of praise. Children can participate in LCEF through the Young Investor Club. Many churches have a weekly or monthly routine where children bring their savings to the local club coordinator who records the investment and sends it to their LCEF account. Ask your pastor or Y.I. Club coordinator for more information or visit [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org).

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for letting us hear laughter in our lives. We especially rejoice in Jesus as our Savior and look forward to sharing our joy with others. Amen.

### Small Stewards Bring Big Blessings Home—Note to Family

When does Sarah’s inappropriate laugh become an appropriate reason to laugh? When is it okay to laugh in church? When does your family laugh? Will we laugh in heaven?

Birthdays, Christmas, and other gatherings are often times where family laughter is heard. These are also times where children are given gifts by parents, grandparents, and others. Enroll children as members of the Young Investors Club and give investment gifts that gain interest and grow the kingdom. Visit [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org) or contact LCEF Vice President Carole While [carole.white@lcef.org](mailto:carole.white@lcef.org) for more information.