



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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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.

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: star stickers (various sizes), black or dark blue construction paper (1 sheet per kid)

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: Stars in the Night Sky

Set-up: Set out various sizes of star stickers and dark blue or black construction paper.

Play: Let kids put as many star stickers on the papers as they want. Encourage them to fill their night sky with stars

Leader Tip: If you don't have star stickers, you can use white or yellow crayons on black paper and have kids make dots all over to represent stars in the night sky.

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?



Faith

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

Drop It, Catch It

SUPPLIES: playground ball

Gather kids into a circle. Start by holding a playground ball. **I'm going to toss a ball and give instructions. I'll either say, "Drop it" or "Catch it." Listen carefully and do the opposite of what I say. If I say, "Drop it," you catch it. If I say, "Catch it," you drop it! I'll tell some of you to drop it, and some of you to catch it. Whoever catches it will answer a question about our story.** Listen carefully! Demonstrate dropping and catching the ball with a child.

Leader Tip: To make it easier (or for a younger group of kids), don't have them do the opposite of what you say. They can just do what you say, either "Drop it" or "Catch it."

Toss the ball to each child in the circle, calling out "Drop it" or "Catch it" before tossing the ball. When a child catches the ball, ask a question from the list.

You did a great job listening! In our story today, Abraham listened carefully to God, and God was good to Abraham! Abraham listened when God told him to leave his home and travel to a new land. Abraham listened when God made a special promise. Abraham listened when God changed his name. God kept His promise to Abraham, and God keeps His promises to us!

9:00 Service

Make It Inclusive!

Some kids may not have the gross motor skills to catch balls. For younger kids, or kids who may struggle to catch the ball, roll the ball to them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What promise did God make to Abraham?** *(that He would give them a child and make the members of his family as many as there are stars in the sky)*
- **Why do you think it may have been difficult for Abraham and Sarah to believe God would actually keep His promise?** *(because they were too old to have kids)*
- **What did God use to show Abraham how many family members he would have?** *(the stars)*
- **Did God's promise happen right away or years later?** *(years later)*
- **How do you feel when you have to wait a long time for a promise to come true?**
- **What are some promises God has made to us?**
- **What can we do if we have to wait a long time for something God has promised us?**

One big promise God made to us was that He had a plan for us to be saved. Jesus is the answer to that plan, and Jesus is also the reason we celebrate Christmas! Some people had to wait a long time for Jesus, but we don't have to wait. We can trust Jesus any time! God promises that we can all be forgiven for the things we do wrong, and God always keeps His promises. Let's pray, thanking God for giving us Jesus and for keeping His promises.

Remind your group that God was happy with Abraham's faith. Encourage them to talk to God with faith, trusting that He is here and that He cares. Invite kids to share prayer requests or things they are thankful for. Ask for one or two kids to volunteer to pray out loud and thank God for keeping His promises.



Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

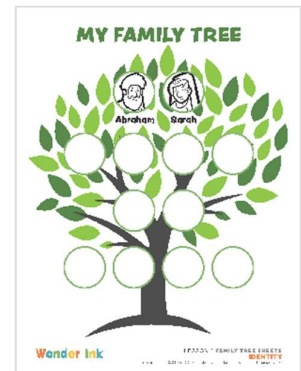
Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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.

9:00 Service

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.

9:00 Service