

God Promises Abram a Son

Genesis 15

4

Lesson



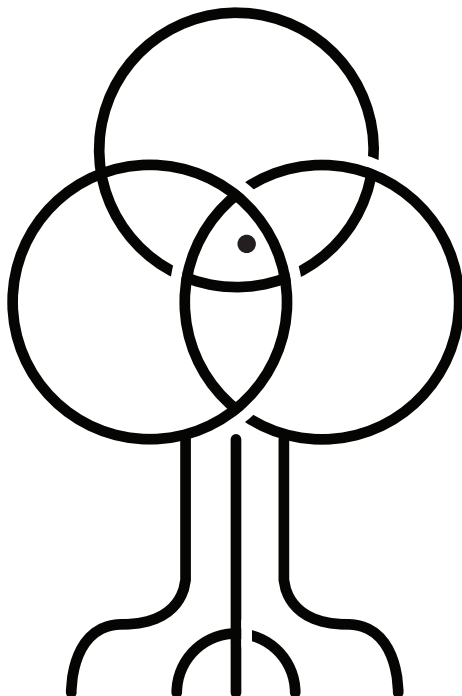
Teacher Background

What Happens: Abram is an old man with no children. But God makes an amazing promise: to give him more descendants than there are stars in the sky. Wow! Abram believed God, and God kept his promise. God keeps his promises to us, too.

Why It Matters: Kids, like all of us, have experienced a broken promise. They're learning that they can't always trust people to do what they say. Help them see that they *can* trust God because God always keeps his amazing promises to us.

Think About: When have you broken a promise? When have you kept a hard promise?

Pray that your kids will trust God to keep his promises.



Point

God keeps his promises to us.



Key Verse

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

QUICK TIP

Set an example of keeping promises. If you see a child raising his hand and you say, “I’ll come back to you later,” make sure you do. If you tell someone you’ll watch the YouTube video she recommended, make a note to check it out that week and then follow up with the child the following week. As you keep your promises, you’ll show kids what God is like.

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS

KIDS DISCOVER

SUPPLIES

SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.	
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Explore God's promises to Abram and to us.	Three amazing promises God makes to us.	Bible Blue Construction Paper (1/Kid) Sharpened Pencils (1/Kid)
PLAY A GAME Pass a hula hoop, trying not to break the circle.	That God doesn't break promises.	Hula hoop Upbeat music (optional) Music player (optional)
ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE Complete partial pictures.	That God finishes what he starts.	Activity Page (1/Kid)
EXPLORE MORE Practice standing firm in God's promises.	How God's promises can help in hard times.	
PRAY TOGETHER Go on a prayer walk.	That God promises to hear our prayers.	



CELEBRATE SMALL

In Kid's Club, you have an advantage! You may already know kids' families. This is a great chance to find out more about their cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents!



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we're going to learn about a promise God made to a man in the Bible named Abram. ➡ **God keeps his promises to us.** God's promise to Abram was about his family, so let's talk about our families.

ASK: How many members of your extended family have you met? What are their names? Share your own quick story first to help kids understand what you mean by "extended," then let everyone share!

SAY: God gave us our families. And he kept his promise to Abram to give him a big family. Let's look at that promise and other promises God makes to us in the Bible.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible
- blue construction paper
- sharpened pencils

MAKE STARS

SAY: Today we're going to learn that ➡ **God keeps his promises to us.**

ASK: Tell about a promise you kept. Share your own example first, then let everyone share.

SAY: In our true Bible story today, God made some promises to a man named Abram, but Abram didn't get what he was promised right away. Let's see what God promised and how God kept his promises.

Give everyone a pencil and a piece of blue construction paper.

SAY: Abram was a very, very old man, and he didn't have any children. That meant that when he died, all of his belongings and land would go to one of his servants. He wished he had a son. Listen to God's first promise.



Read Genesis 15:5.

SAY: God promised Abram not only a son but also a family so big that there'd be more people than stars in the sky! Let's make starry skies to remember this promise.

- Let kids use their pencils to poke a lot of holes in their construction paper.

- When they hold the paper up to the light, they'll see a starry sky.
- Collect the pencils, and have kids hold their papers.

SAY: God kept his promise. About 15 years later, Abram's wife had a son.

Then that son had kids, and those kids had kids, and those kids had kids, and on and on and on! Today, there are millions of people who are part of Abram's family.

Lead kids in holding up their papers to show all the stars.

SAY: It took a long time, but God kept his promise to Abram, and ➡ **God keeps his promises to us.** In John 1:12, God promises that when we believe in Jesus, we can be in God's family!

WALK LIKE AN OLD MAN

SAY: Let's check out another promise God made to Abram.



Read Genesis 15:15.

SAY: What a great promise! Abram was going to live a long life and then die peacefully. Abram was already old when God made this promise, but he was going to get *really, really* old.

Lead kids in walking like old men.

SAY: God definitely kept his promise to Abram. He lived to be 175 and died peacefully. God makes promises to us about living *forever*.

➡ **God keeps his promises to us,** and in John 3:16 he promises we can live forever when we believe in Jesus. We can go to heaven and have eternal life.

Lead kids in running across the room and trying to push the wall out of the way to show "forever."

EXPLORE ANOTHER PROMISE

SAY: God made other promises to Abram. God promised Abram's kids would have an awesome land to live in. It took hundreds of years and some hard times before that happened...but God kept his promise!

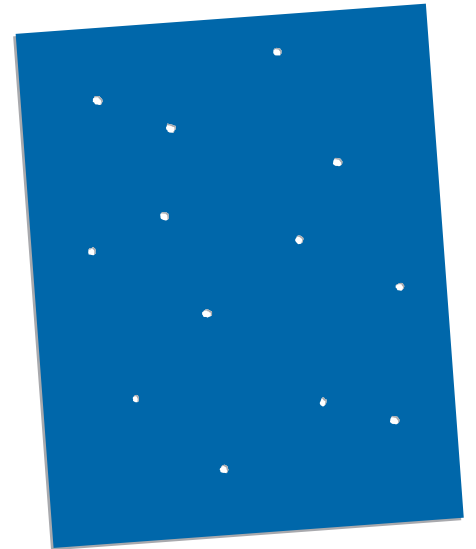
Lead kids in a brief walk around the room. Then lead kids in jumping up and down in their new home.

SAY: When we go through hard times, God has a promise for us. In Romans 8:28, God promises to work things together for good when we love him!

ASK: What does this promise mean to you?

SAY: ➡ **God keeps his promises to us,** so we can trust that he'll work things out even when things aren't going well.

PRAY: God, thank you that you promise to let us be a part of your family, to live with you forever, and to work things out for good. Thank you for keeping all of your promises! In Jesus' name, amen.





PASS THE HULA HOOP

SAY: Today we're learning that God promised to give Abram a son. We're also discovering that ➡ **God always keeps his promises.** Let's think more about keeping promises as we play a game.

- Have leaders and kids form a circle. Put a child's arm through the hula hoop. Then have kids hold hands with the people standing next to them.
- Explain that the object of the game is to pass the hula hoop around the entire circle without breaking the circle or letting go of each other's hands.
- Then allow time for kids to pass the hula hoop.
- If you'd like, play music as kids play.
- Once kids have passed the hula hoop around the circle without letting go of each other's hands, play again a few times.
- If you'd like to add a challenge, make the game more difficult by having kids kneel while passing the hula hoop or pass it with their eyes closed.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How hard was it not to break the circle?

ASK: Why is it sometimes easier to break a promise than to keep it?

SAY: It would've been easier to pass the hula hoop if we had broken the circle and let go of each other's hands. In our own lives, sometimes it's easier to break promises than to keep them. However, like Abram learned, we know that ➡ **God keeps his promises to us** even when they seem hard—or impossible—to us!

SUPPLIES

- hula hoop
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CELEBRATE SMALL

A circle doesn't have to be huge! Even if you have just one or two kids and one or two leaders, you can form a small circle and pass the hoop around and around.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- “God Promises Abram a Son” Activity Page (1 per child)
- pencils
- crayons

Distribute activity pages and pencils.

SAY: ➡ **God keeps his promises to us.** That means he is faithful to finish what he starts. He always does what he says he’ll do. He said he’d give Abram a child, and he did!

But God isn’t the one who started these pictures, so they’re only half done! Let’s finish them to show how God finishes what he starts.

Have kids complete the pictures.

ASK: Tell about a time you said you’d do something—and forgot to do it.

ASK: How does it help to know God *doesn’t* do that?

SAY: When God makes a promise, we know we can count on it to happen. God finishes what he starts. ➡ **God keeps his promises to us.** He’ll always love us, always forgive us, and always be with us.



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



CELEBRATE SMALL

One advantage of a smaller group is that you may be able to safely take them out of the classroom and lead them in a walk around your church as you pray.

SAY: Today we’re discovering that ➡ **God keeps his promises to us.** God has promised to always be with us and to hear our prayers.

When we pray, we don’t always have to sit super still. God likes talking and walking with us, too!

Let’s take a prayer walk around our room. As we walk, we’ll talk with God. You can just think the words you want to say to God or whisper them aloud. In this case, it’s OK if we all talk at once—God hears us all!

As you walk slowly around the room, you might see something that makes you think of a prayer request. Like when you see a table and chair, you might think of your desk at school and ask God to help you learn new things. Or you might see toys and ask God to help you and your friends get along as you play.

Explain that you’ll give kids two minutes, and they can walk anywhere around the room as they pray. After two minutes, have kids stop walking.

PRAY: Dear God, may we remember your promise to be with us, and may we keep walking and talking with you all throughout this day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

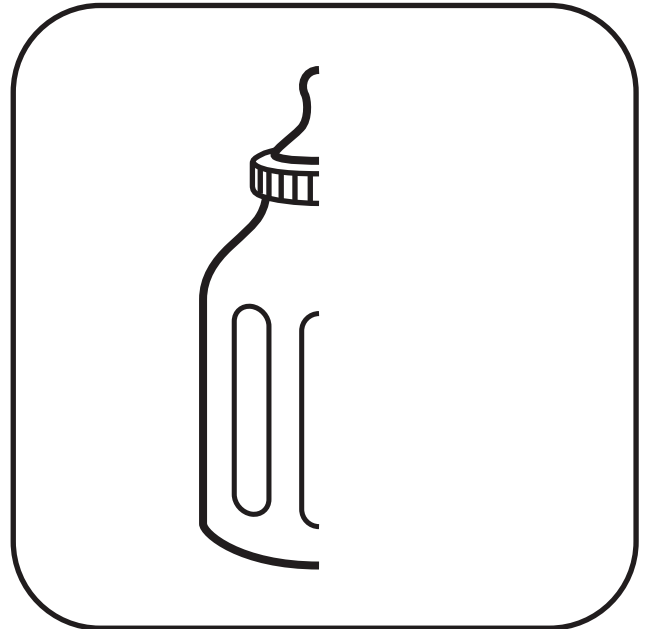
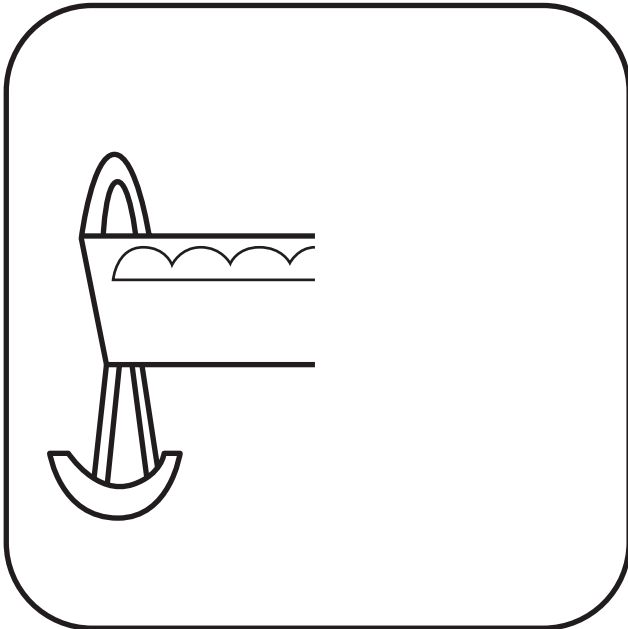
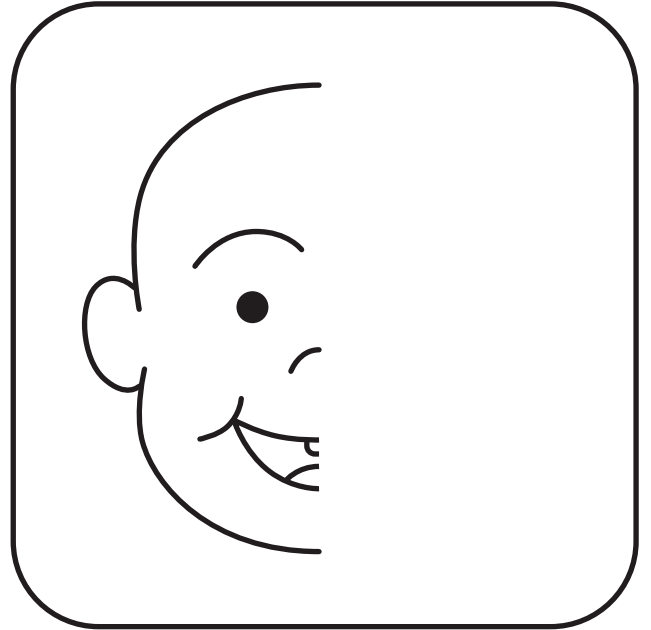
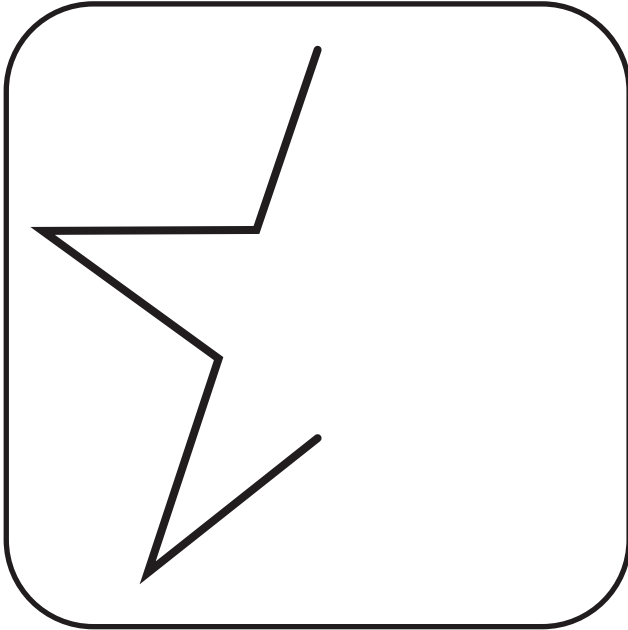
ASK: Where else will you walk today?

SAY: Wherever we go, God has promised to be with us! And God promised to hear our prayers. We know these things are true because ➡ **God keeps his promises to us.**

God Promises Abram a Son

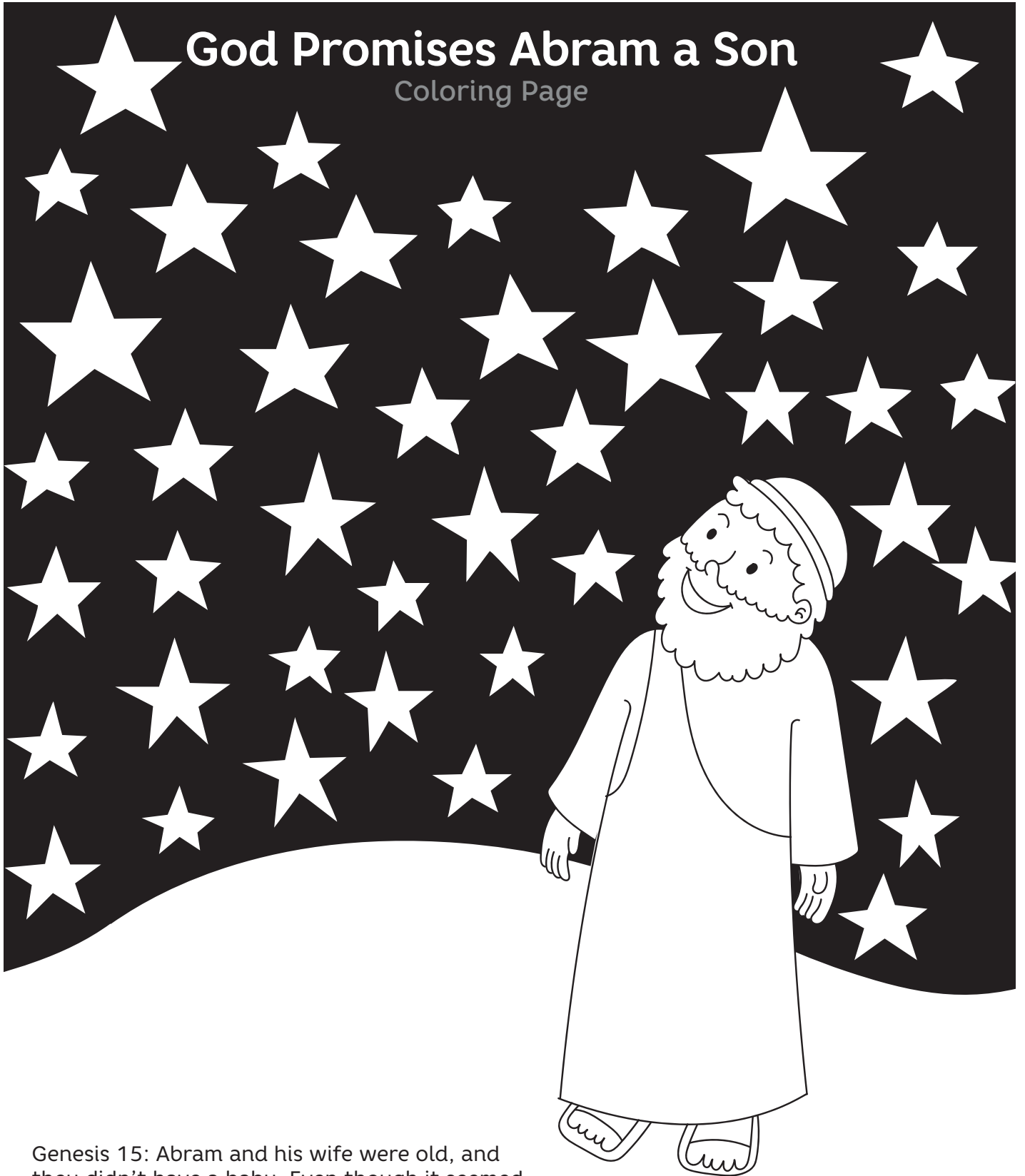
Activity Page

Oops! Our artist forgot to finish these drawings! Can you help?



God Promises Abram a Son

Coloring Page



Genesis 15: Abram and his wife were old, and they didn't have a baby. Even though it seemed impossible, God promised Abram they would have a baby—and more grandkids and great-grandkids than there are stars in the sky! Abram believed God because *God keeps his promises to us.*

EXPLORE MORE (10 MINUTES)



SAY: God's promises are amazing! And we can trust that ➔ **God keeps his promises to us.** The Bible reminds us of the hope that comes from God's promises.

✝ Read Hebrews 10:23.

SAY: The opposite of wavering is standing firm. Let's think more about how God's promises help us stand firm.

Have kids spread out within your space so they can move around without bumping into one another.

SAY: Start by standing on your tiptoes. Stay up as tall as you can. Pause.

When you stand that way, you can fall over pretty easily. It doesn't feel totally safe. Now imagine your family just moved and you have to go to a new school. You might feel a bit nervous. Your heart may feel a bit like your body feels right now.

But God has a promise for you. Stand with both feet firmly on the ground while I read it. Pause.

✝ Read Matthew 28:20.

When you hold tightly to this promise, you can trust God and stand firm.

Let's try another one. Stand on one foot. Wait for everyone to be on one foot.

Now imagine your best friend just told you he or she doesn't want to be friends anymore. You might feel hurt and sad or angry. Your heart might feel wobbly just like your body does.

God has a promise for you! Stand with both feet firmly on the ground again as I read it. Pause.

✝ Read Psalm 34:18.

How about this one? Spin around until I say stop.

After a little spinning, **SAY:** Stop! Feel a little dizzy and off balance? Imagine you found out someone you love is in the hospital. That might make your heart feel off balance, too. But God has a promise for you! Lie down and rest so your dizziness goes away as I read it. Pause.

✝ Read Philippians 4:6-7.

SUPPLIES

- Bible



SAY: Knowing God's promises are there to comfort you can help you trust him and stand firm.

ASK: Tell us about a time you've felt scared or hurt. If kids need help getting started, share a brief example of your own.

SAY: Everyone goes through hard things at one time or another. But if we remember that ➡ **God keeps his promises to us**, we can trust him to help us through.

Dime-Size Hole



Dime-Size Hole

