



Date: _____
Series: Pass the Promise
Year 1, Lesson 6

God Makes a Covenant with Abram

Take Home Point: *God “signed” his agreement; we can believe it!

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 15

Key Verse: Genesis 15:6: “Abram believed the Lord. And the Lord accepted Abram’s faith, and that faith made him right with God.” (NCV)

We will help kids know:

- God says to us in covenant language, “I am your God, you are my people.”
- God “signed” His agreement with Abram using the blood of animals. With us, He signs His love using the blood of Jesus.

We will help kids feel:

- Awed by God’s desire to be our friend.
- Confident to trust in God’s saving plan.




We will help kids do:

- Play a game in which they can identify with keeping or not keeping promises.
- Think of what would be the best promise God could give them.
- Make a reminder of what God promised them.

Kingdom Quest - Malaysia “Pass the Promise” Series Lesson 6 - 1

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THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	God makes promises to us and keeps them. Play a card game called "I Pr-o-o-mise."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deck of playing cards for each group
Large Group 	4 9-11 12-13 14	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Dao Dao's Big Contract" Dramatic Storytelling: "God Signs His Covenant" Puppet Presentation: "Dao Dao's Big Contract" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dao Dao • football with a cross drawn on it with masking tape • contract that appears to be a small piece of paper. However, as the paper unfolds, many secret clauses to the contract are revealed. • torch (tikki lamp) • smoking fire pot (burning incense)
Small Group Application 	4-7 7-8	The children will make a cross. God signed his promise to us with the blood of Jesus. Just like Abraham, he is our God and we are his people. Memory Verse Learning: "Unfold the Verse" 2 Cor. 5:7 is learnt for lesson 11-14 to reinforce confidence in trusting the Lord and to live by faith.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tissue paper • scissors • red marker • coloured A3 paper • paper clip • marker • 3X5 cards • pencils

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies needed: deck of playing cards for each group

The following game is also known as “I Doubt It.” We are calling it, “I Pro-o-o-mise.” Younger children cannot hold many cards in their hands so reduce the size of the deck according to the age of the children and the size of the group. For example, if there are eight second-graders, remove the face cards and play with 36 cards. Each child will begin with four or five cards.

“I Pr-o-o-o-mise”

Deal the deck of cards out to all players. The dealer begins the game by laying any one card from his hand face down in the center. As he lays down the card he claims it is a “two” by saying, “*One two (card); I pr-o-o-o-mise!*” The player to the left of the dealer puts down a card and claims it is a “three” by saying, “*One three (card); I pr-o-o-o-mise!*”

It is up to the rest of the players to decide if a card laid down really is that card. If no one wants to challenge, the game continues with the next player claiming to have the next higher number and so on. If, however, someone doubts the card laid down really was what it was supposed to be, he says, “Doubt it!” The card is then turned over to reveal its value. If the card was what it was named, the player who made the challenge must add all the cards from the center pile to his hand. If the card was not what it was promised, the player who laid down that card takes all the cards.

After each round, the player to the left of the doubted player lays down a card, claims it is a two, and begins the game again. The first person to discard all of his cards is the winner.

After playing the game, begin conversation with the following questions.

Can you give an example of someone who gave a promise and did not keep it?

If God could promise you anything, what would you want him to promise? (This question is asked more as a thought provoker. It will be discussed again during the small group application.)

In large group we will meet someone whom God made a promise with, Abram. God kept his promise to Abram. God makes a promise to us and he keeps it, too. Today we will learn that *God “signed” his agreement: we can believe it!

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Supplies needed: *Dao Dao; football with a cross drawn on it with masking tape; contract that appears to be a small piece of paper. However, as the paper unfolds, many secret clauses to the contract are revealed.; torch (tikki lamp); smoking fire pot (burning incense)*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Dao Dao’s Big Contract”

Gordy tricks Mr. King into signing a contract agreeing to be friends.

Dramatic Story Telling: “God Signs His Covenant”

The Bible event from Genesis 15 is explained. It tells how God made a covenant with Abraham. This covenant foreshadows the New Covenant sealed with the blood of Jesus.

Puppet Presentation: “Dao Dao’s Big Contract” Conclusion

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Supplies needed: *tissue paper; scissors; red marker*

Observation Questions: What happened?

Open your Bibles to Genesis 15 and discuss.

Abram started to doubt that God would give him children. What did God promise in Genesis 15:5? *(He told Abram his descendants would be as many as the stars.)*

What else did God promise Abram in verse seven? *(He would give Abram the land.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why did God command Abram to bring animals to Him, cut them in half, laying the halves opposite of each other and then pass between the animal pieces as a smoking oven and a flaming torch? *(This was the way people back then made covenants. God wanted Abram to know for certain that He would keep his promises.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

What is God's promise to us? *(God gives us many promises so accept many answers. However, be sure the promise of eternal life is mentioned.)*

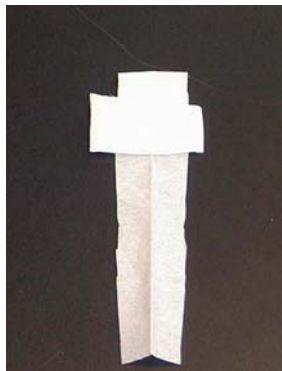
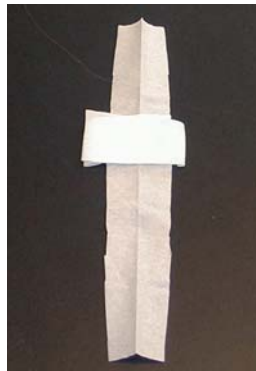
How is the covenant sealed with blood and sacrifice like God's covenant with us? *(God kept his promise to us by sending Jesus as our Savior. Jesus' sacrifice, His death on the cross, is the New Covenant God gives us that we are His children and will receive the promise land of heaven.)*

Have the children participate in the following object lesson as they discuss its application in their lives.

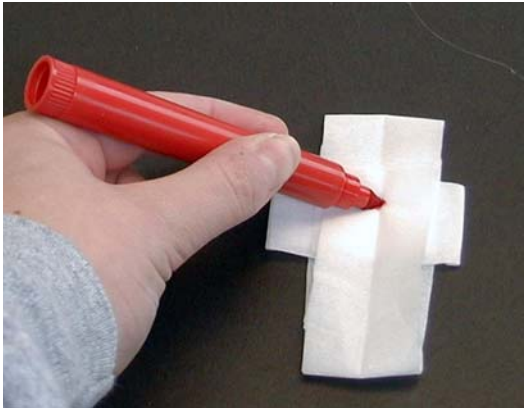
Give the children tissue paper and scissors to cut a cross.



Then have them fold the cross as shown below.



Have the children press a red marker onto the center of the folded cross. The marker should be held in this spot for a few seconds. (Be careful the marker does not bleed through onto clothing or carpet.)



When the tissue paper is unfolded, the cross will now have a red spot in the center and on all four sides.



What do these red dots remind you of? *(Jesus' blood. The red at the top might represent His blood from the crown of thorns; the red on the arms and bottom of the cross, the blood shed when His hands and feet were pierced; and the red in the middle might symbolize His blood from His whipping.)*

Read Colossians 1:20:

“And through Christ, God decided to bring all things back to Himself again – things on earth and things in heaven. God made peace by using the blood of Christ’s death on the cross.”

This time God did not sign His promise with the blood of animals. God signed His promise to us with the blood of Jesus. If this is how

God signed His love for us, God is saying just what He said to Abram, “I am your God. You will be my people.”

This is a reminder that **God signed His agreement; we can believe it!* God wants to be our God and wants us to be His children. He made that possible by sending His Son, Jesus.

If God could promise you anything, what would you want Him to promise? *(Encourage a wide discussion of answers. Bring it back to the best gift God has to offer: His Son, Jesus, and everlasting life through Him.)*

Each of you ask yourself, “If God has signed His agreement, do I believe it?”

Talk to the children in confidence about their faith in Jesus. Ask them if they trust Jesus as their Savior. Have they received the agreement God gave them? Receiving this is done by simply trusting in his promise and saying, “Yes, I need a Savior.”

Memory Verse Learning: 5 minutes

Purpose: *Help kids to memorize and keep scriptures at heart. Using creative ways to help kids enjoy learning the key verse and in small group setting.*

Supplies needed: coloured A3 paper folded whereby it revealed Bible verse part by part; 3X5 cards; pencils

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7: “We live by what we believe, not by what we can see.”

MV Presentation: “Unfold the Verse”

The folded A3 paper is held together with a paper clip. As shepherd teaches the Bible verse, she reveals the verse part by part. Having memorize the verse, ask the children to write the verse down on the 3X5 cards out of their memory. Now they can put the card in their Bible as a bookmark.

Prayer Time:

Let the kids pray in their own words about receiving Jesus as their Savior. Encourage them to thank God for what he has done to sign his agreement through Jesus. You can pray like this:

Dear God, thank you that by the blood of Jesus you have signed your agreement to us; we can believe it. If there is anyone here today that isn't quite sure if he believes Jesus gave his life for him, would you help that person simply believe your agreement. You really did

give Jesus so we could be your close friends forever. Hear each one of us as we pray silently now, telling you we trust what you've promised us.

Lord, there are some other things we want to pray about. We'll speak those out loud at this time.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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Large Group Presentation

“Dao Dao’s Big Contract”

Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: *God “signed” his agreement; we can believe it!

A special prop is needed for this script. It is a contract that appears to be a small piece of paper. However, the paper unfolds in an accordion-style so many secret clauses to the contract are revealed.

Teacher: **Good morning, kids!** (*Shows the kids the “Pass the Promise” football.*)
We continue our series “Pass the Promise” as we see how God passes His promise to send a Savior to us through Abram’s descendants. He wanted to make sure Abram knew He would pass His promise to him!

Dao Dao: Hi, Teacher!

Teacher: **Hi, Dao Dao.**

Dao Dao: Hey, did you see what we were doing? We were playing cards in Sunday school. Cool, huh?

Teacher: **Well, you’re not just playing cards. You are finding out about promises—promises that are kept and some that are broken.**

Dao Dao: Oh, I *always* keep my promises.

Teacher: **Good, Dao Dao. I try to keep mine, too.**

Dao Dao: You do?

Teacher: **Sure.**

Dao Dao: Do you promise to be my friend?

Teacher: **Of course I do, Dao Dao.**

Dao Dao: No, I mean *really* promise.

Teacher: **Sure.**

Dao Dao: Will you shake on it?

Teacher: Of course. Sometimes people shake hands to show they will really keep their agreement. Put it there, pal. *(Shakes Dao Dao's hand.)*

Dao Dao: Teacher, if you really mean it, would you sign this little piece of paper? *(Pulls contract out.)*

Teacher: What is it?

Dao Dao: A contract.

Teacher: Oh sure, a contract. What does your contract say?

Dao Dao: "I, Teacher, will be Dao Dao's friend. I promise. Signed, Teacher."

Teacher: Okay, I will sign that. *(Signs the contract.)* Now do you believe me?

Dao Dao: Sure. Let me have the contract back now.

Kids, Teacher signed it right here, didn't he? So that means he has promised to do whatever this contract says. *(Releases accordion fold in the paper to reveal a list of other things committed to by Teacher.)*

Teacher: *(While reading the contract.)* Wait a minute, Dao Dao. It says here that I will give *you* all the sweets that we normally give to first-time guests.

Dao Dao: Well, you signed it.

Teacher: Yes, but...

Dao Dao: You promised!

Teacher: But I didn't...

Dao Dao: You can't break a contract.

Teacher: Dao Dao, you know I was tricked, so I don't have to give you the candy bars.

Dao Dao: Yes, Teacher.

Teacher: But since I am your friend, I will give you one anyway.

Dao Dao: Well thanks, Teacher. You're a great friend!

Teacher: Dao Dao, there is something very important to understand. It's important to keep a promise.

Dao Dao: Yeah, there are other things you promised on this contract. You promised to let me drive your car and...

Teacher: Dao Dao, not promises you get tricked into. What is most important is keeping your promise that you will be a friend. Today we are finding out that God made that type of a promise.

Dao Dao: That he would be our friend?

Teacher: Yes. God promised Abram he would be Abram's God. God promised to give him a special land, a special son, and a special blessing. Here is the special blessing. Through Abram, God would pass the promise of giving a Savior to the world.

Dao Dao: You mean one of his descendants would be Jesus?

Teacher: That's right. And God knew thousands of years ahead of time. God wanted Abram to know He would give him these things so He did more than just make a promise. He made a covenant.

Dao Dao: What's a covenant?

Teacher: It's an agreement like a contract. God made a covenant with Abram that He would give Abram a son and many descendants. It was so important that He signed it in blood.

Dao Dao: What? No way! I mean, that's gross, but it sounds kind of cool, too. What did he do? Did He write something with blood? Yuck, but cool!

Teacher: Listen to the Bible event and see if you can find out how He did it.

“God Signs His Covenant”

Dramatic Story telling

Teacher: It was customary in the days of Abram for people to make agreements with one another. To do this, they did not sign contracts of paper. Instead, they made covenants. A covenant is a very serious promise.

Let's say there were two neighbors who wanted to make an agreement to help each other. They agreed they would not come over and steal the other's cattle or sheep. They agreed that if one neighbor were attacked by a band of thieves, the other would defend him. They agreed to help each other when the other person needed help. They didn't sign a paper that said, "I promise." Instead they made a covenant. The way they said it was that they would "cut a covenant."

Now this is where it got gross. The two neighbors would meet together and have with them several animals like sheep, cows, or goats. They would then cut the animal in half right down the middle. Half of the animal would be laid to one side and the other half would be laid to the other side. They would do this to several animals and make a path down the middle of the animal halves.

After cutting the animals in half and making a path, each person would walk down the path between the animal halves. Then they would turn, look back over the animals, and say, "May it be done to you or to me just like it was done to these animals if either of us should break this covenant."

That's pretty serious, but that's how they made agreements in Abram's day. Guess what God did. He used the same way to sign his agreement with Abram.

Use a Bible storybook or easy-reading Bible to tell the story of Genesis 15. Point out that God had promised to Abram a land, a people, and a blessing. The blessing was the promise of the coming Messiah, Jesus.

As you tell the story, use the props of a torch (tikki lamp) and a smoking fire pot (burning incense). Dim the lights to demonstrate how God made a promise by passing through the path of the halved animals. Then conclude with:

Teacher: Abram did not walk through the path also because this agreement was made from God to Abram. Abram had nothing to do with it. All he could do was believe that God was telling the truth. God promised Abram he would have a special land, he would bear a son, and his descendants would be a great nation. Abram was also promised that through his offspring the entire world would be blessed with the Messiah.

“Dao Dao’s Big Contract”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Teacher: Dao Dao, what do you think about how God made a covenant with Abram?

Dao Dao: You were right about it being gross with that blood and all. Wasn’t there an easier way? Couldn’t he just have signed a contract and said, “Abram will have a son and lots of descendants?”

Teacher: People back then didn’t sign contracts with paper and pens. They made covenants like this.
A covenant was very much just like a contract. And it really helped everyone see how important it was when God made a promise.

Dao Dao: If God made a promise to me, He wouldn’t have to sign it in blood.

Teacher: But He did!

Dao Dao: What?

Teacher: Yes. God gave His Son, Jesus, for you. He said He would forgive your sins and be your friend forever. And to make that happen, Jesus died on the cross for you. He bled on the cross. **God signed His agreement and we can believe it!* It was the blood of Jesus that made the new covenant.

Dao Dao: So God made a new covenant with me, kind of like He did with Abram?

Teacher: That’s it.

Dao Dao: Wow! That’s impressive! Even more important than the contract you signed for me.

Teacher: I would hope so. Now let’s close with prayer.

Dear God, we thank You that You signed Your agreement and we can believe it. You kept Your promise to Abram and made him the father of many nations. And You also made an agreement for us by giving us Jesus as our Savior. Thank You for making us Your friends forever. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Supplies:

Quantity (✓)

Small Group Warm-Up:

- deck of playing cards for each group

Large Group:

- Dao Dao
- football with a cross drawn on it with masking tape
- contract that appears to be a small piece of paper. However, as the paper unfolds, many secret clauses to the contract are revealed.
- torch (tikki lamp)
- smoking fire pot (burning incense)
- Bible storybook or easy-reading Bible

Small Group Application:

- tissue paper
- scissors
- red marker

Memory Verse Learning:

- coloured A3 paper
- paper clip
- marker
- 3X5 cards
- pencils

	Fold forward
2 Corinthians 5:7	Fold backward
	Fold forward
We live by what	Fold backward
	Fold forward
we believe, not by	Fold backward
	Fold forward
what we can see.	Fold backward
	Fold forward