



God's Covenant with Abraham

Bible Story: God's covenant with Abraham • Genesis 12; 15; 17

Bottom Line: God made a covenant to bless all the world through Abraham.

Memory Verse: ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. *Galatians 3:29, NIV*

Christ Connection: *Christ Connection: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham. God sent Jesus from His home in heaven to be born on earth into Abraham's family. Through Jesus, all the nations of the earth are blessed because Jesus saves people from their sins.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fivezi

What You Need: dice (at least 5 of 10 colors), Fivezi Instruction Page

What You Do:

- Choose your color dice (each player should have one color only)
- At "go" everyone rolls all their dice at the same time.
- After rolling, players look to see what number they have most and then make that the number they will try to get 5 of.
- Keep rolling the remaining dice-only roll the dice that aren't the number you want.
- The first player to get all 5 of the same number shouts, Fivezi, and wins the game.

What You Say "In this game we had to keep going even when it didn't seem like we could get any of the same number. As we keep learning from the Bible, we are going to learn about a guy named Abraham who had to rely on God so he could see all the things God promised. He learned over and over and over again, that God is faithful and keeps His promises."

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

TODAY'S PASSAGE

1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Genesis 12:1-5

CONTEXT

*Have any of you ever moved to a new town? Did you have to leave your friends behind? When God called Abraham, He told Abraham to move away from his family and friends. God didn't even tell Abraham where he was going! Abraham just had to trust God. Let's answer our big picture question: **Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good. God made a covenant to bless all the world through Abraham.***

A *covenant* is a special promise between God and a person or group of people. God promised Abraham three things: a large family, land for his family, and blessing. God confirmed, or strengthened, His covenant with a special ceremony. A smoking fire pot and a flaming torch representing God passed between the divided animals. This showed that only God would be responsible for keeping the promise.

The promise was unconditional; it did not depend on Abraham doing something to hold up his end of the agreement. God would keep His promise no matter what. And God was so serious about His promise, that He changed Abraham's name. He had been called Abram, but *Abraham* means "Father of a great multitude."

Older Kids Leader Guide Unit 1, Session 1

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TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God can be trusted because God always keeps His Word.
- BL: God made a covenant to bless the world through Abraham.
- A covenant is a special promise between God and a person or group of people. God promised Abraham three things: a large family, land for his family, and blessing.
- *Through Jesus, all the nations of the earth are blessed because Jesus saves people from their sins.*

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Abraham was willing to leave his home and obey God? *Lead kids to consider that Abraham believed God's plan for his life was better than Abraham's own plan for his life.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 19:21.)
- Do you think it would be hard to obey God if He called you to do something you didn't completely understand? Why or why not? *Point out that our desire for comfort and control may tempt us to disobey God, but His way is always best.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 5:3.)
- How do our actions affect our relationship with God? Can our sin cause God to stop loving us? *Prompt boys and girls to acknowledge that God saves us through grace. Salvation is a free gift, not dependent on our own works. God will never stop loving us.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:37-39.)

Activity: Name meaning research

What you Need: baby name book or access to google on your phone, paper for each kid, crayons/markers/pencils, scissors

What You Do:

- Use a baby name book or your phone to look up the meaning of each kid's name.
- Allow the kids to write their names on a large sheet of paper, along with their names' meanings.
- Encourage them to draw pictures that represent what their name means or cut their paper out in the shape of what their name means.
- You may need to encourage your kids not to make fun of the meaning of anyone's name. This is just a fun way to see if our name and its meaning really describes us or if it is just too silly.

What You Say "The names our parents choose to give us sometimes have meaning based on what our parents felt when we were born or what they hope will be true about us. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many nations." God made a covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham. God used Abraham's new name as a way to reassure him that the promised family would come.

In our lives, sometimes it can be hard to trust God when we don't understand His plans. *Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.*

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, "Memory Verse Card Puzzles", pencils

What You Do:

- Ask the kids if they recognize the memory verse.
- Give them chances to read the memory verse.
- Give each kid a Memory Verse Card Puzzle. They need to unscramble the words on the paper to fill in the blanks..
- Practice saying the memory verse together

What You Say "Did that feel like a test? There are times when we all need to stretch so that we can trust God more and learn from the Bible. Our Memory Verse reminds us that we are part of Abraham's family. We are part of the promise. Do you think that means, we could also experience some tests to see how much we trust God? Of course, because God always keeps His promises."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Father, thank You for blessing the world through Abraham's family. Help us to remember that You are always faithful and good. Amen..".

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents who they trust and why God can be trusted. Pass out the Family Resource Packets and send the Name Meaning paper home with each kid.