

Lesson 3: Patriarchs - God's Covenant with Abram

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 15: God's covenant promise to Abram
- 2) Learn about God's covenant promise with Abram and its importance by doing activities

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Stars in the Sky Activity Sheet – one per child
- God is our Shield Decoration Sheet – one per child – 2 on a page
- Scissors to cut out shields

Optional:

- Stickers or scrap paper pieces that would make a good shield decoration for shield activity
- Chalk or masking tape for "Star Hopscotch" game
- Storybook of story presented with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board with story presented, etc. (if available)

Snack:

- Star Shaped Fruit (Use Cookie Cutter) 2 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Cups/Water one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

"Last week what did we learn about? Abram rescued Lot from being captured by a King and returned him and all his possessions home. Abram met Melchizedek on the way and respected God by giving Melchizedek a tenth of all he had.

This week we will continue to study about Abram and how God blessed him and helped him because Abram was a good, faithful man and obeyed God!

2) God's Covenant with Abram and Stars in the Sky Activity Sheet

15-25 minutes

Ask children to turn in their Bibles to **Genesis Chapter 15** to read the story of God's promise and covenant to Abram.

Read **Genesis 15:1-6**.

Then have students turn to **Romans 4:16, 23-24** and read that aloud.

Discussion Questions:

What did God promise Abram in verse 1? I am your shield and very great reward. God would protect Abram!

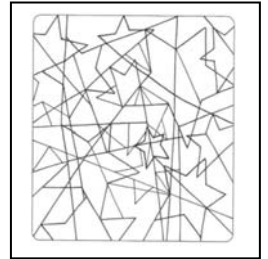
What did God promise Abram in verse 4 and 5? That Abram would have a son and he would have so many descendants he could not even count them!

What was Abram's response? He believed the Lord.

Now in Romans what is the writer saying about Christians? If we believe like Abram in God concerning Jesus being the Son of God and being raised from the dead – we too are Abram's descendants! We need to believe what God says – like Abram did and it will be credited to us as being righteous – right with God!

Any words you don't understand or questions you have? Answer if you can, tell them you will get back to them and do next week if you need to ask someone for help in answering the question.

Hand out the **Stars in the Sky activity sheet** along with crayons. Read the directions aloud to ensure children who have trouble reading can know what to do. Let them find the 5 stars and color them. Clean up the area and then continue with Genesis 15.



Now that we finished with the first part of Genesis 15, let's continue with the rest of the chapter. God makes a covenant with Abram to ensure Abram knows God is serious about Abram's descendants getting the land he is currently a foreigner in.

Can I get volunteers to read Genesis 15:9-21 – 4 verses each?

After volunteers read say: **When Abram asked God how he was to know that Abram's descendants would indeed take possession of the land he was in, God gave him a list of things to do to show God was serious. In the Bible no covenant was made without blood – Jesus had to shed his blood, Israelites had to shed the blood of an animal when trying to repent for sins they committed, and in this case too – God has Abram get animals to shed blood.**

Abram's job was to do what? Bring the animals, divide and arrange the animals according to God's instruction and he had to keep the birds of prey away from getting the animals Abram had prepared.

What did God say to Abram would happen to his descendants when he was in a deep sleep? He told Abram of the Egyptian slavery that happened after the time of Joseph – God truly predicted what would happen to Abram's descendants! God warned Abram so that when this time happened to his family – the family would know and remember that God predicted this and that it would only last a while, they would only be enslaved for 400 years. This was God's way of preparing them for the bad thing that was to come and so they knew it wasn't because they were bad.

Do bad things happen to good people today too? Yes.

Does that mean they are bad? No.

God loves us, but sometimes bad things still happen, but God tells us this in the Bible and says when bad things happen – we should turn to God and pray!

What was the promise God made? That Abram's descendants would get this land from God

Why did Abram's family have to wait so long to inherit the land in verse 16? The Amorites – the neighbours of Abram had not been bad enough at this time to deserve having their land taken away – but God is saying that after the 400 years of slavery of Abram's descendants in Egypt – the

Amorites would have become so evil because of their own choosing that God would then punish them for being evil and get them out of the land and give that land to Abram's descendants.

The covenant God made with Abram was a blood covenant or promise. Today we don't use blood, but we access Jesus' blood. How? Those who choose to be baptized and follow God – contact the blood of Jesus when he died, this washes us clean and cleanses us from our sins. We don't actually see any blood but it is because of Jesus' blood that we can be saved. When baptism occurs – you make a covenant or agreement with God and God makes a covenant with you – and God will always keep His covenant/promise as long as we continue to follow Him and keep our part of the covenant!

Read **Ephesians 1:7** and **Acts 2:38** – we receive forgiveness of sins when we are baptized into Christ, this is through His blood which He shed on the cross when He died for us.

3) God is Our Shield Decoration Sheet

15 minutes

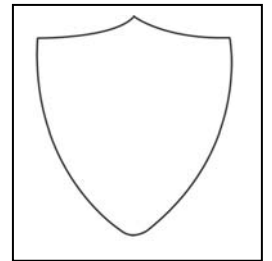
*There are 4 shields on a page, so cut the page into quarters before class so each student gets one shield to cut out and decorate.

Hand out shields, and read again **Genesis 15:1**. Say, **God said He is Abram's shield.**

What is a shield? Something that protects soldiers from getting hurt.

God is our shield today too, if we let Him. God can protect us today – He can protect us by guiding us to do good things and avoid bad things that might hurt us!

Let's decorate and color our shields. You can even draw a few ways that God protects you in your life. When done, write your name on the back of the shield!



*You can choose to recite the memory verse as a class while students decorate their shields or do it separately. Clean up before moving on to the next activity.

4) Memory Verse

1-2 minutes

Recite the Memory Verse **Genesis 15:6** as a group. You can choose from one of the following:

Abraham believed God, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. (NKJV)

Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness. (NIV)

*Explain to the children that this means because Abram was a good, faithful man who obeyed God, God said Abraham was righteous or made right before God. Abraham was right for believing God and that belief led him to obey and be faithful.

5) Optional – Star Hopscotch

5-10 minutes

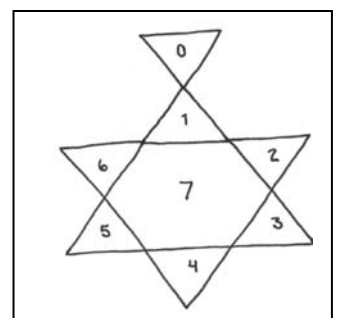
Draw the diagram (seen here) with chalk on a sidewalk or create it with masking tape on the floor. Make one diagram for every 4 children. This game is best if you try it yourself before so you can easily teach the kids how it works.

Explain to the whole class before breaking them into groups of 4:

Round 1 – Hop on one foot through the numbers in order, starting at 0 and returning to 0.

Round 2 – Jump with left foot landing in 7 and right foot in 1.

Next jump with right foot in 7 and left foot in 2. Then left in 7 and right in 3. Left in 4, right in 7. Left in 7, right in 5 – turning with



each jump. After jumping with the right foot in 7 and left foot in 6, return to 0 with both feet.

Round 3 – Hop on all the even numbered triangles – 0,2,4,6,0

Round 4 – Hop on all the odd numbered triangles – start at 0 – then 1,3,5,7

Repeat each set of rounds until a player makes a mistake or steps on a line. If a player does make a mistake, he or she goes to the end of the line. On the next turn, the player starts at the beginning of the round where the mistake was made. Play through all rounds!

6) Optional – Snack: Star shaped fruit

5 minutes

Hand out 2 or 3 star shaped fruit. Add a glass of juice or water for each child. Explain that, “**God promised Abram he would have more descendants than stars in the sky. Let’s think about what that means as we eat star shaped snacks!**” Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking – such as ask each student to name something they remember from today’s lesson about Abram and God’s promise.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

- 1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song**
- 2) **This is my Father’s World** (Should be in church song book)
- 3) **Father Abraham Song with Actions**

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm! (Wiggle right arm)

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm! (Wiggle right and left arms)

Continue singing song and add right leg, then left leg, turn around, and finally sit down!

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank God that we can have Him as our shield to protect us from evil and harm. And pray that God will shield those who could not be here today because of weakness or sickness and pray they are able to return soon.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!