



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, You are God. You will always be God.  
—from Psalm 90:2

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- Play Stations:
  - Packing Up!
  - Counting Stars Sensory Bag
  - God's Promise to Abraham Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: From Psalm 90:2
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Who, Me? Yes, You!
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Can You Count the Stars?
- Closing Game: What Did I Forget to Pack?



God's Family Preschool Spotify playlist



## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### 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:** From 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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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:** From Psalm 90:2

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** kid backpacks or small suitcases (several); assortment of items to pack in the suitcases such as clothes, toys, and books; gallon-sized resealable freezer bags (2–3); 16-ounce bottles of clear hair gel (1 per freezer bag); assorted colors of foil star confetti; duct tape; coloring utensils; clean pairs of socks (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [God's Promise to Abraham Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?**

#### Play Station: Packing Up!

**Set up:** Set out a few backpacks or small suitcases along with clean clothing items, toys, and small books.

**Play:** Invite the kids to pretend they're packing to go on a trip. Ask what they would bring and encourage them to pack the backpacks or suitcases. For more of a challenge, include (clean!) mismatched socks for them to pair up, pack, and put in the suitcase.

#### Play Station: Counting Stars Sensory Bag

**Set up:** Ahead of time, fill a few gallon-sized resealable freezer bags with 16 ounces of clear hair gel. Sprinkle in colored foil star confetti. Seal each bag and then use duct tape to prevent the top from opening. Tape each bag to the table.

**Play:** Let the kids squish the bag with the gel and move the stars around. How many stars can they count? What colors do they see? How many of each color can they find?

#### Play Station: God's Promise to Abraham Coloring Sheet

**Set up:** Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a night sky.

**Leader Tip:** Show the kids how to make simple asterisk stars. Count each line as you draw it to reinforce counting and help kids remember how to draw the stars.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible; small handbell, triangle, or service bell

### WORD OF WONDER

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

—from Psalm 90:2

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

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!

After introducing the verse and motions, invite a kid to help you lead the others in saying the verse. Provide the kid with a small bell or let the kids take turns holding the bell. Each time the group says "world" or "God," invite the kid to ring the bell. Repeat the activity so every kid has a turn leading the others and ringing the bell.

Gather kids to 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!"

## God's Big Story / Snack

**SUPPLIES:** [Laugh and GrowBible](#)

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible, and what do I see?** (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

**Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the book of Genesis in the Bible. That's the first book of the Bible.**

[Read pages 42-47 in the Laugh and GrowBible.](#)

## Circle Time: Who, Me? Yes, You!

**In the 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.)

## Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

## Responding in Worship: Can You Count the Stars?

**SUPPLIES:** star projector night-light (optional), yellow construction paper (optional), scissors (prep only, optional), tape (optional)

**RESOURCES:** music from the [God's Family Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

If you have a star projector night-light, set it up in place where all the kids will be able to see the stars on the ceiling. Have the kids lie on their backs in an open, carpeted area on the floor. Dim the lights. If you don't have a star projector, you can tape stars to the ceiling or give each kid a Starry Sky Sheet to look at and pretend they're stargazing.

**We've learned today about God's plans for Abraham. Let's take a minute to be still and quiet and think about how big God is. He planned the stars in the sky. He has plans for you!**

**When I start the music, think about how God made the stars. Think about how He made you. You can even quietly pray and talk to God as you listen to the song. Remember God's promise to Abraham about the stars. You can thank God for making the stars, the sun, the moon, and the earth. You can thank Him for making you! God loves it when you talk with Him.**

Play music from the [God's Family Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) as the kids look at the stars.

**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.**

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.

## Closing Game: What Did I Forget to Pack?

**SUPPLIES:** backpacks or small suitcases from Curiosity, clothes and toys from Curiosity play station

Set out the backpacks or suitcases, clothes, and toys from the Curiosity play station. Choose a few items to pack. Lay out each item one by one in front of a suitcase. Have the kids name each item as you point to it, then have them close their eyes or turn around as you pack the suitcase.

**In today's story, Abraham left his home and went where God told him to go. God had a plan for Abraham, and God has a good plan for your life too! We can trust God. Let's pretend to pack a suitcase to help us remember this story.**

Choose one item to hide behind your back instead of packing it. Have the kids open their eyes. Invite a kid to unpack everything. Ask the kids to name the item that is missing. Repeat the activity with a different set of items to pack. Increase the number of items for more of a challenge.

**Leader Tip:** To help the kids remember what is being packed, point to the items and name them, saying it in a rhythm several times: "Shirt, pants, book, socks. Shirt, pants, book, socks ..."