



ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP

LESSON 1

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Has a Plan

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12; 15; 17

GOD'S BIG STORY: God makes an unbreakable promise to Abraham—one day his descendants would outnumber the stars in the sky, and through his family, God would bless the whole world.

WORD OF WONDER: Before you created the whole world and the mountains were made, from the beginning to the end you are God. —Psalm 90:2

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Interactive Game Option 1: Act It Out! | 8–10 min |
| • Interactive Game Option 2: What Happens Next? | |
| • Welcome Question: If you were moving to a new town and could only pack three things, what would you pack? | 1–2 min |
| • SMALL GROUP | 25 min |
| • Declaring God's Wonder | 1–2 min |
| • Prayer of Invitation | 1–2 min |
| • Worship: Faithful, That's Who I Praise | 8–10 min |
| • God's Big Story | 5–6 min |
| • Connecting the Wonder Truth | 1–2 min |
| • In Awe of God's Wonder | 1–2 min |
| • Responding in Worship: Waymaker (lyric) | 3–4 min |
| • Blessing Your Kids | 1–2 min |
| • SMALL GROUP: Responding in Worship Activity | 5–10 min |



God's Family Elem Spotify playlist

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Has a Plan

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12; 15; 17

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 90:2

Somewhere along the line, I took the baton from God's hands and said, "I'll take it from here."

Sensing the Holy Spirit's nudge, I had volunteered to teach elementary Sunday school. I was excited to serve kids and families, so I jumped into my plans. Soon I found myself trying to do more and be more. But in truth, I wasn't becoming more like Jesus. The more tightly I held onto my plans, the less like Him I became.

Read Genesis 12:1–5 and 17:1–7. God told Abram (later renamed Abraham) to take his family to a land He would show him. Abram didn't know exactly where they were going or how they would get there, but he trusted God and obeyed. Many times Abram would face the choice to keep trusting God or make things happen his own way. Sometimes he obeyed; sometimes he didn't. But always, God had a plan, and God was faithful.

That same choice presents itself to us every day. Do we lay everything on the altar and trust God's plans, or do we take the baton from His almighty hands and say, "I'll take it from here"?

Where have you taken the baton from God and said, "I'll take it from here"? Lay it before God this week and trust His plan. He is faithful.

—**Sharron Jackson**

Church Ministry Volunteer

Wonder Ink Development Team

LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**
GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Abraham was born a descendant of Noah's son, Shem. He was called Abram until God changed his name to Abraham meaning "father of many." Abraham received a covenant promise from God to give him blessing, land, and many descendants.

WHAT?

A covenant is an unbreakable agreement or promise between two people, or between God and humans. In this case, it was between God and Abraham. Some of God's covenants in the Bible had conditions, yet He always faithfully keeps His promises, even when humans don't keep theirs.

WHERE?

Abraham was born in Ur (modern-day Iraq), but God told him to go to Canaan (modern-day Israel). When Abraham got to Shechem, God said this was the land He would give to his offspring. So, Abraham built an altar there to God.

WHEN?

God first spoke to Abraham about 375 years after the global flood. Abraham was 75 years old when God made a covenant with him. It would take 25 years for Abraham and Sarah to see God's promise of a son fulfilled.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God had a plan to redeem His people. He chose Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Jesus—the Savior of the world—was born in Abraham's family line and is the fulfillment of this promise.

Large Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Has a Plan

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12; 15; 17

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 90:2

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be extra intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Interactive Game Option 1: Act It Out!

RESOURCES: Act It Out Slide, [What Happens Next? Episode 2 Video](#)

Ahead of time, cue the [What Happens Next? Episode 2 Video](#). Be prepared to pause it several times during the activity.

Make It Inclusive: If kids in your group have physical limitations that prevent them from acting out answer choices, give them a paper with the letter A written on one side and B on the other. After each video clip, invite them to hold up the letter that represents what they think will happen next.



Gather kids together and **display the Act It Out Slide**. **Today we're going to play a game called Act It Out! I will show you a short video clip that cuts off in the middle of the action. Then I will ask, "What comes next?" and two choices will appear on screen. You will turn to a neighbor and silently act out which choice you think will happen next. Then we'll watch the rest of the clip to see if you're right!**

Play the [What Happens Next? Episode 2 Video](#). When the A and B choices for the first video clip appear on the screen (at 0:15), pause the video and read the two choices aloud. Then invite kids to stand and silently act out their guesses. Once everyone has acted out their choice, invite kids to sit back down as you continue the video. Repeat these steps for each of the four video clips included.



What Happens Next Video

Some of these video clips ended differently than we thought they would! Maybe you've had a time in your life when what happened next was not what you had expected. Long ago, God asked Abram and his family to pack up, leave their home, and move to a new place that He would show them. Even though God gave Abram a few details, Abram had no idea how it would all happen. Still, Abram trusted that God had a plan, and Abram obeyed Him. [Show the Abraham Wonder Truth Slide](#). Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HAS A PLAN**.



Interactive Game Option 2: What Happens Next?

SUPPLIES: masking tape, paper

RESOURCES: [A and B Sign Sheets \(1 set/LG\)](#), What Happens Next? Slide, [What Happens Next? Episode 4 Video](#), Abraham Wonder Truth Slide

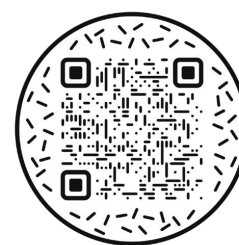
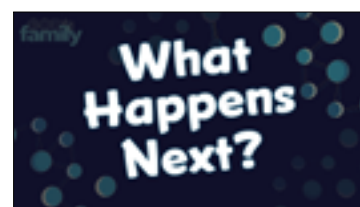
Ahead of time, cue the [What Happens Next? Episode 4 Video](#). Be prepared to pause it several times during the activity. Print the A and B Sign Sheets. Tape the A sign to one wall and the B sign to another.

Make It Inclusive: If kids in your group have mobility limitations, give them a paper with the letter A written on one side and B on the other. After each video clip, invite them to hold up the letter that represents what they think will happen next.

Gather kids together and [display the What Happens Next? Slide](#). Today we're going to play a game called What Happens Next? I will show you a short video clip that cuts off in the middle of the action. Then I will ask, "What happens next?" and two choices will appear on screen: choice A and choice B. You will decide which you think will happen next and move to the corresponding letter. Point to the A and B signs on the wall. Then we'll watch the rest of the clip to see if you're right!

Play the [What Happens Next? Episode 4 Video](#). When the A and B choices for the first video clip appear on the screen (at 0:16), pause the video and read the two choices aloud. Then invite kids to move to the A or B sign based on what they think will happen next. Once kids have made their choices, continue the video to see what actually happens next. Repeat these steps for each of the four video clips included.

Gather kids together. Some of these video clips ended differently than we thought they would! Maybe you've had a time in your life when what happened next was not what you had expected. Long ago, God asked Abram and his family to pack up, leave their home, and move to a new place that He would show them. Even though God gave Abram a few details, Abram had no idea how it would all unfold. Still, Abram trusted that God had a plan, and Abram obeyed Him. [Show the Abraham Wonder Truth Slide](#). Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HAS A PLAN**.



What Happens Next Video



Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

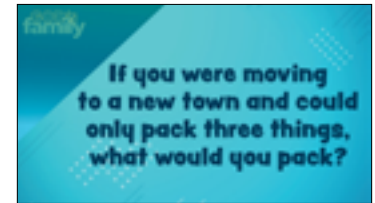
SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

It would be hard to choose just three items to pack for a big move, but you made some good choices! Today we're going to hear about how

God had a plan for someone's life that started by asking him to make a big move. But first, it's time for small group!



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

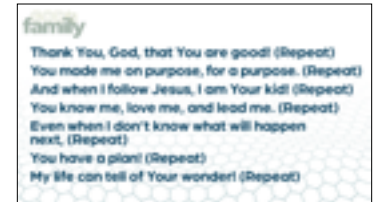
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Even when I don't know what will happen next, (Kids repeat.)

You have a plan! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for bringing us together today. We know You are here, and we praise You. Teach us more about who You are and Your love for us. Help us understand that You have a plan! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Introduce worship time. Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

Today we'll learn that God had a plan to bless the whole world through Abraham, and He has a plan for each of our lives too! Let's worship God now through singing!

WORSHIP SONGS: Faithful, That's Who I Praise

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

We just read about how God made a promise to Abram and how Abram chose to trust God even when he didn't have all the answers. Now we're going to see this story come to life in our Bible video. As you watch, listen for the ways God keeps showing His love and faithfulness to Abram. Think about what it means to trust God, even when you can't see the whole plan yet.

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY



LESSON 1 GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: large whiteboard, dry-erase markers, posterboard or butcher paper (optional), markers (optional), lap-size whiteboards (1 per kid, optional)

For this storytelling activity, the kids will help you draw a mural of the Bible story as you tell it. There are multiple options for supplies that can work well depending on the size of your group and space. Ahead of time, gather the supplies that will work best for your context. Here are several options:

1. Set up a large whiteboard with several dry-erase markers. You will invite kids to draw story parts on the whiteboard as indicated in the script.
2. Place a large sheet of butcher paper or a posterboard on the floor in a space where kids can gather around it and set out multiple regular markers. You can invite kids to draw story parts on the butcher paper or posterboard as the story goes. (This option works best with smaller groups of eight or fewer kids.)
3. Provide a lap-size whiteboard and a dry-erase marker for each kid. All the kids can draw their own version of the Bible story mural as the story is told.

The following script is written with option 1 in mind (using a large whiteboard) but can be easily adapted to use with options 2 or 3.

Leader Tip: Some kids are likely to take a lot of time making sure their drawings are as perfect as possible. The Bible storytelling will go more smoothly if kids keep their drawings simple by using stick figures and basic shapes. Demonstrate this type of simple drawing as needed.

Gather kids where they can see the whiteboard. **At the very beginning of the Bible, the book of Genesis tells the story of God's creation of the world.** Invite one kid to the whiteboard to draw the world. Encourage her to keep it simple by making a basic circle with one or two blob-like landmasses in it. Have her return to her seat when finished.

God made humans last of all He created. He made people, male and female, in His own image, and God told them to bring order to all He had made. Invite two kids to each draw a stick-figure person—one man and one woman—next to the world. **But humans chose to disobey God and to sin instead. Sin and death had entered the world.** Invite them to draw sad faces on their stick people; then have them return to their seats.

So, God put a plan into action to restore His creation and bring blessing to the whole earth. God's plan involved a man named Abram who lived in a city called Ur. Invite one kid to draw a stick figure man about one foot from the previous stick people. Have him return to his seat, and label the man "Abram."

One day something unexpected happened to Abram. The one true God spoke to him and said, "Leave your home and go to a different land that I show you." Abram was already an old man

when God talked to him. He and his wife, Sarai, didn't have any children. Leaving home would mean giving up everything they knew—their family, their friends, and the place they lived all their lives. Invite one kid to draw a stick figure woman next to Abram. As the kid returns to his seat, label the figure "Sarai" and write "Ur" above Sarai and Abram.

God said, "I will bless you ... [and] All nations on earth will be blessed because of you" (Genesis 12:2–3). Through Abram, God was going to bless the whole world! Abram believed God's words and obeyed. He packed up all his things and took his wife and his nephew, Lot, and left for this new land he had never seen. Draw an arching arrow from Abram and Sarai at "Ur" to another part of the whiteboard. Invite three kids to draw three stick figures—one woman and two men—next to the arrow. These figures represent Abram, Sarai, and Lot. But when they arrived, people were already living in the land called Canaan. Write "Canaan" next to the three new stick figures. That didn't seem to matter to God though because God had a plan. He promised Abram, "I will give you this land to have as your own ... You will own it forever and so will all your family after you" (Genesis 15:7; 17:8). It must have been hard for an old man with no children to believe this promise, but Abram still trusted God.

Over time, God started to make Abram wealthy with lots of sheep and cattle. Invite one or more kids to draw sheep and cattle; then have them return to their seats. But Abram said to God, "How are you still going to use my family to bless the world if I don't have any children?" So God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can" (Genesis 15:5). Invite several kids to draw stars all over the top half of the whiteboard. They can keep drawing stars as you continue: Abram, of course, could not count all the stars shining in the night sky. Have kids return to their seat. Then God said, "That's how many children will be born into your family" (Genesis 15:5). Point to the stars drawn on the board. Even though Abram didn't have a single child, God still planned to give him an enormous family.

God made an unbreakable promise, called a covenant, with Abram. God told him that one day his family would have all the land He had promised, and that Abram would have children. God told Abram that his wife, Sarai, was going to have a baby even though she seemed too old. Abram couldn't help himself; he laughed at God's words! He had trusted God by leaving his home, and he had waited for years while getting older and older, but having a baby just seemed impossible. Invite a kid to draw a baby next to the stick figures in Canaan.

To remind Abram of the promise, the covenant, God changed his name to Abraham, which means "a father of many nations" (Genesis 17:5). Label one of the stick figure men in Canaan "Abraham." God gave Sarai a new name too—she became Sarah, the "mother of kings." Label the stick figure woman in Canaan "Sarah." Even their names would signal that God had a plan for their family.

So, Abraham and Sarah continued to place their faith in God. They trusted that somehow God was going to make a way. Nothing would stop God's plan to bless the world through the family of Abraham and Sarah. God has a plan. Step back to admire the full picture on the whiteboard and thank everyone who helped to create it.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HAS A PLAN**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

When the first two humans—Adam and Eve—disobeyed God, sin entered the world. But God had a plan to fix everything that was broken by sin. As part of His plan, God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. Many years later, Jesus was born in Abraham's family line. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God fulfilled His plan to fix what sin had broken.



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What an amazing story! What stood out to you about this part of God's big story? Allow kids to answer freely. Consider sharing your answers, too.

If God spoke to you like He did to Abram and asked you to make a big change, how would you respond? What questions might you have? Give the kids a chance to reflect and respond. It's OK to have some time in silence as they think through their answers.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: I Could Sing of Your Love Forever

Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: God had a plan for Abraham and Sarah, and He has a plan for you! May you always trust God as He directs your steps.

Small Group: Responding in Worship Activity

Instruct Small Group Leaders to open to the last page of their guide to finish their time with the Responding in Worship Activity.