

God's Covenant with Abraham

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

Memory Verse: ²⁹“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

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**

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.*

Worship & Story 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."

What You Do: Introduce the 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."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Make star art

What You Need: Dark construction paper (1 per kid), 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.

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 toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include 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.