

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
- 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
- Abraham's New Name – one per student

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

Ask students to open their Bibles to **Genesis 17:1**, 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 Abraham's Name sheet – but give them the blank side of the page and ask them to draw a picture of Abraham and Sarah with their new baby – Isaac! While they draw, they can listen and talk while you continue.

We just read about God's covenant with Abraham. I am going to read some of the verses again, listen carefully so you can answer the questions I will ask about what I just read.

Read verse 4: **Abram would now be what?** A father of many nations

Verse 5: **Abram's name is now?** Abraham

Verse 6: **Abram would be?** Very fruitful and have kings come from him (meaning he would have lots of descendants and family after him and some would be kings!)

Verse 7: **God promised to be what?** To be Abraham's God

Verse 8: **What was Abraham's family possession?** The whole land of Canaan. Show on map if able (see back of your Bible to see if picture is there)

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:

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 I will ask you Abraham's responsibility with the new covenant!

Verse 9: **What was Abraham's family responsibility?** To keep the covenant

Verse 10: **What was every male to do to show they kept the covenant?** Get circumcised

Verse 14: **What would happen to any of Abraham's descendants who did not get circumcised?** They would be cut off from his people – no longer able to be part of the family because they disobeyed.

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.

Read 17:15-17

Sarah's part of the Covenant:

Verse 15: **What was Sarai's new name?** Sarah

Verse 16: **What two things would she receive?** A son (Isaac) and be the mother of nations

Read 17:18-27

Isaac's part of the Covenant:

Verse 19: **Would he also receive this covenant?** Yes

Would he have to follow God (Read verse 9 again)? 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) Abraham's Name Sheet

10-15 minutes

Tell students to flip their page and read to them what it says. Have them color in the letters and Abraham's face to help remind them that Abraham's name was changed and that he is the father of many nations just as God said he would be!

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 (God) accounted it to him for righteousness. (NKJV)

Abram believed the Lord, and He (God) 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 it can help us today remember that God is with us.

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

1) Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song

2) God Made Me

– Sung to Farmer in the Dell Tune

God made the sun, (Raise arms in circle overhead.)
God made the tree, (Spread arms out to indicate branches.)
God made you, (Point to another person.)
And God made me! (Point to self.)

God made Abram. (Point to the boys.)
God made Sarai. (Point to the girls.)
God made you,
and God made me.
(Point to others and then yourself.)

3) Twinkle Twinkle – Abraham’s family Song

– Sung to “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” Tune

Twinkle Twinkle little stars
No one knows how many there are.
God promised Abraham a son.
Isaac was the promised one.
Now Abraham’s family is like the stars.
We can’t count how many there are.

4) 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!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!