



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for
June 26, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we continue our summer curriculum, which is following the theme and preaching from the Sanctuary service. Just to note, we are a few weeks ahead of the Sanctuary service in case there is any confusion. This summer we will look back at most of the characters we studied this past year. The point of each lesson will center on the journey each person was on and how they ultimately looked to Jesus “as the author and perfecter of our faith.”

We discover the promise and gift of a son to come for Abraham. This would seem outrageous for a pair of elderly people to have a child, but the Lord keeps His promises. The Lord’s promises, though, do not happen immediately. In fact it took 25 years for Abraham and Sarah to hold Isaac. And Abraham never truly saw a people that numbered the sands of the seashore (Hebrews 11:12). All of this requires faith from Abraham and Sarah to believe in the promises of God for a very long time. The same is true for every believer; faith is required of every child of God to believe in His promises especially the promise that we are loved, accepted and cherished by God because of Christ.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Lesson: The Journey: Abraham, Part 2

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God’s promises require faith especially since God’s promises do not happen immediately.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:12-13; Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-8, 15-19

Story: Vos Children’s Bible, Pages 21-23; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 56-59; Gospel Story Bible, Pages 18-23; The Beginner’s Bible, Pages 41-47.

Teaching Points:

- God chooses Abram – and we do not know why – to make a promise (covenant) with and God had a special purpose for him.
- God speaks to Abram, and he makes promises to Abram about a son.
- God’s promises do not happen immediately. They take time. It took 25 years for God’s promise to come true for Abraham.
- To believe that God’s promises will come true is called faith. Christian’s are told to have faith in God.
- Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham, did not believe God at first, and his wife Sarah did not believe God’s promises either.
- If we doubt God’s promises, we must be reminded of God’s words to Abraham, “Is anything too hard for God?”
- Abraham and Sarah were promised a baby boy by God and God promised (covenanted) that many, many people would come from this one baby boy.

Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table.

First Hour

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Monocular

Supplies: Cardstock, cellophane, rubber band, tape, stapler, verse sticker

Instructions: Have children roll cardstock into monocular shape, staple at each end, place verse sticker over seam to secure, attach cellophane with rubber band.



Snack

Second Hour

Craft: Shield

Supplies: Foam board shield, foil, paint brush, tape

Instructions: Wrap foil around the shield shape (secure with tape on back if needed), make design on shield by gently pressing on the foil with the back end of the paint brush.



Story: The Journey: Abraham, Part 2

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: In the story today Abraham and his wife Sarah are very, very old. Older than your mothers and fathers, and probably the same age as some of your grandparents. Abraham was about 75 years old, and Sarah was about 65 years old. God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, but Abraham had been waiting a very long time for that promise to come true. Abraham believed that whatever God said, well, it would happen. The Bible tells us that Abraham had faith in God. The Bible also tells us that God spoke to Abraham often. In today’s story we will see God talking to Abraham and Abraham’s faith in the promises God made to him
3. **TELL** the Story. When applicable or desired, use the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Singing

Scripture Memory (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Catechism Questions (1-10)

Optional Activities

Scripture

Hebrews 11:12-13

This man was so old that he was almost dead. But from him came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. They are as many as the grains of sand on the seashore that cannot be counted. All these great men died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people. But they saw them coming far in the future and were glad. They said that they were like visitors and strangers on earth

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-19

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojourning's, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- How many stars can you count?
- What did God change Abram's name to?
- What did God promise Abram?
- Why was God's promise so hard to believe?
- What did God promise Sarah?

Questions for Older Children:

- How did God keep His promise?
- What is the word that means you believe God will keep his promises?
- How are you and I like the stars in the sky?
- What didn't Sarah have that Abraham did have?

Scripture Memory for Summer:

2 and 3 year olds:

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:1-2

4 and 5 year olds:

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

Story

The Journey

Let us continue on our journey together. Remember, we won't actually go to a far land or country. And we won't have to pack up our suitcases or food, get in a car or plane, or travel to some place across the world. Nope, we will stay right here! This journey is special. This journey takes us into the Old Testament and we get to see how people trusted in Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Today in our journey, we are still traveling with Abram. Abram finds out some pretty big things are going to happen in his life. God tells Abram about more promises to come and how He plans to keep those promises. Let's find out about those promises and how Abram responds.

Abram Counts the Stars (15:1-6)

The day was long and hot, Abram was tired, very tired. He was tired from the rescue plan he just accomplished. Abram had to go and rescue his nephew Lot. Lot was living near a city at the time, and the city was attacked. The attackers took all of the gold, silver and nice things in the city. The attackers took Lot too. Abram heard about Lot's kidnapping. Abram took his best soldiers and rescued Lot from the mean attackers.

Abram was tired, but he was also worried. He worried that the attackers would come looking for him. But Abram couldn't keep his eyes open, he was getting really tired, and so he laid down to sleep and began to dream. In his dream God spoke to Abram and said "Abram, don't be afraid. I will defend you. And I will give you a great reward." Abram wanted to believe this promise would come true, and he asked God, "God, what can you give me? I don't have a child! My closet relative is a foreigner that is my servant."

God told Abram that he would have his own son and his son would inherit everything Abram had. God told Abram to go outside his tent and look at the stars. Abram stepped outside of his tent and looked into the dark nighttime sky. It was filled with lots and lots of stars. God told Abram to count, and Abram tried but lost count too many times. God said to Abram, "Abram, the number of stars in the sky is how big your family will be!"

God was saying that Abram would have children and his children would have children and there would be too many people in Abram's family; well, too many to count! Then God made another promise to Abram. God said to Abram, "I am the Lord God...and I give you this land as an inheritance." But Abram replied, "Lord God, how will I know that I will inherit it?" To show Abram that He, God, would keep His promise, He instructed Abram to bring Him a few gifts. Abram brought a goat and some birds and offered them as gifts to God. Soon after Abram gave God the gifts, Abram felt very tired from the very long day and went to sleep. And again, Abram dreamed. In Abram's dream God said, "I promise to give this land to your children, and their children, and all of your descendants."

The Bible tells us something very important that Abram did: “Abram believed God!” Abram believed in God’s promise. He trusted God even though it seemed impossible that what God said would really happen. When we believe like that it is called faith. Faith is trusting that something will come true. Faith is having confidence or being sure that if a promise is made, it will certainly come true at some point. But what Abram did not know was how long it would take to have a child.

A New Name for Abram (17:1-8)

Abram was ninety-nine (99) years old. That’s really old! One day as Abram was sitting in his tent alone, the Lord appeared to him. The Lord told Abram something very important. God said, “I am God Almighty! Abram walk before me and be blameless so I can make a promise (covenant) between you and me. This promise will be that you will have a very large family; you will have many, many, many relatives.” Abram fell down on his knees and bowed his head towards God. God spoke to Abram again, “My promise (covenant) is to you. Abram you will be the father of many people (nations). You will no longer be called ‘Abram’ but your new name will be ‘Abraham’ because I have made you the father of many people (nations). I will give you lots and lots of relatives. A very large family Abraham! And kings of nations will be part of your family. Abraham, I have made my promise (covenant) to you, to all of your relatives, to your whole family and anyone that comes after you.” God went on to tell Abraham that he would have land to live in and his family could live there too. This land was called Canaan, and all of it was Abraham’s and his families’ forever. Most importantly God told Abraham that God would never leave him or his family.

A Child Promised (17:15-19)

God kept telling Abraham of the promises to come. And Abraham kept waiting for the promises to come true. Then one day God decided to change Sarai’s name to Sarah. God told Abraham, “I will bless Sarah, your wife, and I will give her a baby boy. He will be yours and Sarah’s child together. From her many, many, many people will come; kings, princes and royalty will be part of her descendants.” Once Abraham heard this, he fell to the ground and began to laugh. He said to himself, “I am too old, nearly 100 years old, how can I have a child at this age? Sarah is too old too! How can she have a baby?!?!” Abraham turned to God and said, “Oh that my other son, Ishmael, would be the one these promises are for!” But God responded, “No, but Sarah your wife will bring a baby boy into this world, and you will call his name Isaac. I will make promises (covenant) with him, and my promises to him will be for forever. My promises to him will also be for his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren. It will be for everyone related to Isaac.”

We see in our lesson today that Abraham trusted that God would keep His promises. Abraham would not live long enough to see them come true, but He believed nonetheless that God would make them come true. And you know what, they did! God always keeps His promises. Next week we learn about Sarah and how she trusted God too.