



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

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. 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

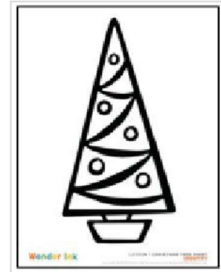
Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Stars in the Sky

SUPPLIES: star stickers, black construction paper (1 per kid), coloring utensils

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

Ahead of time, print one [Christmas Tree Sheet](#) for each kid. Give each child a sheet of construction paper and set out sheets of star stickers. Encourage the kids to put star stickers all over the black sheet of paper, which represents the night sky. Young toddlers may need help getting the stickers off the sheet. When kids are finished putting stars in on the paper sky, pass out a Christmas Tree Sheets to each kid. Encourage kids to color the trees.



Those trees look great! They are 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 will learn from God's big story today: that God keeps His promises!



9:00 Service

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?



Faith

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Craft: Star Mural

SUPPLIES: dark butcher paper, tape, star cut outs, markers or coloring utensils, Christmas-themed stickers

Hang the butcher paper on the wall where kids can reach it, making a night sky.

Give each kid a star along with coloring and decorating supplies.

God told Abraham to look up at the stars to see how many family members he would have through the child God promised him. When we trust in Jesus, we also become part of God's family! Jesus was born from Abraham's family too!

To remember the promise God made to Abraham, we're going to trace star shapes and cut them out. We'll write our names on our stars and decorate them. Then we will hang them up in the pretend night sky to make a mural of stars. If you need help writing your name, you can ask a leader to help. You can decorate your star however you want!

For kids who can't write their names, have leaders write them on the stars. Encourage kids to color and decorate their stars. Cut out the stars and then you can roll tape to put on the back of each star. Let kids hang their stars on the tablecloth or butcher paper night sky.



Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

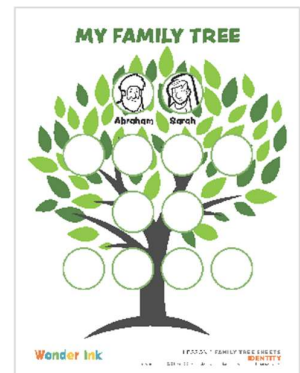
Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Responding in Worship: Your Family Tree

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Family Tree Sheet](#) (1 per kid), [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood](#) [music flashdrive](#)

Leader Tip: Every family looks different! Be sensitive to kids in various situations—from living with grandparents, to living with single parents, to living with foster parents.



Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the [Family Tree Sheet](#). Give each kid a Family Tree Sheet and set out coloring utensils. **We're going to draw pictures of our families to fill in our own family trees. Abraham and Sarah are at the top, showing that we are all part of their big family, which is God's family.**

Draw pictures of your family members, your grandparents, parents, and siblings—or whoever is part of your family—in the circles under Abraham and Sarah. When we are done drawing our families, we are going to pray for our family members in the pictures. While kids are drawing, play the songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood music flashdrive](#). Give kids a few minutes to draw family members. When most kids are done, have everyone stop drawing and encourage kids to pray silently for their family members. Close the prayer time with a prayer for all the families.

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.

9:00 Service

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.

9:00 Service