

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12; 15; 17



CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family. Jesus saves people from their sins.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE: The LORD is good, and His love lasts forever. Psalm 100:5

STORY POINT: God made a promise to Abraham.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

In today's reading, we see how God kept and demonstrated His faithfulness to Abraham by establishing a covenant with him. The faithfulness of God is shown through Abraham's family lineage as God's promises were ultimately fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—a descendant of Abraham.

How did God establish His covenant with Abraham? What was the significance of Abram's name change?

Though the promises of Genesis 15:4 were years away from fulfillment, God made a covenant to show that He would be faithful to do what He promised Abraham no matter what. God wagered His namesake through establishing this covenant, promising on behalf of His own name and reputation that His promises would indeed come to pass. Animal blood was shed through this ceremony and was used to seal the covenant, demonstrating the gravity of what was at stake. God spoke to His servant's questions regarding his inheritance of both a nation and a land to call their own.

In chapter 17 when Abram received his new name from God, he was 99 years old—still childless, yet still believing by faith. For him to father not only a son, but an entire nation seemed implausible. Yet, God changed Abram's name from "The Father is Exalted" to Abraham, "Father of a Multitude." Though the promise of a descendant was not yet in his reach, God spoke to him and over him that His Word was true and worthy of his obedience.

The bloodshed in this covenant agreement foreshadowed the blood to be shed as God's promises would find ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. Through His Son, God would do what seemed more impossible than Abram's unlikely fatherhood—God would make the way for the unrighteous to be brought into His family forever. Like Abraham, we are counted as righteous when we place our faith in Christ and in His finished work on the cross. Reflect on the great lengths God demonstrated to prove that His covenant was trustworthy and how He brought it to completion through Jesus. Now is time to proclaim this covenant love to the preschoolers who will learn from you today. May you speak clearly about the loving faithfulness of your Father in heaven.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach;
plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Play with blocks and people

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ alphabet blocks
- ☐ people figures
- ☐ bins



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ large piece of blue paper, 3–4 feet long
- ☐ assorted star stickers

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ “God’s Covenant with Abraham” video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ assorted star stickers

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Search for stars

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ star-shaped sticky notes

Create a starry snack

- ☐ star-shaped cookie cutters
- ☐ bread slices, 1 per child
- ☐ jam
- ☐ plastic spoons
- ☐ foam plates
- ☐ paper towels



LIVE

Draw starry key passage pictures

- ☐ chalk
- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker, 1 per child

Missions activity

- ☐ “McCormick Family Photo” printable
- ☐ cardboard pieces
- ☐ toy cars
- ☐ painter’s tape

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ “Count the Stars” activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Make stars

- ☐ star-shaped cookie cutters

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Play with family

- ☐ dollhouse
- ☐ dollhouse furniture and accessories
- ☐ people figures
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Play with puzzles

- ☐ preschool-friendly assorted wooden puzzles of people, houses, pets



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

PLAY WITH BLOCKS AND PEOPLE

Place bins of blocks and people figures on either a tabletop or in a designated area of the floor. Display the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster next to the block area. As preschoolers arrive, stoop down and ask who brought them to church today. Direct children to the blocks and the people figures in the plastic bins. Invite children to use the blocks to build houses for families to live in. As children play with the blocks and figures read the big picture question and answer aloud.

SAY Tell me about the places and houses you built and who is living there. [Allow responses.] Last week, we learned about a man named Abram who God told to go on a long journey. We also learned that God made a promise to Abram. This week, we will learn even more. Abram wanted a big family, but he and his wife Sarai did not have any children. **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM** to give him a big family. We know that **God keeps His promises.**

worship

* Everywhere I Go

* Jesus Loves Me

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

* Optional: Play last week's scheduled Bible story video for Review... (Sorry, I had this week's video where last week's should have been :'))

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Tape a large piece of blue paper at a child's eye level on the wall in the group time area. Show the star stickers and invite children to help you create a starry sky on the piece of paper. Distribute several star stickers to each child and guide children to stick stars to the bulletin board paper to create a night sky in the classroom. After children have stuck all of their stars to the paper, guide them to be seated where they can look at the paper.

SAY “Look at our starry sky. Can you count how many stickers are in the sky? There are a lot of stars in our classroom sky, aren't there? Just like the real night sky, we have a lot of stars in our own classroom sky. In today's Bible story, God is going to say something to Abraham about the number of stars in the sky. Listen carefully for what God says.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY video

Open your Bible to Genesis 12; 15; 17. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

SAY “God made a promise to Abram. God said, “I will bless you. I will give you a big family, and the whole world will be blessed through you.”

Abram wanted a big family, but he and his wife Sarai did not have any children. One night, God took Abram outside and said, “Look at the sky and count the stars.” There were too many stars to count! God said, “Your family will have as many people as there are stars in the sky.” This was an amazing promise! Abram believed God's promises.

To help Abram know that He would keep His promise, God made a covenant, or special promise, to Abram. God showed Abram that He would keep His promises no matter what.

Then, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means “father of many.”

Christ Connection: God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family. Jesus saves people from their sins.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to come up to the sky poster and to put more stars on the classroom's night sky. Distribute a few more star stickers to children. As children place stickers on the paper, ask them several review questions and prompt them to answer you. Questions to use: "How did God plan to bless Abraham?" "What did God tell Abraham to look up at?" "How many children did God promise to Abraham?" "What does Abraham mean?"

SAY **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM.** He promised to bless Abraham with a big family that would bless the whole world. God said that Abraham would have as many children in his family as stars in the sky. That is a lot of stars and a lot of children! Many, many years later, God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family. **Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.**

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush":

The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good,
And His love lasts forever.

"Forever" worship song

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Invite all the children to come forward and touch the classroom's starry sky as they say the key passage phrase together.

SAY "The LORD is good, and His love lasts forever." This is our key passage phrase. Through the story of God's promises with Abraham, we hear and see that God's is very good and very loving. God is also good to us, and He loves us. **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM. God keeps His promises.**

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for being a good and a loving God who always keeps His promises.



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 DRAW FAMILY PHOTOS



Talk to the preschoolers about the people in your own family by drawing simple stick figures with a marker on construction paper. Begin by drawing yourself and then add the different people in your family. As you draw stick figures tell preschoolers who is in your family. Distribute construction paper and crayons or markers to children. Ask them to draw simple stick pictures of the people in their families. As children draw, ask them to tell you who they are drawing.

SAY Who did you draw in your family photos? **[Allow responses.]** In our Bible story, **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM** that He would give him a big family, and that the whole world will be blessed through it. **God keeps His promises.** God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family. The people on earth have really been blessed by Abraham because Jesus saves people from their sins.

2 SEARCH FOR STARS

Display the Bible Story Picture Poster at preschooler's height. Stick star-shaped sticky notes around the classroom at a preschooler's height or lower. Allow preschoolers time to search for the stars around the room. Guide them to remove the star and stick it on the Bible Story Picture Poster.

SAY How many of you found a star sticky around the room? What did God say about the stars to Abraham? **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM. God keeps His promises.** God promised Abraham that he would have as many people in his family as stars in the sky. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family.

3 CREATE A STARRY SNACK



Invite children to be seated at a table. Distribute a plate with a slice of bread to each child. Demonstrate how to create a star shape from the slice of bread using the cookie cutter. Give each child a spoon filled with jam and guide children to spread the jam onto their stars. Distribute paper towels. Say a prayer, thanking God for the food and then prompt children to eat their starry snack.

SAY Do your stars taste good? **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM.** One night, God took Abraham outside and said, 'Look at the sky and count the stars. Your family will have as many people as there are stars in the sky.' Then God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means 'father of many nations.' God kept His promise to bless Abraham when He sent Jesus. Jesus was a part of Abraham's big family.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 DRAW STARRY KEY PASSAGE PICTURES

Before the session, copy and cut a copy of the Key Passage Phrase Marker for each child. Distribute a Key Passage Phrase Marker, piece of paper, glue stick, and chalk to each child. Guide the child to glue the key passage phrase onto his paper. Direct the child to draw stars or any other pictures on his paper using the chalk. As each child draws, point and say the key passage phrase together.

SAY “Our key passage phrase tells us, ‘The LORD is good, and His love lasts forever. Psalm 100:5.’ In our Bible story, **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM**. God told Abraham that he would have a big family and that someone from that family would bless the whole world. That person is Jesus who came to save people from their sins.”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Print and display a copy of the “McCormick Family Photo” printable. Provide a long strip of cardboard or other ramp-building items and prop on a table or chair to create a ramp. Use painter’s tape to make a fun racetrack. Distribute the toy cars and let preschoolers race cars down a ramp and drive them around the painter’s tape racetrack. Explain that the city of Brownsburg is near a motor speedway where there are car races.

SAY “Chris and Kayla McCormick, along with their children are starting a church called Reliant Church in Brownsburg, Indiana. They know it takes teamwork and prayer to start a new church. The McCormick family wants Reliant Church to help people in Brownsburg to know and follow Jesus. Let’s pray that people and churches will partner with the McCormicks and Reliant Church as they work in the community of Brownsburg. [Lead a prayer.]”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham’s family. Jesus saves people from their sins.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 MAKE STARS

Provide groups of preschoolers with play dough and star-shaped cookie cutters. Encourage children to pat the play dough flat and cut out stars as you review the key passage phrase, Christ connection, story point, and big picture question and answer.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Genesis 12; 15; 17. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

- God made a promise to Abram. God said, "I will bless you and give you a big family. I will bless the whole world."
- Abram wanted a big family, but he and his wife Sarai did not have any children.
- One night, God took Abram outside. God said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars." There were too many stars to count!
- God said, "Your family will have as many people as there are stars in the sky." This was an amazing promise!
- Abram believed God's promises. Then, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many."

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush":

The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good,
And His love lasts forever.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Show children how to hold their fists up in front of them and to open and close their fists like blinking stars as they say the key passage phrase together. Lead children to say the key passage phrase while opening and closing their starry hands several times.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for keeping His promise to Abraham by sending Jesus to save us from our sins.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 COUNT GROUPS

Place a large bin of crayons or markers on a table. Counting aloud, count five crayons for the children. Lay the crayons on the table in a group. Help each child to select and to count out five crayons. Then direct them to lay their five crayons in a group on the table. Challenge the children to see how many groups of five crayons that they can make.

SAY “Let’s count how many crayons we have. We have ____ groups of five crayons. That makes ____ crayons. That’s a lot of crayons! God took Abraham outside at night and told him to look at the sky and to count the stars. There were too many stars to count—even more than these crayons! **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM.** God promised Abraham his family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky. God also promised that Abraham’s family would bless the world. **God keeps His promises.** God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham’s family.”

7 PLAY WITH FAMILY

Place the dollhouse, people figures, and accessories on the floor. Invite children to play with the dollhouse and accessories. As children play, show them the Bible Story Picture Poster. Ask the children a few review questions: “What did God promise Abraham?” “Did Abraham and Sarah have any children?” “What did Abraham and Sarah really want?” “What did God tell Abraham to look up at?” “What does Abraham mean?” “How many children did God promise to give to Abraham?”

SAY “Are you having fun playing with the dollhouse family? Who is in the dollhouse family? [Allow responses.] Abraham and Sarah wanted to have a family, but they had no children. **GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM.** God promised to not only give Abraham a big family, but that his family would bless the whole world. God sent Jesus to earth as a part of Abraham’s family. Jesus blessed the world by saving people from their sins.”

8 PLAY WITH PUZZLES

Place the puzzles on a table and prompt each child to select a puzzle. Assist children in placing the pieces in the correct location. As they work, talk about families. Talk about how God promised to give Abraham a big family that would bless the whole world.

SAY “**GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM** that his family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky. This was an amazing promise. **God keeps His promises.** God sent Jesus to earth as a part of Abraham’s family. Jesus blesses the whole world by saving people from their sins.”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.