



## 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:** <sup>29</sup> 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 skills**

**What You Need:** Bibles, Story Point Poster

**What You Do:**

- Distribute a Bible to each kid.
- Remind kids how to use the table of contents to find books of the Bible.
- Help kids find Genesis 12; 15; and 17.
- Read the Bible passages together or review the Bible story using the bolded text.

**What You Say** **"God made a covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham.** Abraham probably struggled to trust God. God promised a large family, but Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old and still did not have a child. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.*** "

#### **2. Discussion Questions:**

- What three things did God promise to Abraham? (*a large family, land for his family, and blessings; Gen. 12:1-3*)
- What did God say the size of Abraham's family would compare to? (*the number of stars in the sky, Gen. 15:5*)
- Did Abraham walk between the animals? (*No, only a fire pot and flame torch passed through; Gen. 15:17*)
- Why do you think Abraham trusted God's plan? *Lead kids to discuss the idea that God is faithful and good. Discuss what it means for God to do things for His glory and our good.*
- Have you ever been asked to do something difficult that you did not fully understand? *Share personal stories and encourage kids to share their own experiences. Remind kids that our desires to be comfortable and safe can lead us to distrust God, but that His plans are always best.*
- What are some ways our salvation through Jesus is similar to God's promise to Abraham? *Help kids to recognize that in both cases, it is God who keeps the promise. God loves us even when we choose sin, and He will faithfully keep His promise to rescue everyone who believes in Jesus.*



### 3. Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Form two groups of kids.
- Assign one half of the memory verse to the first group.
- Assign the other half of the memory verse to the second group.
- Stand at the front of the room and direct a call and response.
- Point to each group and encourage the kids in that group to say their half of the verse.
- Start by pointing to the first group and then the second, but after a few rounds, switch it up to keep kids on their toes.

**What You Say** "That memory verse teaches us that God's covenant with Abraham is still holding true today! God promised to give Abraham a large family, and everyone who believes in Jesus is considered a part of that family. We are all blessed so that we can be a blessing to others."

### Pray and Dismiss

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

**What You Do:**

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
  - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
  - What does this story teach me about myself?
  - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

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