



Date: _____

God Promises Abram Children and Land

Bible Event: Genesis 15:1-7

Take Home Point: *GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – *I believe God.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: I believe, because of Jesus, God will keep his promise to take me to heaven.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God makes and keeps great promises. Even though Abram was very old, God promised him that he would have children – and he did! God promises us great things, too. Just like Abram, we can believe and trust in God that he will keep his promises no matter what. All of this is because God loves us. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – *I believe God.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Here is a true event from the Bible about how God made a promise and kept his promise to a man named Abram. Last week, we talked about how Abram was a very old man who lived a long time ago. God had promised him some land, so Abram took his wife and servants and started on a long journey just like God told him to.

Well, when they finally got there, God spoke to Abram again. The Lord said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield and your very great reward."

Abram wasn't sure what God meant, so he asked, "What reward can you give me? I have no children, so there is no one to inherit any reward you give me. I will give all I have to a servant."

Then God made Abram another very special promise. God told Abram that one day he would have a son! (Show a doll.) Abram could hardly believe it! He was very old, but he knew if the Lord said it, then it would be true. Then God asked Abram to look outside at the stars. He told Abram that he would have as many children and grandchildren as there are stars. But the sky was so filled with stars

that Abram couldn't even count them all! *(Slowly pull apart a chain of stars cut out like paper dolls. Then, slowly pull apart a chain of paper dolls to show Abram's descendents.)*

Even though Abram was very old, he believed God and knew that his promises always come true. Abram believed that some day he would have many, many children – more than he could count and more than the stars in the sky. That was an amazing promise! Do you know what happened next? You'll have to find out next week! In the mean time, remember: *GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – I believe God.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Have whole apples sliced horizontally. An apple sliced in this manner shows a star pattern on each slice. Have children then eat the apple slices around the core section. *Option:* Just slice one apple this way for demonstration, then provide regular apple slices for snack. Another option is to provide various fruit dips.

Drama Zone: Create a place where children can “see the stars.” *Options:* 1) Use a refrigerator box lying on its side. Punch many small holes on the topside and cover with yellow tissue paper. Let children lie down and look up or crawl through the box; 2) Make a lampshade with holes punched in it and let it shine in a dark room; or 3) String up white Christmas lights.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of “God Promises Abram Children and Land” from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #10 “God Blesses Faithful Abraham” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Messy Zone: Provide black construction paper, yellow paint, and star-shaped sponges for children to paint a night sky scene. Attach a pre-made label that reads “Abram believed God’s promise.”

Hint: Use men’s or boys’ dress shirts put on backwards as smocks.

Puppet Zone: Have the puppets explain the story to one another.

Craft Zone: With much supervision, give children black paper and let them punch holes through the paper and then hold it up to the light. Have them count their own “stars.”

Play Zone: While the children wave a parachute, throw many small balls out. Challenge the kids to count them as they bounce around. (It should be difficult to do, just like counting stars.)

Quiet Reading Zone: Set up a tent for reading the *Group's Bible Big Book: Abraham* (Group Publishing Inc., 1995).

Music Zone: "Father Abraham"

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a fishing hat on. His dad promised him that they were going to go fishing together and Bubba can hardly wait. He loves fishing and he loves spending time with his dad. They've been trying to go for a long time, and his dad kept promising that they would go and now they are going!

The large group presenter tells Bubba that sounds great! That is a really big promise that Bubba's dad made, and now they get to go. He hopes they have fun.

That big promise reminds the large group presenter of another promise he knows about. He asks the kids if there was a promise in today's Bible event. The kids explain to Bubba that God made Abram a really big promise in today's Bible event. God promised Abram that even though he was very old, he was going to have many children. That was a really big amazing promise that God made. And God always keeps his promises. The large group presenter can think of one more promise that was even bigger than that. The large group presenter shows a cross and explains that the biggest promise of all is that God would send his very own Son, Jesus, to take away our sins. That promise means you and I will get to heaven to be friends with God forever. That is the biggest, most special promise we could have. And God always keeps his promises. Remember:

***GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – I believe God.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- doll
- set of stars cut out like paper dolls
- set of paper dolls

Action Zones:

Snack:

- whole apples sliced horizontally
- regular apple slices and fruit dips (*optional*)

Craft:

- black construction paper
- scissors
- paper hole punches

Messy:

- black construction paper
- yellow paint
- star-shaped sponges (purchased or made)
- smocks and newspaper to cover tables
- Avery 5160 labels that read, "Abram believed God's promises."

Play:

- parachute
- many small balls

Drama:

- refrigerator box, scissors, yellow tissue paper OR
- lampshade with star cutouts OR
- white Christmas lights

Music:

- "Father Abraham"

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- use felt board Bible characters to act out the story of "The Call of Abraham." One resource is "Betty Lukens through the Bible in Felt," Lesson #10.

Quiet Reading:

- *Group's Bible Big Book: Abraham* (Group Publishing Inc., 1995)
- book basket
- tent

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils and plain paper
- basket of books