

# Lesson 5: God's Covenant Continued

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 17: The beginning of circumcision as a covenant between God, Abraham, Sarah and Isaac and all Jewish descendants afterward.
- 2) Learn why the Israelites circumcised baby boys.
- 3) Continue to learn that God makes and keeps all His promises and complete a Why trust God activity sheet!
- 4) Learn that God changed Abram and Sarai's names.

## **Supplies:**

### **Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)**

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- God's Covenant Activity Sheet – one per older student
- Abraham's New Name – one per younger student
- Why Trust God? Activity Sheet – one per older student (work in pairs)

### **Optional:**

- Storybook of the life of Abram with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board with the story of life of Abram etc. (if available)

### **Snack: (S'mores)**

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| - Graham Crackers        | 2 per child             |
| - Marshmallows           | one large one per child |
| - Chocolate pieces       | one piece per child     |
| - Napkins for snack      | one per child           |
| - Juice or water and cup | 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?** That Abram and Sarai were impatient and tried to have a child without waiting for God. We were introduced to Hagar and Ishmael – the son Abram had with Hagar.

**This week we will continue to study about the life of Abram, we will see that God changes his name and Sarai's name, and we will see again God making a promise and covenant to Abram!**

### **2) The Covenant of Circumcision and Activity Sheet**

**15-20 minutes**

\*Have Abraham's Name sheet for younger students and ensure the other side of the page is blank so they can draw a picture. For older students have God's Covenant Activity Sheet.

Ask students to open their Bibles to **Genesis 17:1**. Ask a volunteer to **read 17:1-8**. Then say:

**1) God was stating His part of the covenant.**

**Abram was 99 years old now. 13 years had passed between Chapter 16:16 and 17:1. God now extends the covenant he made with Abram previously. Part of that is that now Abram's name would change – not only would he be the father of the Israelites; he would be the father of many nations.**

Hand out the **Covenant Activity Fill in Sheet** to each older child who can write along with a pencil. \*For younger students give them the **Abraham's Name sheet** but show them the blank side. Ask them to draw a picture of Abraham and Sarah with their new baby – Isaac and color them while they listen.

Read the first part of the Covenant with God and fill in the blanks as you all go.

**Answers:**

**God's Covenant: Father of many nations, Abraham, very fruitful and have kings come from him, to be Abraham's God, the whole land of Canaan.**

**God again told Abraham that he and his descendants would receive the whole land of Canaan as an inheritance and He would be their God. But they would have responsibilities too!**

**2) Next, God tells Abraham his part of the covenant:**

Ask a volunteer to read **17:9-14**. Then say:

**Circumcision is an act of cutting off a tiny piece of loose skin on a boy's private area, it is not to be mean, but is a part of the covenant God established.**

**Now let's fill in the next part of the covenant. Abraham's part!** Read aloud and ask students to fill in the answers and respond.

**Answers:**

**Abraham's Covenant: keep the covenant, get circumcised, cut off from his people**

**As you can see God takes promises very seriously. He is willing to do so many wonderful things for us, but we have to remember that like Abraham, we have responsibilities to. What are some responsibilities God has given us today that you can think of? Going to worship Him, being loving and kind to others, obeying parents, reading our Bibles and praying so we can get to know God better, etc.**

**3) Finally fill the remaining parts:**

**Now let's take turns and read Chapter 17:15-27 and then we will fill in the remaining people who the covenant was with.** Have a volunteer(s) read the Scripture and then ask the questions on the activity sheet and fill in the answers as a group.

**Answer:**

**Sarah's Covenant: Sarah, a son and be the mother of nations**

**Isaac's Covenant: Yes, Yes**

When finished, ask if there are any questions. Some may ask about circumcision, if so, keep it short, be as professional as you can and use medical terms. Try not to sound embarrassed or that it is a bad thing – of course some kids may think it wouldn't be a fun thing 😊 You may also state that today, thanks to Jesus Christ – we can still be Abraham's descendants through faith in Jesus Christ, but we do not take part in the Old Testament covenant of circumcision. We instead have the New Testament which is the new covenant of baptism instead. Some people still have their male baby boy circumcised for medical reasons, but as Christians we are not required to have our male boys circumcised unless we choose to.

### **3) Why Trust God? And Abraham's Name Sheet**

**15 minutes**

Hand out one "Why Trust God?" sheet to older student who can read and write. Put them into pairs. Read the instructions aloud and then hand out pencils and Bibles. The goal is to get one child to read the "God's promise" verses and another child to read the "promise fulfilled" section for the promise God made and read them aloud to each other – they will then fill in the answer and at the end, put all the answer "star" letters together to spell out why we should trust in God! For younger students have them flip their "Abraham's Name" sheet over so they see Abraham's new name and title. Read it aloud to them and let them color in his name and title and picture. Remind them that Abraham's name was changed and that he is the father of many nations just as God said he would be!

Answers:

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1. Noah</b>   | <b>5. David</b>     |
| <b>2. Moses</b>  | <b>6. Elisha</b>    |
| <b>3. Israel</b> | <b>7. Isaiah</b>    |
| <b>4. Gideon</b> | <b>He Loves Me!</b> |

### **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)

\*Remind students 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 – Snack: S'mores**

**5 minutes**

Hand out 2 graham crackers, a piece of chocolate and a marshmallow to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, "**When we think of sleeping in tents it usually means we have a camp fire and eat s'mores. When Abram lived in tents they didn't eat s'mores but they had all the other things that come with sleeping in tents – blankets, trying to keep warm, keeping bugs and animals away, packing up and setting up the equipment. Let's remember how hard it must have been living in tents for many years as we enjoy our s'mores!**" Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking.

Ask students what they can remember about today's lesson and how what they learned can help us today remember that God is with us.

## 6) 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** - see lyrics from lesson 3.

## 7) 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.

Pray that we will always trust God and what He promises! Thank God that He sent His son Jesus and kept His promise of providing us a Savior that is willing to take away our sins and lead us to heaven!

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Thank you for serving Christ in this way!