



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

Curiosity Activity: Starry Sky

SUPPLIES: uncooked rice (1 cup), small containers (2, 1 with a lid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Starry Sky Sheet

Allergy Caution: Be aware of skin allergies or sensitivities with your kids or leaders before doing this activity!

Ahead of time, print the Starry Sky Sheet. Fill the lidded container with grain, making sure the kids can't see what's inside. Put it near the empty container.

Can you help me count the number of kids who are here today? Allow the kids to respond and help as you count the kids in the room. **Now I need your help counting other things!**

Shake the container with rice and invite the kids to guess what's inside. Then ask them to help you count the grains of rice that are in the container. Open the container and slowly pour the rice into the empty container. Could the kids count all the rice? Why not? Encourage them to answer that there were too many to count!

There are too many to count! Sometimes there are just too many of something to be counted! I have one more for you. Close your eyes. Pretend you're outside at night. Hold up the Starry Sky Sheet. **Open your eyes. What do you see?** Allow the kids time to answer. **Can you count all the stars?** Allow the kids to respond. **There are too many stars to count!**

Today we're going to learn about when God told someone to count the stars. There were too many to count, and that's OK! Because God had a plan for the person who counted the stars, and God has a plan for us too. A plan is what is going to happen. We'll learn today about how God has a plan!





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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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What parts of your day do you help plan? Do you ever help plan where you will go play, what you will wear, or what you will eat?
- Abram had to pack up and move as part of God's plan. Have you ever had to pack up and leave someplace? How did that make you feel? Sad? Excited? Scared?
- God promised Abraham he would have children, but Abraham had to wait a long time. What's something you had to wait a long time for? What did it feel like to have to wait?
- What did God tell Abram to count to know how many children would be in his family?
(the stars)
- Have you ever looked at the stars at night? What did you see? How many stars do you think there are in the sky?
- What is one thing God promised you? (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: To always be with us, to forgive us, to love us.)

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

—from Psalm 90:2



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Pack Up and Go!

SUPPLIES: backpacks or small suitcases (2); clothes, toys, and books

Set up two relay lines each with a backpack or small suitcase. Set a pile of the clothes, toys and books next to each suitcase. Divide everyone into two equal groups of kids.

Each kid will take a turn walking quickly to the backpack, packing one clothing item from the pile, and then walking quickly back to the end of the line. The last kid in line will zip the backpack, put it on his back, and return to the end of the line to complete the race.

Today we learned how God told Abraham to pack up and go to the land He would show him. Abraham listened to God. He believed God's promise that He would bless him with a big family. He knew God's plan for him was good, and he trusted God. So Abraham packed up and moved!