



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 Has a Plan

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12; 15; 17

WORD OF WONDER: From Psalm 90:2

Somewhere along the line, I took the baton from God's hands and said, "I'll take it from here."

Sensing the Holy Spirit's nudge, I had volunteered to teach elementary Sunday school. I was excited to serve kids and families, so I jumped into my plans. Soon I found myself trying to do more and be more. But in truth, I wasn't becoming more like Jesus. The more tightly I held onto my plans, the less like Him I became.

Read Genesis 12:1–5 and 17:1–7. God told Abram (later renamed Abraham) to take his family to a land He would show him. Abram didn't know exactly where they were going or how they would get there, but he trusted God and obeyed. Many times Abram would face the choice to keep trusting God or make things happen his own way. Sometimes he obeyed; sometimes he didn't. But always, God had a plan, and God was faithful.

That same choice presents itself to us every day. Do we lay everything on the altar and trust God's plans, or do we take the baton from His almighty hands and say, "I'll take it from here"?

Where have you taken the baton from God and said, "I'll take it from here"? Lay it before God this week and trust His plan. He is faithful.

—**Sharron Jackson**

Church Ministry Volunteer

Wonder Ink Development

Team

LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Abraham was born a descendant of Noah's son, Shem. He was called Abram until God changed his name to Abraham meaning "father of many." Abraham received a covenant promise from God to give him blessing, land, and many descendants.

WHAT?

A covenant is an unbreakable agreement or promise between two people, or between God and humans. In this case, it was between God and Abraham. Some of God's covenants in the Bible had conditions, yet He always faithfully keeps His promises, even when humans don't keep theirs.

WHERE?

Abraham was born in Ur (modern-day Iraq), but God told him to go to Canaan (modern-day Israel). When Abraham got to Shechem, God said this was the land He would give to his offspring. So, Abraham built an altar there to God.

WHEN?

God first spoke to Abraham about 375 years after the global flood. Abraham was 75 years old when God made a covenant with him. It would take 25 years for Abraham and Sarah to see God's promise of a son fulfilled.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God had a plan to redeem His people. He chose Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Jesus—the Savior of the world—was born in Abraham's family line and is the fulfillment of this promise.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Reach for the Stars

SUPPLIES: paper stars

Hold up the stars and show them to the kids. Invite the kids to point to the stars, then reach for the stars, then jump up and try to touch the stars. Then invite the kids to count the stars. **Have you ever looked at the sky at night?**

What do you see outside? Allow the kids to respond. You might see stars in the sky! How many stars do you think there are? There are so many stars! We're going to hear a story about a time when God told someone to count the stars. Then God told that person that He has a plan.

Allow the kids to take turns holding up the stars.

We'll learn today about God's plan. Our Wonder Truth today is GOD HAS A PLAN.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

HAS—*Fold hands as if praying.*

A PLAN—*Open hands as if opening a book.*



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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: **God, thank You that You made each of us for a reason. You have a plan for us. We thank You because You are a good God. Your plans for us are good. Holy Spirit, show us how to listen to You, follow Your plan, and walk in Your way. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

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

Tell the Bible story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 39-45

A New Home

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Before You created the whole world, You are God. You will always be God.

—Psalm 90:2