The Jesus Family Tree

ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN LG

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, and promises to bless the whole world through their descendants. 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: The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14

- PRESERVICE
  - OPTION 1 STEM Activity: Rainbow Water
  - OPTION 2 STEM Activity: One Plus One
- Welcome Question: If you could wish for one thing and know it would come true, what would you wish for?
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: December Playlist
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: December Playlist
- Blessing Your Kids



SCAN FOR THIS WEEK'S VIDEO!

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Keeps His Promises
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15; 17
WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Do you ever feel like your desires are too small for God? Like your prayers should be "God, save the nations!" or "God, heal the world!"? Do you feel like your requests reveal to God that you're too bogged down in the little things of life?

I'm curious whether that's how Abram and Sarai felt when asking God for a child. Maybe they felt that they should have been asking for God to move in grander and greater ways in the world instead of "just" blessing their individual family.

But God has never been a God of scarcity. Read Genesis 17:1–8. Not only does God reaffirm His promise to give Abram a child, but He shows that the reach of this promise extends far beyond "just" one man and his wife. From this promise—this child—the entire world will be blessed! God promised to give Abram as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. And from those descendants would come the One who would forever save the world: Jesus Christ.

No plea is too small for God. Give your requests to Him and trust that He will work to bring about His will. After all, He is the God who keeps His promises!

—Callie Bogle
Children's Ministry Associate
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?
The book of Genesis gets its title from the Greek word for *beginning*. Genesis tells the beginning of God's big story. While its author is anonymous, Genesis and the four subsequent books (Exodus through Deuteronomy) are together, often called the Law of Moses.

WHAT?
Genesis 15 and 17 record two stories about God's promise to Abraham that He would give him descendants. God guarantees His promise in these passages by making binding, relational promises called covenants, in which God takes an oath to do what He said.

WHERE?
Both of these stories are set near the oaks of Mamre, which was an ancient holy site near Hebron (20 miles south of Jerusalem). While Abraham and his family lived there, Abraham built an altar and encountered God in that place multiple times.

WHEN?
Abraham settled with his family for a time by the oaks of Mamre (Genesis 13:18), while his nephew Lot lived near Sodom. Abraham had to rescue Lot when Sodom was attacked by fi e kings. The covenants of Genesis 15 and 17 followed this rescue.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:
God chose Abraham and eventually blessed the whole world through him. The rest of the Old Testament follows this family as they often fail in their blessing mission—until we get to Jesus. He's the descendant of Abraham that God's people had been waiting for—God kept His promise!

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Keeps His Promises
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15; 17
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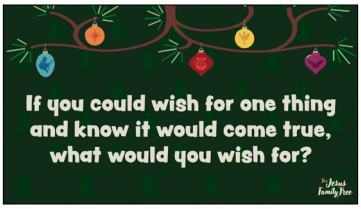
Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between The Jesus Family Tree Series Bumper Video and Countdown Videos to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, display the Abraham Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: "If you could wish for one thing and know it would come true, what would you wish for?" Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Welcome each kid to your group. Introduce yourself and encourage them to introduce themselves to each other. Invite kids to talk about the Welcome Question or to draw their answers. Help younger kids read and understand the question.

At your start time ...

Welcome your group enthusiastically and share your own answer to the Welcome Question: **If you could wish for one thing and know it would come true, what would you wish for?** Then invite several kids to share their answers with the group.

Long ago, God made a promise to a man named Abram, who would later be called Abraham. God promised to give Abram and his wife, Sarai, something that seemed impossible. Do you think God kept His promise? Pause for kids to respond. **That's what we'll discover today!**

OPTION 1 STEM Activity: Rainbow Water

SUPPLIES: table; vegetable oil (any kind); water (enough for 1 cup per 3–4 kids); clear jar with lid; liquid measuring cup; paper plates (1 per 3–4 kids plus 1); rainbow-colored, hard-coated candies (1 handful or more per 3–4 kids); disposable water cups (1 per 3–4 kids)

Allergy Caution: This activity includes possible food allergens!

Make It Inclusive: Some kids will most likely want to eat some of the candy, which is part of the fun! If you have any kids with diabetes, glucose intolerance, sensitivity to food coloring, or similar food sensitivities, have an option on hand that would be suitable for these kids.

Ahead of time, place a table at the front of the room and set the supplies on it. Prepare for this activity by doing it ahead of time so you know what to expect!



Display the Rainbow Water Slide and gather the kids. **Do you know what happens when you combine oil with water?** Give kids a chance to answer and then demonstrate by pouring about one cup of water and then one cup of oil into the jar. The oil will rise to the top. **Water molecules have an electrical polarity, kind of like a magnet. The positive end of one water molecule "sticks" to the negative end of another. Oil molecules have no polarity, so they are repelled by water molecules, like when you try to push magnets together the wrong way.** Place the lid on the jar and shake it vigorously. **Let's set that aside for a few minutes.**

What do you think will happen if I pour oil over these candies? Hold up the candies as kids share their ideas. Then place a few of the candies on a plate and drizzle enough oil to partially submerge them. Invite kids to gather around so they can see. **Nothing but oily candy!**



What do you think will happen if we use water? Invite kids to respond. **Let's find out!** Help kids form groups of 3–4 and give each group a paper plate, a handful of candies, and a disposable cup with water in it. Show kids how to spread the candies out on the plate and pour just enough water to cover them halfway. Invite them to try it themselves and see what happens! The food dye in the coating dissolves, creating a tie-dye effect. Give the kids time to play around with this!



God always keeps His promises! When we put our hope in other things, it's like pouring oil on our plates. But God's promises are like the water that turns our lives into a beautiful, colorful display of His love! Today in God's big story, we'll learn about a man named Abraham, who God made some pretty big promises to. Display the Abraham Wonder Truth Slide. **And like our Wonder Truth says, Abraham learned that GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.**

OPTION 2 STEM Activity: One Plus One

SUPPLIES: table, masking tape, clear jar (1 quart), empty measuring cup (1 cup), tap water (3 cups or more in separate container), marker or pen, paper towel or dish towel, sugar (1 cup), spoon

Ahead of time, place a table at the front of the room and set the supplies on it. If your group is very large, consider setting up multiple lab stations and inviting adult or youth volunteers to lead small groups through the activity at each station.

Make It Inclusive: Kids who are especially energetic, such as those with ADHD, often thrive when they get to help demonstrate STEM experiments. Keep this in mind when choosing your lab assistants for this activity.



Display the One Plus One Slide and gather the kids. **I have a very difficult question for you: What does one plus one equal?** Invite kids to respond freely—and enthusiastically! **Do you think it always equals two, no matter what?** Kids respond freely. **Let's find out!**

Invite a couple of kids to the table to be your lab assistants. Invite them to help you complete the following steps as you explain each one to the group:

1. Put a strip of masking tape on the outside of the jar, from the top to the bottom.
2. Pour one cup of water into the jar.
3. Use a marker or pen to mark the water level on the tape with a "1."
4. Add a second cup of water to the jar.
5. Mark the water level on the tape with a "2."
6. Empty the jar of its water and dry it with a paper towel or dish towel.
7. Pour the sugar into the jar so the top of the sugar is at the "1" mark on the tape.
8. Add one cup of water and stir.



Ask the kids: **Where is the liquid level on the jar now?** Invite kids to respond freely. The water level will be below the "2" on the tape. **So let's get this straight: We added one cup of water to one cup of sugar, and their total was less than two cups! How can that be?** Invite kids to share their guesses and theories. **Though we measured one cup of sugar to pour into the jar, sugar is not actually solid throughout because there are little spaces between the grains. So when we pour water into the sugar, the water moves into those little spaces. In this case, that's why we cannot count on the basic principles of math: One plus one doesn't equal two!**



One thing we can always count on, no matter what, is the promises of God. Today in God's big story, we'll learn about a man named Abraham who learned that no matter what, God keeps His promises! Display the Abraham Wonder Truth Slide. **Today's Wonder Truth is GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.**

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.

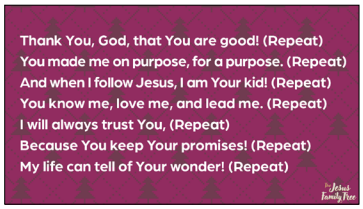
Countdown

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



Display the Abraham Declaration Slide. 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.)

I will always trust You, (Kids repeat.)

Because You keep Your promises! (Kids repeat.)

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

Prayer of Invitation

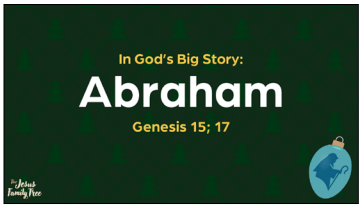
Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **Father God, thank You for giving us the Bible so we can better know Your ways and Your heart. Holy Spirit, help us understand what we read today, and change us from the inside out. Please give us faith to believe that You always keep Your promises in Your time. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God is faithful—He sees us, loves us, and always keeps His promises to us. Let's worship Him now through music.

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

God's Big Story



Display the Abraham Title Slide.

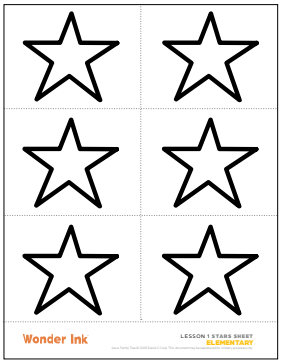
Invite kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 15. Explain that today's story comes from Genesis, the very first book in the Bible. Genesis teaches us about how everything began, how things went wrong, and how God started to make things right.

Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll experience more of the story!

Watch the God's Big Story Video.

LESSON 1 ABRAHAM
EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per 6 kids), scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, masking or painter's tape, butcher or kraft paper (black or dark blue), whiteboard or chalkboard (optional)
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Stars Sheet (1 per 6 kids)



Ahead of time, make one copy of the Stars Sheet onto cardstock for every six kids. Cut the stars apart along the dotted lines. Set the paper stars and coloring utensils somewhere easily accessible. Near the end of this storytelling, kids will create a mural by taping paper stars to a large area that represents the night sky. Prepare a large sheet of black or dark blue butcher or kraft paper and clear off wall space where you will tape it at the end of the story. Set the paper to the side for now. Alternatively, you could tape the stars to a whiteboard, chalkboard, or directly to the wall. (If using one of these alternative options, you won't need a kid volunteer to help with the mural, so adjust the script accordingly.)

I'm very excited because as we talk about God's big story today, we're going to make a mural—a large work of art—full of stars that looks like the night sky. In this mural, you'll provide the stars! Set out coloring utensils and hand a paper star to each kid. **As I begin the story, I invite you to write your name in big, beautiful letters in the center of your star. When you're finished writing, you can set your star and coloring utensils down.**

God made the world and all its creatures, and they were good. But when humans disobeyed God, they hurt their relationship with Him and brought pain and suffering into the world. God had a plan to heal His relationship with humans and the rest of creation—He would bless the whole world through a special family. And one day, God would send His own Son, Jesus, as part of that family line.

The book of Genesis tells the story of how this family God chose began with a man named Abram. Abram lived with his father, siblings, and wife, Sarai, in a land called Harran. One day, God spoke to Abram and promised to give him a new homeland and so many children and grandchildren that he would become a new nation. This was pretty hard to believe, though, because Abram and Sarai didn't have any children, and they were already really old—much too old to have kids! But Abram trusted God, and he set out on a journey to the new land that God promised to give him.

Before we go any further in the story, I need one volunteer to help us make our mural. Choose a kid volunteer to come sit or stand next to you.**Awesome!** To the kid volunteer:**Thanks for helping me make this mural. Have you ever made a mural before?** Pause for the kid volunteer to respond.**OK. We'll need you to make this mural in a certain way. I promise I'll tell you everything you need to know at the right time. For now, let's continue our story!**

Many years passed as Abram traveled, and God blessed him with many possessions and rescued him from difficult circumstances. But Abram still had no children. Since he was afraid of dying without a child, Abram chose his servant, Eliezer (eh-lee-EH-zer)**, to be his heir, the person who would receive his fortune and family name when he died.**

God keeps His promises, so one day He spoke to Abram again and reminded him of His promises. When Abram said that he had already made Eliezer his heir, God replied, "When you die, what you have will not go to this man. You will have a son of your own. He will get everything you have" (Genesis 15:4)**. Then God took Abram outside of his tent and told him, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can ... That's how many children will be born into your family"** (Genesis 15:5)**. Abram trusted God's promise, and God considered Abram's trust in Him to be enough to make their relationship right.**

Wow! God promised Abram as many descendants as there are stars in the sky, which includes children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! As we'll learn later in the story, through Jesus, each of us is invited to be a part of this family—to be spiritual descendants of Abraham. When we follow Jesus, we are the children God told Abraham about! As I continue the story, I invite you to decorate your star in a way that shows something about who you are as a part of God's family. You might color it with a favorite color, draw a self-portrait, or create symbols or designs that reveal something about yourself. Address the kid volunteering to help with the mural, pausing after each question for her to respond: **Do you think you can make the mural now? Do you know what to do? That's OK. I promise to make sure you know what to do when the time is right!**

Kids (including the kid helping with the mural) can decorate their stars as you continue the story. **Back to our story. More years passed, and Abram and Sarai still had no children, so they decided to take matters into their own hands. Abram had a son with Sarai's servant, Hagar. The boy's name was Ishmael, but he was not the child God had promised. God doesn't need our help to fulfill His promises. God always keeps His promises in His perfect way and time.**

When Abram was 99 years old, God came to him and reminded him of His promises again. As a sign of His promise to make a great nation from Abram and Sarai, God gave them new names: *Abraham* and *Sarah*. God would make them the father and mother of nations, and from their family, kings would be born. Even though Abraham was 99 and Sarah was almost 90, God promised that Sarah would give birth to a son named Isaac the next year.

Sure enough, the very next year, Isaac was born. Eventually, Isaac would have his own children, and his grandchildren would lead the 12 tribes of Israel. And from one of those tribes, the tribe of Judah, Jesus—God's own Son—would be born.

Even when it looked unlikely that God's promise to Abraham would be fulfilled—when he and Sarah seemed much too old to have a child—God kept His promises. A great nation was born from Abraham and Sarah! And from their family, God blessed the whole world! God keeps His promises.

What an amazing story! God keeps His promises! He blessed the world through Jesus, who is a descendant of Abraham. And that's not all! When we follow Jesus, we become children of God and part of this family. We're a part of what God told Abraham when He promised him as many descendants as there are stars in the sky!

I think it's time to make our mural! That means that just as I promised, I'll tell our volunteer what to do. Address the kid volunteer directly: **I need you to unroll the paper and help me secure it to the wall with tape so that it can be the night sky.** With the help of the volunteer, tape the paper roll to the wall where kids can reach it. Thank the volunteer and invite her to return to her seat.

Did you notice that I promised our volunteer I would tell her what she needed to know at the right time? What (or who) does that remind you of? Pause for kids to respond. **Yes! Abraham trusted God would do what He promised at the right time!**

Now I invite each of you to add your stars to our mural to make a starry sky that reminds us of God's promise to Abraham. God keeps His promises! Allow kids to tape their stars to the mural. Make the process go more quickly by rolling up pieces of masking or painter's tape for kids to stick on the back of their stars.

Connecting the Wonder Truth



Display the Abraham Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

God chose Abraham and eventually blessed the whole world through him. The rest of the Old Testament follows Abraham's family as they often fail in their mission to bless the world—until we get to Jesus. Jesus was born into Abraham's family. He's the descendant of Abraham who the people had been waiting for. God kept His promise by sending Jesus!

In Awe of God's Wonder

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

What an incredible story! What jumps out to you? Invite kids to think about what they noticed in the story and then share it with a neighbor.

What does this story teach us about God? Give kids a chance to "think out loud" about what God is like. Consider sharing your own answers too.

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: Holy

Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May God give you the faith to believe He always keeps His promises, the patience to wait on His timing, and the joy of knowing that God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus!