

MARCH 30
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM
(GENESIS 12; 15; 17)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God promised to bless all the people in the world through Abraham. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family. God blesses all the people on earth through Jesus because Jesus saves people from their sins.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *Psalm 100:5 "For the LORD is good, and his faithful love endures forever."*

STORY POINT: Abram obeyed God.

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite each child to say his or her name. Say your name and mention that sometimes parents give their children names with special meanings. Share the meaning behind your name if you know what it is.

SAY In today's Bible story, we will learn about a man named Abram. God changed his name to Abraham, which means 'father of many.' Let's find out why God changed Abram's name.

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask the following review questions:

1. *What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)*
2. *What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)*
3. *Did Abram have any children when God told him that he would become a great nation? (No)*
4. *Why did God tell Abram to look at the sky and count the stars? (God made a promise to Abram to let him know that his family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky.)*
5. *Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham? (The name Abraham means "father of many." God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations.)*
6. *Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.*

SAY When God makes a promise, He always keeps it. God made a promise to Abraham to make him the father of many nations. When God made this promise, Abraham did not have

any children. God said that Abraham's family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky. God made a covenant, or special promise, to Abraham that He would give the Land of Canaan to his children. Then, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means 'father of many.' Abraham became the father of many nations. God sent Jesus to be part of Abraham's family. God blessed the world through Jesus, the Savior of the world.

4. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY Say the big picture question and answer with me: Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises. God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations. God promised to bless Abraham with as many family members as there are stars in the sky. He also made a covenant, or special promise, to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's children. God kept His promise when He sent Jesus to be our Savior. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family.

5. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Mention that the child opened the Bible to the middle. Give each child a Bible and assist him in opening it to the middle to find the book of Psalms. Practice a few times. Show preschoolers where the key passage is located by pointing to the big number 100 (chapter) and the little number 5 (verse). Read the key passage aloud.

SAY The book of Psalms is a book of songs and poems that teach us about God and how we should worship, praise, and pray to Him. In today's verse, we learned that God is good, and He will love us forever.

6. PRAY

SAY God, You are good and You always keep your promises. Thank You for loving us. We praise You! Amen.

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

FORM PLAY DOUGH STARS

Set several copies of the "Star Tracing" printable, star-shaped cookie cutters, and containers of play dough on a table. Guide children to flatten out the play dough and use the cookie cutters to make star shapes. Lead other children to shape play dough into logs and trace the stars on the "Star Tracing" printable. (Note: to improve the durability of the printable, consider laminating or covering it in contact plastic.)

SAY God created the beautiful stars in the sky. God promised to give Abraham a family with as many people as there are stars in the sky. God promised to bless all the people in the world through Abraham. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family. God blesses us through Jesus. When we choose to believe and follow Jesus, He saves us from our sins.

MOVE AND SING

Sing "Father Abraham" with toddlers. Demonstrate the motions (right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, and so forth) with the toddlers while you sing. Retell the Bible story.

SAY In our Bible story, God changed Abram's name to Abraham (which means 'father of many'). God made a promise to Abraham. He was going to give Abram a big family! That was an amazing promise! Does God always keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (please send this home with parents)

As children color, review the Bible story.

SAY *God made a promise to Abraham. God promised to bless Abraham and make him the father of many nations. When God made this promise, Abraham did not have any children. God told Abraham to look at the night sky and count the stars, but there were too many stars to count! God said that Abraham's family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Storytelling Props are not included in the blue bin, but you may choose to bring them from home.

STORYTELLING TIPS

- *Hold up stars: Give each child a star cutout to hold or star sticker to place on their hand. Encourage preschoolers to hold up the stars when they hear the word "star" in the Bible story.*
- *Show the nations: Display a world map or globe. Explain the word nations as the countries or areas in the world and its people. When mentioning the word nations, point to a different nation on the map. Review the story by reminding preschoolers that God always keeps His promises. He promised to make Abraham the father of many nations.*

Open your Bible to Genesis 12; 15; 17.. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips.

AGOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

God made a promise to Abram: "I will bless you and make you into a great nation, and the whole world will be blessed through you." Abram knew that in order to become a great nation, he would need to have a child. But he and his wife Sarai had no children. God knew Abram was worried, so he took Abram outside one night and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars."

There were too many stars to count! God said, "Your family will have as many people as there are stars in the sky." This was an amazing promise! Abram believed God's promises.

Then God reminded Abram of another promise: "I will give this land to your children." Abram wanted to be sure. "How will I know this is true?" he asked.

To help Abram know that He would keep His promise, God made a covenant, or special promise, to Abram. God asked Abram to bring a cow, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. Abram cut the animals in half and laid them across from each other. As the sun was setting, and Abram fell into a deep sleep.

As Abram slept, a smoking pot and flaming rod appeared and passed between the animal pieces.

Then, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many." God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations.

Christ Connection: God promised to bless all the people in the world through Abraham. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham's family. God blesses all the people on earth through Jesus because Jesus saves people from their sins.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

MARCH 30
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM
(GENESIS 12; 15; 17)

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus came to earth as part of Abraham's family.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *God is good, and His love is forever. Psalm 100:5*

STORY POINT: Abram obeyed God.

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

SAY Invite each child to say his or her name. Say your name and mention that sometimes parents give their children names with special meanings. Share the meaning behind your name if you know what it is.

SAY In today's Bible story, we will learn about a man named Abram. God changed his name to Abraham, which means 'father of many.' Let's find out why God changed Abram's name.

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Place the Key Passage Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Mention that the child opened the Bible to the middle. Give each child a Bible and assist him in opening it to the middle to find the book of Psalms. Practice a few times. Show preschoolers where the key passage is located by pointing to the big number 100 (chapter) and the little number 5 (verse). Read the key passage aloud.

SAY The book of Psalms is a book of songs and poems that teach us about God and how we should worship, praise, and pray to Him. In today's verse, we learned that God is good, and He will love us forever.

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

STAND UP OR SIT DOWN

Guide toddlers to sit on the floor or in chairs. Call out family member roles and instruct toddlers to stand or sit if those roles are in their families. Include immediate family members, relatives, neighbors, and close friends. Help toddlers see that family can mean more than those we live with in our homes. Be sensitive to toddlers from difficult family backgrounds.

SAY God promised to give Abram a big family. We all have different size families. While some are bigger than others, all families are important to God. We can thank God for our families.

MOVE AND SING

Sing "Father Abraham" with toddlers. Demonstrate the motions (right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, and so forth) with the toddlers while you sing. Retell the Bible story.

SAY In our Bible story, God changed Abram's name to Abraham (which means 'father of many'). God made a promise to Abraham. He was going to give Abram a big family! That was an amazing promise! Does God always keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:

- God made a promise to Abraham.
- God always keeps His promises.
- God promised to send Jesus into Abraham's family.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Genesis 12 and tell the following Bible story:

God made a promise to Abram. God said, "I will bless you and give you a big family. I will bless the whole world." Abram wanted a big family, but he and his wife Sarai did not have any children. One night, God took Abram outside. God said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars." There were too many stars to count! God said, "Your family will have as many people as there are stars in the sky." This was an amazing promise! Abram believed God's promises. Then, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many."

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.