



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.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

"Do you know about Abraham? God used him to be the seed of a great nation. Here, I'll tell you all about it!

Big picture question "As we look at Abraham's life, you will probably notice some situations that seem pretty odd by our standards today. As you listen, ask yourself this question: **Why can we trust God?** I'll tell you the answer when we finish the story.

"I know that you have studied some of the stories in the Bible that happened before Abraham's life. Do you remember learning about Noah? Abraham was one of Noah's *descendants*. A *descendant* is a member of a family that comes after you. So, a person's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are all descendants of that first person. Now that we've cleared that up, let's learn about Abraham."

Watch Video

Did you notice that at the start of the story, you heard about Abram? That's the same man I've been talking about all along. God made a promise to Abram and later changed his name to Abraham, which means "father of many." But this was not just any promise, this was a special kind of promise called a *covenant*. You see, under normal circumstances, if two people were going to make a covenant, they would have both walked between the animals. By sending the fire pot and torch through the animals without Abraham, God showed that He alone would uphold the covenant. **Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.**

God's covenant with Abraham included promises for blessings and a large family. **God made a covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham.** But how could Abraham have a big family if he didn't have any children?

Well, God already had a plan in place. God promised to give Abraham and his wife Sarah a son. God always keeps His promises.

Christ connection

"Eventually, Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac! And Isaac had sons, who had sons, who had sons. Many, many years after Abraham lived, one of his descendants was born to a woman named Mary. She wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger. She named Him Jesus.



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. We are all dead in our sin, but Jesus took the punishment we deserved. When we believe in Jesus, God gives us new life and forgives our sin. Let's pray and move to small groups."

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Big Picture Question Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find Genesis 12.
- Ask kids if they remember what the word Genesis means. ("beginning")
- Challenge kids to identify what type of beginning is described in today's Bible story.
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 12:1-3
- Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

What You Say "Our Bible story is about the beginning of a nation-God's chosen People-formed through God's covenant with Abraham."

2. 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.)

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Display the memory verse poster.
- Lead the kids to read the memory verse together.
- Form two groups of kids.
- Lead group 1 to say a phrase of the memory verse and then pause for group 2 to echo the



phrase.

- Example: “If you belong to Christ,” / “then you are Abraham’s seed,” / “heirs according to the promise.”
- Continue until kids say the entire memory verse.
- Then let group 2 lead, and group 1 will echo.
- Encourage boys and girls to memorize the memory verse.

What You Say “We saw in the Bible story today that **God made a covenant to bless all the world through Abraham.** Our key passage tells us that Abraham’s family isn’t made up just of people who were born into his physical family; everyone who trusts in Jesus is part of Abraham’s family. We receive through Jesus the blessing God promised.

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
 - How does this story help me to live on mission better?
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray, “asking that God would give us faith like Abram. Pray that kids would trust and obey Him even when they don’t know God’s whole plan for their lives.”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.