

Lesson 41 - God's Promise to Abraham

Aims

- * To learn that Abraham was a man who really trusted God
- * To learn that God always keeps his promises

Materials

The Beginner's Bible

Visual aids: pictures from the story

Worksheet - God's promise to Abraham

Material for worksheets - star stickers, black paper, glue scissors, white pencils

Materials for stargazing tube - cardboard tube, construction paper, aluminium foil, stars or glitter

Key names: Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Isaac

Memory verse - "Count the stars. That's how many descendants you will have!" Genesis 15:5

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Tell the story
3. Discussion
4. Activities - action game, retell the story, memory game, add stars to picture, stargazing tube
5. Review the aims
6. Prayer

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1) Introduction

- * How would you feel if your family had to leave your home and live in a new place? Would you like to leave? Would you miss your friends and all the people you know.
- * Today's story is about a man called Abraham and what happened when God told him to leave his home.

2) Tell the story

Abraham loved God. So did his wife Sarah. One day, God told Abraham to move to a new land. So along with their helpers, Abraham and Sarah packed up and went. Abraham's nephew was called Lot. Lot and all his helpers went with them too. The helpers began to fight. There was not enough grass for all the animals. So Abraham said to Lot, "You pick your own land to live on." Lot chose the best land. It had the most green grass and the most water for his animals. Lot moved to his new home. Then God gave Abraham a blessing. God said, "All the land you see here will be yours forever. Also, you and Sarah will be blessed with as many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as there are stars in the sky." God led Abraham and Sarah to a place called Hebron. It was beautiful

One hot day Abraham was resting near his tent. He heard footsteps. Three men were standing nearby. Abraham went out to greet them. “Would you like to rest in the shade? We have plenty of cool water to drink. Can I get you something to eat?” Abraham told Sarah about the visitors. He asked her to make a tasty meal. While they were eating the three visitors shared some exciting news. They said, “Your wife is going to have a son.” Sarah heard what they said. She laughed, thinking, I am too old. God asked Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Anything is possible with the Lord.” Sure enough, the next year, Sarah had a baby boy. They named him Isaac.

3) Discussion

- * What did God ask Abraham to do? - *Leave his home*
- * Did Abraham do what God said? - *Yes*
- * Who went with Abraham? - *Sarah, Lot, their helpers*
- * Why did the Abraham's and Lot's helpers fight? - *There wasn't enough grass for their animals*
- * What did God promise Abraham?
 - *All the land you see will be yours*
 - *many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as there are stars in the sky.*
- * What did the three visitors promise Abraham and Sarah? - *a baby son*
- * Why didn't Sarah believe them? - *She was old*
- * What was the name of the baby? - *Isaac*
- * Did God keep His promises?
 - *Yes. although it doesn't say so in the story, God gave them a land called Canaan*
 - *they did have as many descendants as there are stars*
 - *and Sarah did have a baby boy*
- * Did Abraham trust God and do as He said?
 - *Yes. Even though Abraham didn't know where to go when he left his home, he trusted God. Because of this, God blessed him in many ways*
- * What can we learn from the story?
 - *We can trust God, because he will always keep His promises. This is true today as at the time of Abraham. For children this also means trusting our parents and doing as they say even if we don't understand why. When we do that God will bless us and help us in many ways.*

4) Activities

- * Action Game - Abraham Goes to the promised land
- * Retell the story - Put picture cards in the correct order and retell the story in your own words
- * Memory game - using the picture cards
- * Picture - add stars to the night sky
- * Abraham Stargazing tube

5) Review the lesson aims

- * To learn that Abraham was a man who really trusted God
- * To learn that God always keeps his promises

6) Prayer

* Say a prayer to thank God for Abraham who trusted God. Because of that, God blessed him in many ways. Let us learn from Abraham the importance of trusting God in our own family. Thank God that He wants the best for us and He always keeps His promises.

God's Promise to Abraham

From The Beginner's Bible

A New Home (Genesis 12-17)

Abraham loved God. So did his wife Sarah.

One day, God told Abraham to move to a new land. So along with their helpers, Abraham and Sarah packed up and went.

Abraham's nephew was called Lot. Lot and all his helpers went with them too.

The helpers began to fight. There was not enough grass for all the animals. So Abraham said to Lot, "You pick your own land to live on."

Lot chose the best land. It had the most green grass and the most water for his animals. Lot moved to his new home.

Then God gave Abraham a blessing. God said, "All the land you see here will be yours forever. Also, you and Sarah will be blessed with many children."

God led Abraham and Sarah to a place called Hebron. It was beautiful

The Visitors (Genesis 18 and 21)

One hot day Abraham was resting near his tent. He heard footsteps.

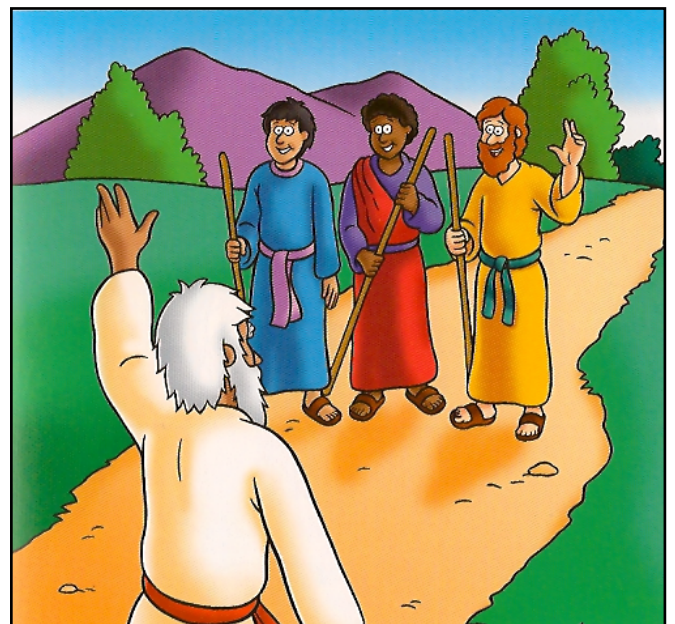
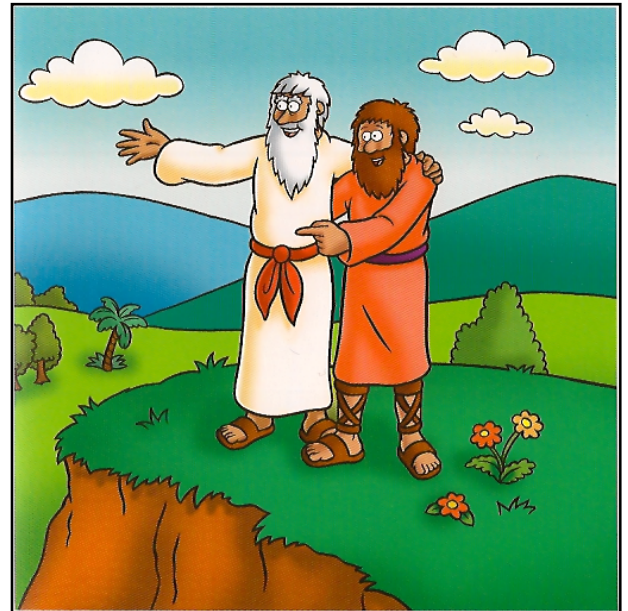
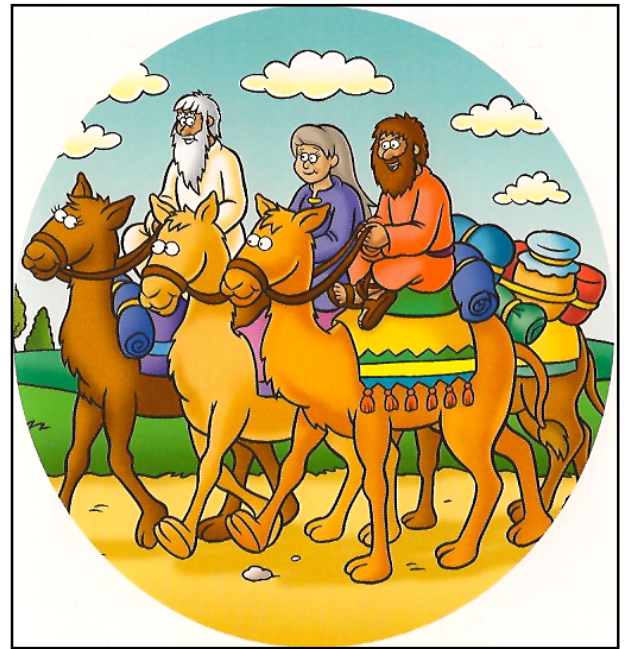
Three men were standing nearby. Abraham went out to greet them. "Would you like to rest in the shade? We have plenty of cool water to drink. Can I get you something to eat?"

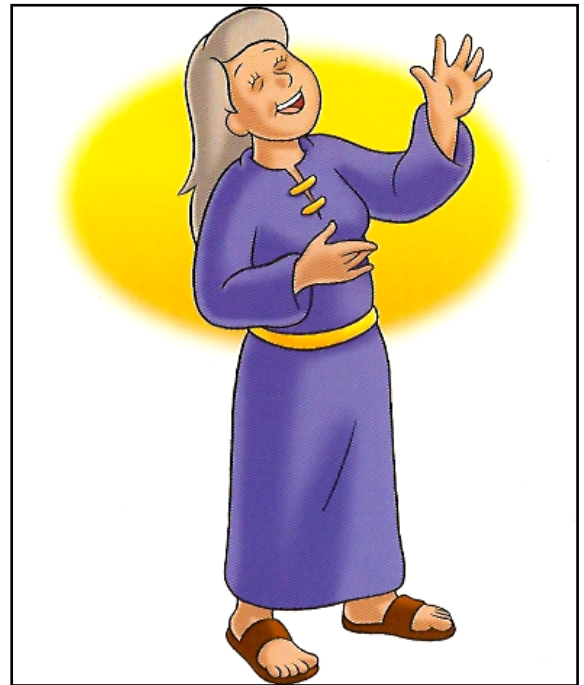
Abraham told Sarah about the visitors. He asked her to make a tasty meal.

While they were eating the three visitors shared some exciting news. They said, "Your wife is going to have a son."

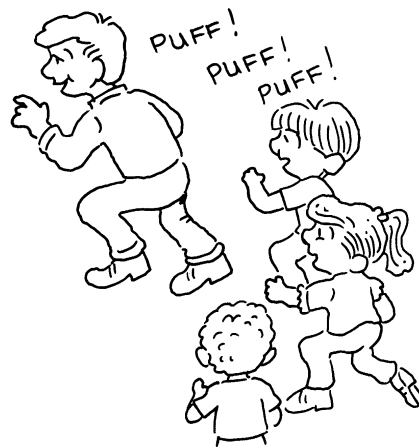
Sarah heard what they said. She laughed, thinking, *I am too old*. God asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Anything is possible with the Lord."

Sure enough, the next year, Sarah had a baby boy. They named him Isaac.





Abraham Goes to the Promised Land



This action story teaches children about Abram and the Promised Land (Genesis 11:31-32; 12:1-8).

PREPARATION

Provide a large open area without chairs for this activity. Hold the story in your Bible as you begin reading. Seat the children on the floor.

HOW TO PLAY

(Read the story dramatically, with emotion. Encourage the children to do the motions.)

Once there was a man named Abram. He lived in a place called Ur. Nobody in Ur loved God — nobody but Abram.

God said, "Abram, go far away to the Promised Land and live there. If you will go, I will do many good things for you." So Abram left Ur and started for the Promised Land.

Let's make believe we're Abram, going on the long, long trip to the Promised Land. (*The children stand up and follow you as you walk around the room.*)

We have many sheep and cows to take care of. Come on, sheep. Come on, cows. You must travel with us. STEP, STEP, STEP! What a long trip!

We are getting tired. (*Stop walking. Stretch.*) Let's stop and set up our tents. (*Pretend to set up tents.*) Now we can go to sleep. (*Lie down and pretend to sleep.*)

(*Almost immediately, sit up and stretch.*) The sun is starting to come up. It's morning. Let's get up and feed the sheep and cows. (*Stand up and pretend to feed the animals.*)

It's time to go again. Are the sheep and cows coming? STEP, STEP, STEP! Now we must climb a big hill. PUFF, PUFF, PUFF!

I'm getting tired. Are you? But we can't rest yet. We haven't reached the Promised Land. So, let's keep going. STEP, STEP, STEP.

Look, here's a river! How will we get across? It doesn't look too deep. Let's wade across. (*Pretend to test the water with your toes, and then step into it.*)

SLOSH, SLOSH, SLOSH! Here we are at the other side. (*Pretend to step out of the water and shake off.*)

I wonder if this is the Promised Land? (*Shield your eyes and look around with exaggerated movements.*)

No, this isn't it. Let's keep walking. STEP, STEP, STEP!

(*If desired, continue the story with similar actions — going across dusty, hot deserts, meeting wild animals, etc. — until you finally arrive.*)

Here it is at last — the Promised Land. We are so happy! God will do good things for us here. Let's thank God. Thank you, God, for bringing Abram to the Promised Land.



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Abraham Stargazing Tube



Cover the top of the tube in aluminium foil



Prick the foil with a thumb. tack to make stars



Cover a sheet of construction paper in glue.



Roll the tube in construction paper.



Decorate the outside of tube with stars or glitter. Write the Bible verse on the side. Allow to dry



Look inside the tube to see a night sky scene.

