



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: die cut suitcases and clothes; glue sticks; coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Promise to Abraham Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

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

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

Play Station: Packing Up!

Set up: Set out a few suitcases and clothes.

Play: Invite the kids to pretend they're packing to go on a trip. Ask what they would bring and encourage them to glue some clothing in their suitcases. They can also color the outside of their suitcase.

Play Station: God's Promise to Abraham Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a night sky.

Leader Tip: Show the kids how to make simple asterisk stars. Count each line as you draw it to reinforce counting and help kids remember how to draw the stars.



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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

Craft: Let There Be Stars

SUPPLIES: black construction paper (1 sheet per kid), white crayons, white chalk, foil star stickers

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Starry Sky Sheet

If you didn't already, print the Starry Sky Sheet. Invite the kids to look closely at the Starry Sky Sheet and notice the different stars. Give each kid a sheet of dark blue or black construction paper. Have them use the crayons and chalk to draw a bunch of stars—too many to count. Give each kid a few foil star stickers to add as a finishing touch.



God promised Abraham there would be as many people in his family as there are stars. God had big plans for Abraham and his family. God has big plans for you too! Whenever Abraham needed to remember God's promise, he could just look up at the stars. You can do the same thing! The stars in the sky help us remember how big and powerful God is and that He has big plans for you!

Leader Tip: Encourage the kids to practice drawing asterisk stars. Also encourage them to explore different ways of drawing stars and to use both chalk and crayons.

You can take your paper home to help you remember that like God had a plan for Abraham, God has a plan for you too.