



UNIT 3 | SESSION 1

GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12–20

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 135:5–6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

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

Large Group Leader:

Time	Slide	What to Do	Materials
10 minutes	1	Set up Computer with songs on Youtube, google slides powerpoint for today	
3 minutes	2	Start timer. Invite classes to join	Timer video
2 minutes	3	Welcome kids Collect the offering: For the Philippines, to buy a sink.	Offering bag
	4	Birthdays: Coen Tolsma, (Wren Houweling and Jake Bosgra weren't here last week, but had a birthday)	
2 minutes	5-6	Leader: Hey, everyone! Did you know our God is a promise-maker and a promise-keeper? A long, long time ago, God made an amazing, super-duper promise to a man named Abraham! Kids: A promise? Tell us more! Leader: God told Abraham to look up at the sky. Can you all point up? <i>Way</i> up high! God said, "Abraham, count the stars if you can! That's how many family members you'll have one day!" Kids: Wow! That's a whole lot of people! (Try to make a surprised face!) Leader: Abraham was old, but he trusted God's promise. He knew God could do anything! That special promise, or covenant, reminds us that we are all part of God's big family—a family as big as the stars! Kids: We are God's family! Leader: So, let's get ready to worship the God who keeps every promise and loves every one of us, from Abraham until right now! All: Let us worship God! (Clap your hands once!)	Bible
8 min	7-8	10,000 reasons Practice first with words, then the recording that has no words	

4	9	Father Abraham song	
2	8	I want to be thankful song (for month of October for thanksgiving)	
1	11	Memory Verse: Galatians 5:22-23 But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **If you weren't here last week, you can tell your memory verse to Mrs. Shena. You can also come to say what you are thankful for.	
5	12	Tell the story (see notes from story if you wish to tell it from here)	
3 minutes	13	Watch the video of the story	powerpoint
		Ask a few questions: 1) What did God promise Abraham? 2) What does the name Abraham mean? <i>Father of Nations</i> 3) Does God always keep his promises?	
2 minutes	14	Pray with the kids Thank you God that you always do what is right. You alone are perfect. WE praise You for providing the way for us to be saved through faith in Jesus. Help us live in a way that honors You. In Jesus' name, Amen.	
1 minute	15	Do the blessing with them: May the Lord Bless You and Keep you. May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you His favour and give you peace."	



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 12–20. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Made a Covenant with Abraham.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Abram and his wife Sarai (SEHR igh) were part of Noah’s family who had spread out on the earth after the great flood. God chose Abram for a special plan. He told Abram to move to a place he had never been. God promised to give Abram a large family and land for his family. “All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you,” God said.

This was a good promise, but Abram was sad because he didn’t have any children to inherit his blessing. Still, **Abram obeyed God. He went to the land of Canaan with his wife and nephew. One night, God led Abram outside. “Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can,” God said.** Abram couldn’t count the stars. There were too many! **“Your family will be that numerous,” God promised. Abram believed God, and God was pleased.**

God said, “I will give this land to your descendants.”

“How can I be sure?” Abram asked. So **God did something to show Abram that He would keep His covenant, or promise. First, God told Abram to bring five animals: a cow, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a pigeon. Abram obeyed God. He brought the animals, cut them in half, and laid the pieces across from each other. Then, when the sun was setting, Abram fell fast asleep.**

While Abram slept, God told him what would happen in the future. He said Abram’s family would be slaves in another country for 400 years. Then God would judge that nation and bless Abram’s family. But first, Abram would live a long, peaceful life. **When it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between the animals.** These items represented God. **This showed that God would be responsible for keeping His promise.**

When Abram was 99 years old, God talked to him again. “You will be the father of many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They will become many nations, and some of them will be kings. I will give them the land where you are living, and I will be their God. My promises will last forever.” God was so serious about His promise that He changed Abram’s name to Abraham, which means “Father of Many.” He changed Sarai’s name to Sarah. God said, “I will bless Sarah. She will have a son, and you will name him Isaac.” God promised to keep His covenant through Isaac and his future family.

Christ Connection: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham. God

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display figures: Choose people figures to represent Abraham and Sarah. Hold them up as you tell about them.

Use lighting effects: Dim the lights when telling about God’s ceremony showing He would keep His covenant. Carry a flashlight as a flaming torch.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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. 33

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 33 The Bible is full of promises that God made to His people. The promise God made to Abraham is not the first one we find in scripture. In fact, the first promise of God goes all the way back to Adam and Eve. After they were deceived by the serpent and disobeyed God, sin entered the world. Of course, this didn't surprise God. Remember, **who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.** God knew that sin would rule in the hearts of His people, but from the very beginning God had a plan to rescue His people from sin and death. God made a promise to Adam and Eve, right there in the Garden of Eden, that one day He would send a Rescuer to save them.

God's promise to Abraham was an extension of the promise He made to Adam and Eve. He had already promised a Rescuer, and now we know that the Rescuer would come from Abraham's family. God chose to bless all the nations of the world through Abraham. God also promised that He would give good land to Abraham's descendants. Abraham moved to and traveled through the land of Canaan. The people there didn't worship the one true God. Instead they worshiped many false gods. God would use Abraham's family to redeem this land and eventually point these people to God.

Even though years passed since God had made this promise to Abraham, Abraham continued to trust God. Do you think it might have been hard for Abraham to trust that God would keep His promises? Why or why not? [Allow responses.] What does the name Abraham mean? [Allow responses.] Abraham's name means "Father of Nations." God changed Abram's name to Abraham so he would remember God's promise always. 33

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY 33 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. 33

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 3, Session 1" questions from kids video. Prompt the kids to discuss:

1. What has God promised to you?
2. Do you trust God to keep those promises?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY 33 God wants everyone to be on mission for Him, no matter where they go. He led the Caldwell family to take a mission trip all the way to Ecuador. Let's find out more about their trip to work with

