

# God's Covenant with Abraham

**Bible Passage:** God's Covenant with Abraham - Genesis 12; 15; 17

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

**Main Point:** God made a promise.

**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.

## Leader Notes:

### 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.”

### Today's Passage

<sup>1</sup>The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>“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.

<sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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**

### 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.*

## Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

## **Upset the Farm**

**What you Need:** animal cards with string tied for necklace (1 for each kid)

**What You Do:**

- Assign each player an animal. By giving them a necklace to wear.
- For a smaller group, just use 3 animals. For a larger group, you will want to use all 6;)
- You will arrange everyone in a big circle of chairs. But make sure there is one less chair than players.
- The one player without the chair will be "IT" and stand in the center of the circle.
- They will call out a farm animal.
- The farm animal that they call will need to jump up and find another seat, meanwhile the person that is "IT" will hurry and snatch a seat.
- The player left without a seat is now "IT."
- And the game continues. Make sure everyone gets a turn to be "IT."
- You can make it a rule that each player must move at least 2 seats away, instead of just sliding to the next seat on their left or right.
- Another option that "IT" has, is to yell, "Upset the Farm!" In this case, EVERYONE has to get up and run to a new chair...and it's hilarious watching everyone scramble!

**What You Say:**

"Was that fun? Sometimes moving around, following God's plan or being with our family is a difficult thing to do. All of those things were hard for Abraham and his family too. In our Bible story we are going to learn about how God built Abraham's family to include Jesus. Let's go see what happens."

## **Worship Time**

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

## **Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

## **Bible Story**

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Place a bookmark at Genesis 12 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

**What You Say:**

“The Bible is called “the Word of God” because it contains God’s words to us. Everything that God says is true, and all the words of the Bible are true. Today’s story is from the first book of the Bible called Genesis. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

#### **Talk about the Bible Story:**

Long ago, God made a very special promise with a man named Abram. God told Abram to move to a place he had never been. There, Abram and his wife Sarai would have many children and grandchildren. Abram obeyed God, but he did not have any children yet. God showed Abram the sky. “Count the stars, if you can. That is how big your family will be someday,” God said. Abram believed God always says what is true. When Abram was 99 years old, God said, “Your name is Abraham now. You will be the father of many nations. Sarai’s name is now Sarah. I will give your children the land, and I will be their God. I will bless the whole earth through your family. My promises will last forever.”

#### *Ask the following review Questions:*

Who chose to make a covenant with Abram? (*God*)

What did Abraham do when God asked him to go to a place he had never been? (*Abraham obeyed God.*)

God said Abraham’s family would have as many people as what? (*stars in the sky*)

What did God change Abram’s name to? (*Abraham*)

***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

#### **Learn the Big Picture Question**

**What You Say:** Our big picture question is, ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.*** Abraham did not know how God was going to give him a big family, but he trusted God to keep His promise.

#### **Practice the Memory Verse**

Open your Bible to Galatians 3:29. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

**What You Say:** “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham,** and He did when He sent Jesus. Our key passage tells us that when we trust in Jesus, we get to be part of Abraham’s family, too!

Transition to small group.

### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and

applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

### 1. Make star art

**What You Need:** Dark construction paper (1 per kid), glow in the dark star stickers (10 per kid), labels with story point and key passage.

**What You do:**

- Give each kid a piece of paper and star stickers.
- The kids will put their stars in the sky as a reminder of God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would be as vast as the night sky.
- Stick the Memory verse and main point sticker on their paper.
- When everyone is done, turn of the lights to see your stickers glowing.

**What You Say:** God made a promise to Abraham. God promised Abraham would have a very big family. The most important part of God's promise is that God promised to send Jesus into Abraham's family

### 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What you need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach kids the memory verse. Sample hand motions include **"If you belong to Christ** (clasp hands together), **then you are Abraham's seed**, (act like a seed growing from the ground) **and heirs according to the promise** (point to God)
- Our key passage tells us that when we believe Jesus is our Savior, we get to be part of Abraham's family, too!

**What You Say:** Our Bible verse tells us that God promised Abraham that his family would be very large. Did you know that Jesus was born in Abraham's family? Our memory verse tells us that when we believe in who Jesus is, we get to be part of Abraham's family, too!

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Pray- " God thank you for making promises and keeping them. We thank you for Jesus and giving us a way to know you more. Help us to look at the stars and remember your promises."

**What You Say:** Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the Star Activity Page with each kid.