



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 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 are too bogged down in the little things of life?

I’m curious if 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 17:6–8](#). 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 God and trust that He will work to bring about His will. After all, He is a God who keeps His promises!

—**Callie Bogle**

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The book of Genesis gets its title from the Greek word for beginning. The book 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 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 ([Gen 13:18](#)), while his nephew Lot lived near Sodom. Abraham had to rescue Lot when Sodom was attacked by five 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 Bible follows this family as they fail in their blessing mission—until we get to Jesus. He is the descendent of Abraham for whom God's people had been waiting—God kept His promise!



Curiosity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: Christmas gift tags, coloring utensils, ribbon

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

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

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

Play Station: It's All in a Name

Set-up: Lay out Christmas gift tags, coloring utensils and pieces of ribbon

Play: If kids know how, have them write their names on the name tags and decorate them. Kids who can't write their names can simply decorate the tags. Let kids write on and decorate multiple name tags and tie with ribbon.

Play Station: Abraham Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the coloring sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of something exciting that they had to wait for, such as their birthday or Christmas morning.



Belief

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
Dear God, thank You for each kid and leader that is here today. Thank You for Your Word and how You use it to teach us. May the Holy Spirit open our ears and hearts. Teach us more today about how You keep Your promises. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Big Picture Bible p14

The Sons of Abraham

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14 (NIrV)

Gather kids together and encourage them to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HE WILL BE**—*Point up.*
- **CALLED**—*Cup hands around mouth.*
- **IMMANUEL**.—*Make prayer hands (with palms pressed together).*
- **ISAIAH 7:14**—*Hold your hands in front of you with palms together, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- *Immanuel* means “God with us.” How does Jesus show the meaning of this name?
- Do you think God is still with us today? If so, how do you know He's with us?



Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Christmas Tree Decorating

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), butcher paper or posterboard, tape, marker, double stick tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Abraham's Family Tree Sheets](#) (1 set)

Before kids arrive, print one set of the [Abraham's Family Tree Sheets](#) and cut out the ornaments. Hang the posterboard or butcher paper on the wall and use a marker to draw a simple Christmas tree.

Set out the ornaments, allow the children to color them and hang (tape) them on the 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!**



Abraham

Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 ABRAHAM'S FAMILY TREE SHEETS
PART 1

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for keeping His promises.

When I say the word "promise," put your hands together like you're praying.

God, thank You that we are all part of Your great big family and part of Your promise (put hands together as if praying) to Abraham. Thank You for always keeping Your promises (put hands together as if praying)! In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Blessing: May you go with confidence, knowing that every promise from God will be fulfilled. You are a part of God's family, and God keeps every promise He makes because He is faithful.

10:45 Service