

**EXODUS
20:12**

JOSHUA 1:9

ISAIAH 40:31

ISAIAH 40:8

ISAIAH 41:10

**PHILIPPIANS
4:19**

JAMES 1:5

1 JOHN 1:9

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

Session

3



GOD'S PLAN FOR ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7; 17:1-22

At the end of Genesis 11, Terah, Abram's father, had taken Abram, Abram's wife, and a grandson named Lot to live in the land of Haran. Abram was a man of faith! As Genesis 12 opens, God called Abram to move away from his father's household in Haran to a new land that God would show him. Abram, in obedience to God, moved with his wife, and nephew, Lot, to the land of Canaan.

God's call of Abram is summarized in the first 3 verses of Chapter 12. The Bible does not tell us why God chose Abram, but we know from Hebrews 11 that Abram was a man of great faith. God had a plan for Abram and God told Abram His plan. Have you ever wondered how you respond if in the same situation as Abram?

Genesis 12:2 begins the promissory section of Abram's call. Abram would be a great nation, blessed by God, a blessing to others, and his name would be great. Any nation that blessed Abram would be blessed by God; those who did not would be cursed by God. That's a lot to take in. The very next phrase simply says, "Abram went!" Abram did not stand around making excuses for why he could not possibly go ... he went. Abram trusted in God's plan for him and he obediently followed God's leading.

As Genesis 15 opens, Abram had a vision sent from God. As is typical in vision accounts in Scripture, Abram was warned to not be afraid. Abram and his family had just fought a battle where Abram had to rescue his nephew Lot. God promised Abram that God would be a shield and protector to him. God also promised Abram a great reward.

Later God changed Abram's name to Abraham. The name Abram meant "father is exalted." The name Abraham meant "father of a multitude." Sarai and Sarah meant "princess" and spoke of the fact that kings would come from her sons. God once again told Abraham that a child would be born of Sarah and they would name him Isaac, which meant "laughter."

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7; 17:1-22

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 40:28

BONUS BIBLE VERSE: Genesis 12:2

TEXT TRUTH: God made a promise to Abraham, and God always keeps His promises.

CHRIST IN CONTEXT: The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham and promised him that one day his descendants would be God's special people and one day, He would send a Messiah—Jesus—to rescue them.

GOD'S PLAN FOR ABRAHAM

BIBLE STORY PASSAGES: Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7; 17:1-22

God chose a man named Abram for something special. God said, "Leave your land, your relatives, and your father's house. Go to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. All the people of the earth will be blessed through you."

Abram was 75 years old when he took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his possessions and servants. They set out for the land of Canaan. When they first arrived in Canaan, God spoke to Abram again. "I will give this land to your descendants," God promised Abram. So Abram built an altar to God.

One day God spoke to Abram in a vision. "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield. Your reward will be great." God took Abram outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Your descendants will be that numerous." Abram believed God and God credited it to Abram as righteousness.

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him. The Lord said, "I am God Almighty. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly. You will become the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram but will now be Abraham."

God also told Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, do not call her Sarai anymore. Sarah will be her name. I will bless her; indeed, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will produce nations. Kings of people will come from her descendants."

Abraham laughed and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man that is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, a ninety-year-old woman, have a son?"

God said, "Your wife Sarah will have a son and you will name him Isaac. I will continue the covenant I have with you with Isaac. This time next year, Sarah will have your son Isaac."

WELCOME

- Before the session, obtain a gameboard that has a path you must follow.
- Play a favorite song and greet the children excitedly as they arrive.
- Begin: “Welcome boys and girls. I’m so glad you are here today.”
- Display the gameboard and ask: “Who has ever played this game?”
- Ask for a volunteer to explain the rules to the game you have displayed. Affirm their explanation.
- Display the “Royal Game of Ur” slide and ask: “Who has ever played this game?” Someone may say she has played it, but likely no one has. If a child does raise her hand, ask her to explain the rules of the game shown on the slide.
- Say: “This game comes from a place named Ur. Has anyone ever heard of Ur? Today we will hear a story about a man named Abraham and a promise God made to Abraham. Abraham lived in the city of Ur when God spoke to him. No one really knows how this game was played, but it is possible that Abraham may have played a game similar to this when he was a boy your age.”

WORSHIP

- Say: “Today we are going to hear about Abraham and a promise, or covenant, that God made with Abraham. God always keeps His promises. Let’s sing and praise God for being faithful to His promises.”
- Play a song and guide kids to worship as they sing.
- Ask: “Is it a good thing that God always keeps His promises? (yes) What are some promises you know God made in the Bible?”
- Pray and thank God for the promises He has given in His Word that kids remember.
- Continue: “God has given many promises in His Word and we want to show Him how much we thank Him for always keeping His promises.”
- Invite kids to sing another song as the offering is collected.

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

- Recall the promises the kids mentioned and list them on the dry erase board.
- After each promise, ask simple questions like, “To whom did God make this promise? Did God keep this promise?”
- Invite kids to recall things they have promised others. Guide them to decide if they are as good at keeping promises as God is.
- Say: “Sometimes people can make promises to us that they don’t keep. Sometimes it is not their fault that the promise is not kept, but God’s

TOOLBOX

- Welcome: any gameboard with a path, “Royal Game of Ur” (slide)
- Worship: music videos, offering basket
- Introduce the Session: dry erase board and markers, “Genesis” (Bible Book poster), Bibles, option: “Explore the Bible: On Location” (video)
- Dig Deeper: Bibles, “Text Truth: Session 3,” “Genesis 12:2” (slides), paper star shapes, marker
- Practice Bible Skills: “God’s Promises” (print item)
- Missions: heavyweight paper, liquid glue, salt, watercolors, paintbrushes, small containers of water, “Utah” (print item)
- Review: various colors of construction paper, bag
- Closing: music videos

promises are always true.”

- Conclude: “**God made a promise to Abraham, and God always keeps His promises.** Let’s take a look at this special covenant promise God made with Abraham.”
- Option: Show the “Explore the Bible: On Location” video.

BONUS BIBLE VERSE

The bonus Bible Verse for this week is Genesis 12:2. Display this verse while telling the Bible story. Challenge your group to remember the verse throughout the week as they recall today’s Bible story.

DIG DEEPER

- Before the session, purchase pre-cut star shapes or make your own. Print one word of Genesis 12:2 on each star shape. Hide the shapes around the room.
- Invite kids to open their Bible to Genesis 12.
- Tell the Bible story from your open Bible in your own words or use the script provided as a guide.
- Have a volunteer read Genesis 12:1-3.
- Ask: “To whom was God talking?” (*Abram, or Abraham*) “What promise did God make to Abram in verses 2 and 3?” (*God would bless him, make his family into a great nation, and bless all the people of earth through him*)
- Read Genesis 12:4-9.
- Ask: “What did Abram do when God asked him to move?” (*he did what God asked him to do*) “Did Abram know what would happen when he left?” (*no*) “How old was Abram when God told him to move?” (*75 years old*)
- Choose a volunteer to read Genesis 15:2-6.
- Ask: “What promise did God give to Abram?” (*his offspring would be more numerous than the stars in the sky*) “How did Abram respond?” (*he believed God*)
- Read Genesis 17:1-8 and summarize God’s promise to Abraham.
- Ask: “How old was Abraham when God changed his name?” (*99 years old*) “How many years had it been since God asked Abraham to move?” (*24 years*) “Was God going to fulfill His promise to Abraham?” (*yes*)
- Continue: “God had made a promise to Abraham when Abraham was 75 years old. Even though it took some time did God forget about His promise to Abraham?” (*no*) “God told Abraham that the whole earth would be blessed through Abraham and God meant it. What are some things you have to wait for to get?” (*answers will vary*)
- Display the Genesis 12:2 slide and have kids read the weekly verse.
- Say: “Around the room are hidden star shapes that have the words of this verse printed on them. See if you can find all of the star shapes and bring them back here.”
- Remove the slide and give kids a chance to put the verse words in order.
- Once they have completed the verse, recall your discussion earlier about God’s promise to Abraham. Ask: “If you heard God tell you these words how would it make you feel?” (*answers will vary*) How do you feel knowing that **God made a promise to Abraham, and God always keeps His promises?** (*answers will vary*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Before the session print the “God’s Promises” print item. Make enough copies so each child can have his own card. Cut apart the cards on the cut lines.
- Distribute a card to each child. Allow pre-readers to work with an older child for this activity if necessary.
- Say: “We have been talking about promises God made in the Bible. Each of you has a Bible reference to look up. When you locate it, see what promise God made in your verse. If you need help remember you can always ask a friend, a teacher, or use the table of contents in your Bibles to find the right book.”
- A list of references and promises is in the margin to the right.
- After each child has a chance to find her verse, give her a few moments to share what promise is given in the verse. See the margin for suggested answers.
- Say: “These are just a few of the promises God made in the Bible. Every promise God made in the Bible is true. We can trust that when God makes a promise, He will keep it.”

MISSIONS

- Before the session, print a copy of “Utah” on heavyweight paper for each kid.
- Distribute “Utah” to the boys and girls.
- Say: “The missionaries we have been learning about live in the state of Utah. Can you remember the missionaries’ names?” (*Luis and Beatriz Soto*) “The Sotos live in Salt Lake City, Utah. The city is built by a lake that has a lot of salt in it. Because most lakes are freshwater, the saltiness of Salt Lake makes this lake unique.”
- Continue: “We are going to make a ‘salty’ piece of art to remind us of the Sotos and their church in Salt Lake City.”
- Guide the kids to outline the shape of Utah using the glue. After they complete their outlines, they may carefully sprinkle salt onto the glue.
- As you wait for the salt to adhere to the glue and for the glue to begin drying, ask the kids: “Why do we give money to missionaries like the Sotos? Why do we pray for them?”
- After the salt has time to adhere to the glue, show the kids how to use the watercolors to paint the salt.
- Talk about how sharing the gospel is something all Christians are called to do. Help kids know that our mission is to make sure everyone knows about the good news of Jesus.*
- Pray for the Sotos and for other missionaries your church supports.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Reads and locates Bible references.
- Understands and applies truths from a Bible verse.
- Learns that Bible truths never change.

GOD’S PROMISES

- Exodus 20:12 (Honor your Father and Mother and your days will be long)
- Joshua 1:9 (Be strong, God is with you)
- Isaiah 40:31 (Trusting in God brings strength)
- Isaiah 40:8 (God’s Word lasts forever)
- Isaiah 41:10 (Do not fear, God is with you)
- Philippians 4:19 (God will give us everything we need)
- James 1:5 (God gives wisdom)
- 1 John 1:9 (God forgives when we confess our sin)

*GOSPEL CONNECTING POINT

- This may be a natural time to talk about The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me or to show The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me video to your group.

REVIEW

- Before the session make a multi-colored pathway on the floor using the construction paper. Save one of each color of paper to use as a game chip. Put the game chips into a bag so they are hidden from sight.
- Refer to the gameboard you used at the beginning of the session and ask what makes your gameboard unique. (*it has a path to follow to complete the game*)
- Say: “Just like my gameboard has a path to follow, I have created a path on the floor for us to use during a game.”
- Have your group form two or three teams. Choose someone from each team to be their playing piece.
- Designate a starting space for your pathway and have the person chosen as a playing piece stand on the start space.
- Invite a player from the first team to reach inside your bag and draw out a piece of paper. Ask a review question from the session. If the player can answer the question correctly, the playing piece can move to the next colored square on the gameboard that corresponds to the chip chosen from the bag. If they cannot answer the question, the next team gets a turn to answer and move. Continue until each child has had a turn to answer a question.
- Consider asking questions about today’s Bible story, Text Truth, or memory verses. You may also ask questions about the promises discussed during the Bible skills activity.
- Say: “**God made a promise to Abraham, and God always keeps His promises.** I’m glad that God keeps His promises to us.”

MEMORY VERSE

Bonus Verse Option:
The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Isaiah 40:28. If your kids are already very familiar with the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to work with the weekly bonus Bible Verse, instead. This week’s bonus Bible Verse is Genesis 12:2.

CLOSING

- Recall the promises from the “God Promises” cards. Encourage the girls and boys to think of any other promises they might know from the Bible.
- Say: “This week while you go about your daily activities, take some time to open the Bible and see what promises you can find from God.”
- Close in prayer, thanking God for being faithful to Abraham and for always being faithful to us, too.

