LESSON 1
ABRAHAM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Keeps His Promises
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15; 17
GOD'S BIG STORY: God chooses to begin a special family through Abraham and his wife, Sarah, promising to bless the whole world through their descendants. However, they're too old to have children, and the promise feels impossible. But God is faithful and keeps His promises in His time!
WORD OF WONDER: And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14b

Object Lesson: Stars in the Sky

Activity: Ice Cube Patience

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

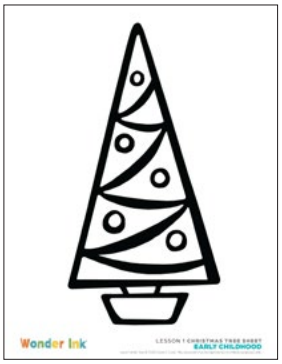
Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Christmas Tree Decorating

Object Lesson: Stars in the Sky

SUPPLIES: star stickers, coloring utensils
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Christmas Tree Sheet (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print a Christmas Tree Sheet for each kid. Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.



Welcome! I'm so glad you're at church today. We're starting a series today to learn about the family tree of Jesus. A *family* tree is a group of people in a family. Let's decorate a different kind of tree now—a Christmas tree! We're also learning about stars, and we'll see what they have to do with the family of Jesus. We can use stars to decorate the tree.

Pass out a Christmas Tree Sheet to each kid. Encourage kids to color the trees.

Those trees look great! They're only missing one thing: a star on top! You can take a star sticker to put at the top of the tree. The star on top will remind us of what we'll learn from God's big story today: that God keeps His promises! Help the kids put star stickers on their pictures.

Activity: Ice Cube Patience

SUPPLIES: ice cube tray, play dough, bin, pitcher of water, picture of an ice cube tray (optional), ice cubes (optional)

> **Leader Tip:** For toddlers who are too young to play with play dough, you can fill a bin with water and let them play in the water with the ice cube tray by pretending to fill it with water.

Set out ice cube trays and play dough. Watch toddlers closely to ensure they don't eat the play dough (or put it in their mouths).

Hold up an ice cube tray. **Sometimes we like cold drinks. Some people might have a button on their refrigerator that makes ice automatically, but some refrigerators don't have that, and people might use these instead.** Hold up an ice cube tray or a picture of one.

First, you fill it with water. Next, you put it in the freezer. And then what do you do? Do you think the ice is ready right away? Allow kids to answer. **That's right! It takes a long time to freeze. You have to wait patiently for water to freeze and turn to ice. Let's make pretend ice cubes by filling the ice cube trays with playdough and making pretend ice cubes.**

Invite the kids to play with the ice cube trays. If you have a way to keep ice cold, you can show the kids ice cubes.

In the story we're going to hear today, God promises a man named Abraham something exciting, but Abraham doesn't get the promise right away. He has to wait for a very long time. Much longer than we have to wait for water to turn to ice! Abraham knew that God would keep His promise, no matter how long it took.

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

KEEPS—*Cross your arms over your chest while making an "x."*

HIS—*Point up.*

PROMISES—*Cup your hands together like a book.*

Worship

Today we'll learn about how God keeps His promises. We can sing and thank God for His faithfulness.

Play songs from Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, baby doll
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Ahead of time, print the Bible Story Picture.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Abraham. Encourage the kids to say, "Abraham." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to him!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

We're learning today about a man named Abraham. When our story starts, his name was actually Abram, and his wife's name was Sarai. The story is found in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. God told Abram that He would give Abram and his family a special land and more family members than he could count! There was just one problem. Abram and Sarai were already old. They were too old to have babies.

God showed Abram the stars in the sky and told him that He would give them more family members than there were stars! God also changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. God told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Hold up the Bible Story Picture. Point to Abraham and Sarah and encourage the kids to say, "Abraham" and "Sarah."

Abraham and Sarah waited many years. Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 90 years old when God told them that the next year they would have a baby. Can you imagine people that old having a baby? Sarah laughed! But sure enough, the next year, Sarah had a baby. God keeps His promises! Hold up the baby doll and pass it around. Let the kids hold and rock the baby doll while you inish.

That baby boy grew up and had kids, and one of them had children who had children. They grew up and had more children. This kept happening. One day, Jesus' family came from that family tree. The Bible tells us that when we trust in Jesus, we're part of God's special family too. It's Abraham's family, and it's God's family. God blessed Abraham because he believed. We're also blessed when we trust God, and we can wait patiently like Abraham because we know that God always keeps His promises.

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Dear God. kids repeat

Thank You for Your love for me. kids repeat

You kept your promises, kids repeat

Just as You said You would. kids repeat

Thank you for our snack today, kids repeat

And for Jesus, who came to save! kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

And he will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14b

Our Word of Wonder for the Jesus Family Tree series is from Isaiah 7:14b Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Open a Bible to Isaiah 7:14b and read the verse.

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

- **AND HE WILL BE—***Point up three times (once on each word).*
- **CALLED—***Cup your hands around your mouth.*
- **IMMANUEL.—***Make prayer hands.*
- **ISAIAH 7:14b—***Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. When I say, "promise," put your hands up in the air.

Dear God, thank You for giving a special promise (hands up in the air) **to Abraham many years ago. Help us believe and trust You the way Abraham did. Thank You for always keeping your promise** (hands up in the air)**. In Jesus' name, Amen**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you go knowing that every promise from God will come true. May you know that you are a part of God's family.

Activity: Christmas Tree Decorating

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), tape or sticky putty, butcher paper or posterboard, marker (prep only), real tree (optional)
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Abraham's Family Tree Sheets



Before kids arrive, print one set of the Abraham's Family Tree Sheets and cut out the ornaments. Adhere a small roll of tape or sticky putty to the back of each ornament. Hang the butcher paper or posterboard on the wall and use a marker to draw a simple Christmas tree. If you have a real tree, you can use a real tree instead of a paper tree.

Set out the ornaments, sticky side up. Let kids each choose an ornament or two to adhere to the Christmas tree. **On each of these ornaments is a person in Abraham's family. We're going to decorate the Christmas tree with members of Abraham's family. We can also hang a picture of Jesus on this tree because Jesus is in Abraham's family. If I had a picture of each of you, I would hang that up also, because each of you is also a part of Abraham's—and God's—family. I'm so thankful that God kept His promise to Abraham and that He keeps all His promises!**

Leader Tip: You can gather pictures of each of the kids in your ministry and tape the pictures to the tree too!