



ELEMENTARY SMALL 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

- Welcome Question: If you were moving to a new town and could only pack three things, what would you pack?
- Curiosity Questions
- God's Big Story
- Word of Wonder
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Starry Sky
- Preteen Responding in Worship: My Future in God's Hands
- Optional Craft for Younger: Let there be stars



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.

Small 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

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

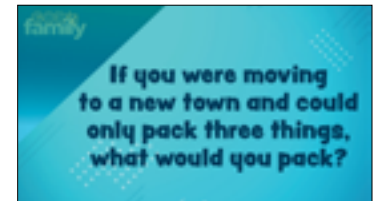
As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- If you were moving to a new town and could only pack three things, what would you pack?
- Have you ever had to move or make a big change? Tell about it.
- Have you ever felt uncertain about what was going to happen next? Tell about it.



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible; Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)

WORD OF WONDER (younger)

Before You created the whole world, You are God. You will always be God.

--from Psalm 90:2

WORD OF WONDER (older)

Before you created the whole world and the mountains were made, from the beginning to the end you are God. In world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

—Psalm 90:2 (NIRV)

The Word of Wonder for the God's Family series is from Psalm 90:2. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

For younger kids: Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BEFORE YOU CREATED**—Point your thumb backward over your shoulder.
- **THE WHOLE WORLD**—Start with your arms and hands above your head in a circle, moving down to your sides.
- **YOU ARE GOD**—Point up with both hands; three times (once for each word).
- **YOU WILL ALWAYS**—Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.
- **BE GOD**—Point up.
- **FROM PSALM 90:2**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Our Word of Wonder tells us how big and powerful God is. God is so powerful that He made light! He made the whole world. He made plants, animals, and people. He made the sun, moon, and stars. If God could make all the stars, He could make Abraham's family have as many people in it as stars in the sky. Our Word of Wonder reminds us God is big and powerful enough to do anything, even things that seem hard or impossible!

Invite a kid to help you lead the others in saying the verse. Each time the group says "world" or "God," invite the kids to clap. Repeat the activity until everyone claps on the right words.

Older Kids: discuss these questions:

- **What is something big and powerful that God has done? Or something big that you think God can do?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: creating the world, sending Jesus for us, forgiving us.)
- **What is something God made that you love?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: their family, the earth, flowers, food, the sun, etc.)

Leader Tip: If a kid names something God enabled people to make, such as pizza or toys, respond with a comment such as, "God made wheat for the crust and tomatoes for the sauce!" Or "We can thank God that we can enjoy toys!"

Word of Wonder Activity

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), basket or container (1 per small group)

RESOURCES: Silly Voices Sheet (1 copy per small group),

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Silly Voices Sheet for each small group and cut apart the slips. Fold the slips and put each set of slips in a basket or container for each small group.



Today we learned about God’s promise to Abraham. God had a plan for Abraham, and He has a plan for each of us—what an amazing God! Now let’s practice our Word of Wonder using different silly voices.

Hold up the basket or container of silly voices slips. Explain that in the basket are slips of paper with different silly voices written on them. Kids will take turns pulling a slip, and everyone will say the Word of Wonder in whatever voice is on that slip. For your reference, these are the silly voices included on the Silly Voices Sheet: robot voice, monster voice, baby voice, farmer voice, mouse voice, rock star voice, slow-motion voice, 100-year-old voice.

Play until all the kids have had a chance to pull a slip or all eight slips have been used.

For Older Kids: Hold up the basket and explain:

In here are different silly voices and styles of speaking. When it’s your turn, you’ll pull a slip, and we’ll all say the Word of Wonder together in that style. Your job is to commit to it and make us laugh—without losing the words of the verse! Our goal is to say the verse as many fun ways as possible, so we’ll remember it.

- Add a few “acting” styles they’ll think are funny: superhero voice, announcer voice, game show host, spy whisper, sports commentator, dramatic movie trailer, beatbox rhythm.
- Let kids suggest 1–2 of their own silly voice ideas to add to the basket.
- Turn it into a team challenge: keep score for “most dramatic,” “most accurate words,” or “funniest voice” and let the group vote after each round.
- Encourage them to mix voices if they draw one they’ve already done—this keeps older kids from getting bored.

God’s Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); Sticky Notes or Tabs (3 per kid)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Genesis 12, 15, 17. Show them how to use the sticky notes or tabs to mark each one.

As kids find the passage, explain that The book of Genesis is the very first book of the Bible, and it tells us how God created the world and began His special plan to rescue people. In today’s story, a man named Moses is writing about something that happened a long time before he was alive. We’ll read about a man named Abram—later called Abraham—who lived thousands of years ago. God gave Abram a big promise: to bless him, give him a family, and make him part of God’s plan to bless the whole world. Abram didn’t know exactly how God would do it, but he chose to trust Him.

Passage: Genesis 12:1–5; 15:1, 5–6; 17:1–7.

For Older Kids: Before reading, turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand more about the context of this passage. Consider having confident readers read parts of the passage.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids

In God's big story we heard today, we learned about God's plan for Abraham. It may have seemed impossible for Abraham to have as many kids in his family as stars in the sky ... especially because he was an old man without any children! But God is powerful and can do anything! God has a plan for us too. Let's do an activity to remember that God has a plan for us.

Use this adaptation of "Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?" to reinforce the Wonder Truth: God Has a Plan. Have the kids sit in a circle. Begin the chant below, naming one of the kids in the circle. Invite the kids to chant along with you.

Leader: [Kid's name]! God has a plan. He has a plan for you!

Kid: Who me?

Leader: Yes, you!

Kid: Yippee!

Leader: Now, who?

That person will name another kid from the circle. Repeat the chant using that kid's name. Continue until all the kids have been named. Ask a question from the list below after the last kid has said, "Yippee!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What parts of your day do you help plan? Do you ever help plan where you will go play, what you will wear, or what you will eat?
- Abram had to pack up and move as part of God's plan. Have you ever had to pack up and leave someplace? How did that make you feel? Sad? Excited? Scared?
- God promised Abraham he would have children, but Abraham had to wait a long time. What's something you had to wait a long time for? What did it feel like to have to wait?
- What did God tell Abram to count to know how many children would be in his family?
(the stars)
- Have you ever looked at the stars at night? What did you see? How many stars do you think there are in the sky?
- What is one thing God promised you? (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: To always be with us, to forgive us, to love us.)

God had a plan for Abraham, and He has a plan for us too. His plan is for us to know Him through His Son, Jesus. God's promise to Abraham came true. We can trust God! Let's talk to God now in prayer and thank Him for His plan.

PRAYER TIME: Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for having a plan

Small Group Discussion: Elementary

- **When God spoke to Abram, what did God tell him to do?** (Leave his home and go to a different land that God would show him.)
- **Have you ever had to wait a long time for something you wanted to happen? Tell us about it. How did you feel as you waited?**
- **What was God's promise to Abram and Sarai?** (Abram and Sarai would have a baby even though they were very old.)
- **How do you think Abram and Sarai felt as they waited for God's promise to happen?**
- **Does God keep all His promises? How do you know?** (Yes! The Bible shows us.)
- **How does it make you feel to know that God has a plan for your life too?**

Even when Abram didn't know exactly what would happen next, he still trusted God and obeyed Him. God has a plan for each of us too! Even if we can't see exactly how He is working, we can trust that He loves us and will keep His promises. Let's talk to God in prayer!

Make It Inclusive: While open-ended questions prompt many kids to think deeply, they can be difficult for some kids to understand and answer. Modify questions by offering two answers for kids to choose from. For example: "What was God's promise to Abram and Sarai? To give them a new camel or to give them a baby?"

Preteen Questions

- **What big change did God tell Abram to make? How did Abram respond?** (God told Abram to leave his home and go to a different land God would show him. Abram believed God and obeyed Him.)
- **What was God's promise to Abram? What obstacles stood in the way of the promise coming true?** (God would give Abram's family the land of Canaan, Abram would have many children or descendants, God would bless the world through his family, and Abram's wife, Sarai, would have a baby. There were already people living in Canaan, and Abram and Sarai were very old and didn't have any children.)
- **What did God change Abram and Sarai's names to? What did their new names tell them about God's plan?** ("Abraham" and "Sarah." Reread Genesis 17:5, 15–16.)
- **Have you ever had to wait a long time for something you wanted? What happened? What helped you to have hope?**
- **How do you know that nothing can stand in the way of God's plan? How does that make you feel?**
- **When it's difficult to see God's plan, what are some things you can do to increase your trust in Him?**

Because God knows, loves, and leads you, you'll never have to tackle the tough stuff in life alone. Let's thank God for His love and ask Him to help us follow Him. Let's pray together now.

Leader Tip: Pause after each question for kids to think and answer. Wait for them, even when the silence feels awkward. Trust the Holy Spirit is working in the quiet!

Leader Tip: While open-ended questions prompt many kids to think deeply, they can be difficult for some kids to understand and answer. Modify questions by offering two answers for kids to choose from. For example: “What big change did God tell Abram to make? To leave his home and go to a different land God would show him or to sell all his camels and buy goats instead?”

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share their prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Encourage “popcorn” prayers, where kids pray a one-sentence, out loud prayer. Encourage them to thank God for His plan and for hearing all our prayers!

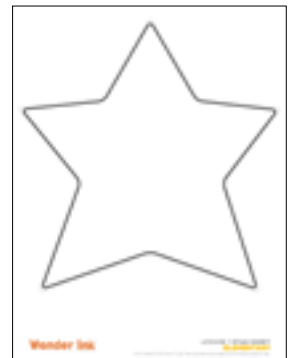
PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

Elementary Responding in Worship: Starry Sky

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), writing utensils, coloring utensils, masking tape, black or dark-blue butcher paper, cardstock (optional), double-sided tape (optional), star cutouts (1 per kid, optional)

RESOURCES: [Star Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), [God’s Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a Star Sheet for each kid, onto cardstock if possible. Cut out each star and have writing and coloring utensils ready to set out. Tape a sheet of black or dark-blue butcher paper to the wall where kids can reach it. The butcher paper will need to be large enough for all the kids to tape their stars to it. Alternatively, purchase star cut-outs that kids can write and draw on.



Leader Tip: You don’t have enough space for a butcher-paper sky? That’s OK! Rather than tape the stars to the sky, invite kids to take their stars home as a reminder that God has a plan, and they can trust Him!

When God told Abram to leave his home and go to a different place that God would show him, Abram packed up all his things, took his wife and nephew, and left for a new land that he had never seen. God didn’t give Abram all the details, and Abram didn’t know exactly what would happen next, but Abram believed God and obeyed Him!

Hand a precut star from the Star Sheet to each kid, and hold up one star.

These stars remind us of the night when God took Abram outside and told him to count the stars. Have you ever tried to count the stars at night? Pause for kids to respond. **When God told Abram to count the stars, Abram couldn’t! There were too many stars! God told Abram that there would be as many children and grandchildren born into his family as there are stars! And sure enough, God would keep His promise to Abram. Abram didn’t always know what would happen next, but He trusted God’s plan. God has a plan for each of us too, and even when we don’t know what to expect, we can trust Him!**

promise to Abram. Abram didn't always know what would happen next, but He trusted God's plan. God has a plan for each of us too, and even when we don't know what to expect, we can trust Him!

Invite kids to write or draw something about their life that they are unsure about. It can be something they are facing now—like starting a new sport or activity—or something about their future—like what they want to do when they grow up. Play music from the [God's Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids work.

When kids finish, invite them to tape their stars to the butcher paper as a symbol that they trust God and His plan for them. (Be available to help kids with the tape.) If possible, keep the butcher-paper sky and stars on the wall throughout the God's Family series as a reminder that God has a plan!

Preteen Responding in Worship: My Future in God's Hands

SUPPLIES: table, pitchers or jugs, water, disposable cups (1 per kid), large bucket, trash can, tarp or disposable tablecloth (optional)

RESOURCES: [God's Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, set one or more pitchers or jugs of water on a table at one end of the room. (You will need enough water to fill a disposable cup for each kid.) Set disposable cups near the water (1 per kid). On the other end of the room, set a bucket that is large enough to hold all the water from kids' cups. Place a trashcan near the bucket. Consider placing a tarp or disposable tablecloth under the bucket in case any of the water spills.

God asked Abram to move from a familiar place to a place that God would show Him. Although Abram couldn't see the whole picture, he trusted God and obeyed.

Open your Bible to Proverbs 16 and have a volunteer read verse 9. **The book of Proverbs in the Bible is full of wise words. Proverbs 16:9 says, "In their hearts human beings plan their lives. But the LORD decides where their steps will take them."**

What is something you are hoping or dreaming for in your life now? Allow kids to answer and share an answer of your own. It might be something they are hoping for this week or this year.

What is something you are hoping or dreaming for in the future? Give kids time to think quietly before sharing with the group. They might share what they want to do when they grow up or something they hope for when they are a teenager or an adult. Share a dream for your future too!

Abraham must have had ideas about what his life would be too. But God's instructions and promises changed his course. We all love a happy ending, don't we? We love seeing how everything is going to work out. As Abraham followed God, it didn't always look like there would be a "happy ending." But through it all, God had a perfect plan and was directing Abraham's steps. Our next activity will help us think about these things.

Go to the table and pour a cup of water. Hold it up for kids to see. **In a moment, as the music plays, you will have a chance to come to the table and receive a cup of water. Imagine that the water in your cup represents a dream or plan you have for your life.** Slowly walk to the bucket on the other side of the room while holding the cup of water in front of you. **Next, you will carry your cup to the**

other side of the room. As you walk, talk with God. Tell Him about your dream or plan and ask Him to direct your steps. Then when you're ready, you can pour your cup into the bucket as a symbol that you're placing your dreams and plans in God's hands. Pour the water into the bucket.

Play music from the [God's Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Invite kids to come to the table for a cup of water when they're ready. Some kids might not feel ready to release their plans to God and choose to remain seated—that's OK! Pour each kid a cup of water as she comes to the table. If your group is large, invite other leaders to also pour cups of water.

Encourage kids to throw their cups away in the trash can and return to their seats when they're finished

Leader Tip: You can do this activity without water and cups by inviting kids to cup their hands in front of them as a symbol of holding their plans and dreams. Then invite them to walk across the room and open their hands in a “release” motion as a symbol of giving their plans to God and trusting Him.

Optional Craft for Younger: Let There Be Stars

SUPPLIES: dark blue or black construction paper (1 sheet per kid), white crayons, white chalk, foil star stickers or adhesive sequins

Invite the kids to close their eyes and imagine the night sky. Give each kid a sheet of dark blue or black construction paper. Have them use the crayons and chalk to draw a bunch of stars—too many to count. Give each kid a few foil star stickers or sequins to add as a finishing touch

God promised Abraham there would be as many people in his family as there are stars. God had big plans for Abraham and his family. God has big plans for you too! Whenever Abraham needed to remember God's promise, he could just look up at the stars. You can do the same thing! The stars in the sky help us remember how big and powerful God is and that He has big plans for you!

Leader Tip: Encourage the kids to practice drawing asterisk stars. Also encourage them to explore different ways of drawing stars and to use both chalk and crayons.

You can take your paper home to help you remember that like God had a plan for Abraham, God has a plan for you too.