

# Lesson 3

Cross

Formed

Kids

**What was the first promise God gave to Abraham?**

**God promised to bless Abraham with many children.**

*Read aloud: Genesis 15:3-6*

### **Recommended Illustration**

Explain that each child is going to get a candy bar. Next, hand them each a box and instruct them to open it and enjoy their candy bar. The catch is, one child will get an empty box.

As you see the disappointment form on this kid's face, ask him/her to describe what it felt like to be given a promise only to be disappointed. Help him/her to connect the dots from this to Abraham, who was given a promise only to find himself waiting and waiting.

At the end, you may want to give this child a candy bar! God does eventually provide for Abraham, just as he promised. Nonetheless, it is instructive for us to learn that God's timing is not governed by our desires or our timelines. Frustration is an essential component of life on earth. Becoming a follower of Jesus does not eliminate frustration from our lives. Rather, it gives us an opportunity to suffer meaningfully and faithfully.

## Helpful Insights

God's promise to Abraham is about more than just Abraham, too. God's plan for Abraham's life happens to be the starting point for God's plan for all people. God does not do things the ordinary way, letting Abraham live a life by the normal steps that are a part of the lives of the people all around him. Instead, God teaches Abraham to trust him, and allows him to work out his plan for humans through Abraham's life. Finally, when he is seventy-five, God tells Abraham that his children will be the source of God's blessing for all of humanity, and that his children will be more numerous than the very stars of the night time sky.

And although God did not do things in Abraham's life the way everyone expected, the way everyone else received their blessings, God did something through Abraham that would be the beginning of God's mission to repair and renew his broken world.

## The Point

God doesn't work on our timetable or according to our instructions for him, but he always does what he promises. Faith in God is not always easy, and often times we can't see what he is up to. Still, God is always trustworthy, and you can always be confident that he will protect you and provide for you.

