

Use Week of:

Unit 2 • Session 1

God's Covenant with Abraham

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 12; 15; 17

STORY POINT: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.

KEY PASSAGE:

Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 84



TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 86



EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 88



Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Since the beginning, God wanted to bless and provide for His people. Genesis 11 records the generations between Noah and Abram. Noah's son Shem had a family. Through Shem's line, God would keep His promise to send a Savior. Shem's seventh-great grandson was named Abram. Abram was born in Ur of the Chaldeans.

Abram was in his homeland when God spoke to him. God told Abram: "Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:1-3).

By faith, Abram obeyed God. He traveled toward the land of Canaan with his wife, Sarai; his father, Terah; and his nephew, Lot. They settled in Haran, about 600 miles from their home. When Abram was 75 years old, he left Haran with his wife, his nephew, and all their possessions.

Genesis 15 records the Abrahamic covenant. The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision. God made a covenant with Abram and promised to give him offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky and to give his family the land of Canaan. At 99 years old, Abram was still childless. How would God keep His promise if Abram didn't have any children? But God was serious about the covenant; He always keeps His promises. God even changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude."

God promised to bless all the earth through Abraham. At just the right time, Jesus was born into Abraham's family. (Gal. 4:4-5) Jesus fulfilled God's promise to Abraham. (See Gal. 3:8.) Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Through Him, all the nations of the earth are blessed.

The **BIBLE** Story

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12; 15; 17

Abram and his wife Sarai (SEHR igh) lived long ago. Abram was part of Noah's family. One day, something amazing happened to Abram: God chose Abram out of all the people in the world and made a covenant—a very special promise—with him.

God told Abram to move to a place he had never been. God said Abram would have many descendants. That meant

Abram would have many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. So many people would be born into Abram's family that they would become a whole nation of people. They would have land to live on, and everyone would know who Abram was.

Abram obeyed God.

Abram and his wife were old and they did not have any children. Abram did not know how God was going to give him a big family, but Abram trusted God to keep His promise.

Later, God spoke to Abram again. **God promised to give Abram a great reward.**

Abram asked God, "Who will get that reward when I die? I have no children."

God took Abram outside. **"Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can," said God. "That is how many descendants you will have**



someday.” Abram and his wife were getting old. How would they have a baby? But Abram believed it would happen because God said it would.

God promised to give Abram the land, too. **God made a special ceremony to show Abram that He would keep His covenant.** First, God told Abram to bring some animals: a cow, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a pigeon. Abram followed God’s instructions.

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the animals. **God showed that keeping the covenant was His job, not Abram’s job.**

When Abram was 99 years old, God talked to him again. “I am changing your name to Abraham. You will be the father of many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren,” God said. “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.”

Christ Connection: God promised to bless all the people in the world through Abraham. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham’s family. God blesses all the people on earth through Jesus because Jesus saves people from their sins.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Vary your voice:

Use different voices for the times in the Bible story when God speaks and when Abraham speaks. You may use a booming voice for God and a voice like an old man for Abraham.

• Use the “Genealogy of Christ” poster:

Point to Abraham on the “Genealogy of Christ” poster (005802967). Gesture toward Abraham’s descendants on the timeline when they are mentioned in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



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KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Welcome time

- "You Are God" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Find the Baby" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to circle the baby that belongs to the parents in each row.

SAY •Did you notice anything unusual about the parents of the human baby? They are a little old, aren't they? Most of the time people who are very old do not have new babies. But in today's Bible story, God promised a man named Abram that he would have a big family even though he and his wife were old and did not have any children. Let's listen to what all God promised Abram.

LOW PREP

Go on a journey

Invite preschoolers to follow you on a journey around the room. While on your "journey," pretend to swim through a river, climb up a mountain, crawl under some branches in a forest, and take a moment to rest.

SAY • Thanks for going with me on that long journey! We pretended to travel a long way! In today's Bible story, God told a man named Abram to go on a journey to a place he had never been before. How would you feel if you were asked to go on a journey somewhere you have never been?

Decide between happy and sad

Invite preschoolers to draw a happy and sad face on either side of a paper plate. Then attach each plate to a large craft stick so that preschoolers can flip between a happy face or a sad face. Read the following scenarios. Invite preschoolers to show the happy face if it would make them happy and to show the sad face if it would make them sad.

- Eating ice cream after dinner
- Breaking your favorite toy
- Going camping
- Shopping at the mall
- Putting broccoli on your pizza
- Getting a new toy

SAY • In today's Bible story, something very happy happened to a man named Abram. God chose Abram out of all the people in the world and made a covenant—a very special promise—with him. This promise is happy news for you and me, too!

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to march and chant “God keeps His promises!” together as they move to Bible study.

- paper plates,
1 per child
- large craft sticks,
1 per child
- crayons or markers
- glue or tape

- countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 12 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is called “the Word of God” because it contains God’s words to us. Everything that God says is true, and all the words of the Bible are true. Today’s story is from the first book of the Bible called Genesis.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “God’s Covenant with Abraham” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God made a covenant, or a very special promise, to Abraham. God planned to give Abraham a big family, land, and a reward. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.** He kept that promise by sending God’s Son, Jesus, who was a part of Abraham’s family.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Galatians 3:29. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY • God promised to bless all the world through

Abraham, and He did when He sent Jesus. Our key passage tells us that when we trust in Jesus, we get to be part of Abraham’s family, too!

Sing the key passage song, “If You Belong to Christ” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “If You Belong to Christ” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.* Abraham did not know how God was going to give him a big family, but he trusted God to keep His promise.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Display a world map. Place a sticky note on India. Show DJ’s family prayer card.

SAY • Missionaries share the gospel with people from many nations. DJ’s family is sharing the gospel with people from South Asia who live in Canada, a country in North America. Many people from South Asia are moving to Canada.

Instruct preschoolers to look at the world map and point to India, the largest country in South Asia. Remove the sticky note and place it on Canada.

- “DJ’s Family Prayer Card” printable
- world map
- sticky note

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



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LOW PREP

· walking rope
(optional)

Follow your
church's security
procedures.

Visit a place you've never been

Line up preschoolers and explain that you will lead them on a journey outside of the classroom. Lead preschoolers to a part of the church building that they have likely never been to, such as a pastor's office, a choir room, or a storage area. Share what the purpose of the room is and point out any interesting things along the way. Then return to the classroom.

SAY • God asked Abraham to follow Him to a place he had never been, just like I asked you to follow me to a new place that you had never been! You trusted me to keep you safe and to lead you where you needed to go. Abraham trusted God to lead him, and we can trust God, too! ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.*** He kept His promise to Abraham to bless the whole world by sending Jesus to save us from our sins.

· sponges
· scissors (adult use)
· plastic tablecloth
· clothespins
· washable glow paint
· black paper
· white crayon
· painting smocks

Stamp stars

Cut sponges into star shapes. Attach clothespins to the back of the sponge stars to make stamps. Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Lead preschoolers to dip the star sponges into washable glow paint and press the sponge onto black paper. Write the story point, **God promised to bless all the**

world through Abraham, on each child's paper in white crayon. Dim the lights so that preschoolers can see their stars glow.

SAY • God promised Abraham that his family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham** and his family. One day much later, Jesus was born as part of Abraham's family. All the world is blessed through Jesus, who died for our sin and rose again.

Hunt stars

Print and cut out 10 star shapes from the "Stars" printable. "Hide" these stars around the room, making sure that preschoolers will be able to find them without much trouble. Invite children to work together to find the stars, counting up to 10 together. Play again as time allows.

- "Stars" printable
- scissors (adult use)
- tape

SAY • That was fun to find and count 10 stars together! God promised that Abraham would have a family with as many people as there are stars in the sky, and He kept His promise. God always keeps His promises! ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Fluff Abraham's beard

Print out an "Abraham's Beard" printable for each child. Show preschoolers how to use a glue stick to cover Abraham's beard with a light layer of glue. Then guide them to pull apart cotton balls and place them onto the beard.

- "Abraham's Beard" printable, 1 per child
- glue sticks
- cotton balls

SAY • Abraham was very old when God promised that his family would have as many people as stars in the sky. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham**, and He planned to keep that promise

first by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. Abraham trusted that God would give him a son even when he was very old. Isaac was a very special baby to Abraham and Sarah. Many years later, another very special baby would be born. This baby's name was Jesus, and He was born to save God's people from their sins.



Pray for missionaries

• "DJ's Family Prayer Card" printable,
1 per child

Sit in a circle and place a "DJ's Family Prayer Card" in the center. Read the names of DJ's family members. Select a preschooler to pray for each person. Give each child a prayer card to take home. Mention that prayer is a big way we can help missionaries around the world.

SAY • God promised that Abraham would have a large family. DJ also has a large family. DJ is a missionary kid in Ontario, Canada. DJ's parents were missionaries in South Asia. Now they share the gospel with the many South Asians living in Canada.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve a small snack. Promise preschoolers that if they finish all of their snack and ask kindly, that you will give them another portion of snack up to three portions. Each time that a preschooler asks for more snack and you keep your promise, remind children ***we can trust God because He is faithful.*** God always keeps His promises. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.** Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Who chose to make a covenant with Abram? (*God*)
2. What did Abraham do when God asked him to go to a place he had never been? (*Abraham obeyed God.*)
3. God said Abraham's family would have as many people as what? (*stars in the sky*)
4. What did God change Abram's name to? (*Abraham*)
5. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or a theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If You Belong to Christ" song
- "You Are God" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers