

GOD PROMISES TO BLESS THE WHOLE WORLD THROUGH ABRAHAM

BIG IDEA

God called Abraham and Sarah and chose them to be his family of hope for a nation. Because Abraham loved God and believed what God said, God promised to bless the whole world through him.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy lots of cut out stars (ones that glow in the dark or a packet of sparkly stars of some sort)

Buy a snack for everyone to share – something suitable to have in a tent

Find a blindfold e.g. a tea towel

Find an envelope for each person

Collect up sheets or blankets and pegs to build a tent

Put the stars, blindfold and envelopes into the Faith Box before you start

QUIZ

Start with this astronomy trivia quiz:

- What is the planet closest to the sun?
A. Mercury B. Venus C. Earth D. Mars
- What is the planet fifth from the sun?
A. Saturn B. Neptune C. Uranus D. Jupiter
- In 2006 Pluto was no longer considered a planet. How many known planets are there in our solar system now?
A. 11 B. 3 C. 8 D. 12
- True or False: The sun is a star
- Which planet has the most visible rings?
A. Saturn B. Mercury C. Neptune D. Jupiter
- Who was the first man to walk on the moon?
A. No-one has done it yet B. Buzz Aldrin
C. Neil Armstrong D. Yuri Gagarin
- What is the name of our galaxy?
A. Cow Way B. Milky Bar Way
C. Milk Way D. Milky Way

Answers: 1. A / 2. D / 3. C / 4. True / 5. A / 6. C / 7. D

INTRO

We are going to talk about how God used the stars in the night sky to promise Abraham that the world would be blessed through him, and how He would give Abraham many children and grandchildren.



Abraham was a friend of God because he believed what God told him. And Abraham had his eye on his future home – not just on this world.

TAKE THE STARS OUT OF THE BOX AND ASK THE CHILDREN TO COUNT THEM.

Everyone takes a star and shares a promise they have made or a promise that has been made to them. Talk about how it felt to have the promise kept or not kept.

Abraham had always loved God and wanted to obey Him, even though everyone else around him worshipped false gods made of wood and stone.

So when God told him and Sarah to pack their bags and leave their home and go on a long journey (He would tell Abraham later where they were going), they packed their bags and went! But God backed up His promise by showing Abraham the stars. God told him that He was going to give him so many descendants that they would outnumber the stars in the sky.

GAME

Obstacle Course Challenge

CREATE AN OBSTACLE COURSE OF CHAIRS, CUSHIONS ETC Each child puts out one obstacle (use five or six things).

Divide into pairs.

Blindfold one from each pair while the other gives instructions to guide their partner through the course.

NOW MAKE YOUR OWN TENT

Using chairs, blankets and pegs create a tent big enough for everyone.

*Climb into the 'tent' to share your snack, **Explore** and **Read**.*

EXPLORE

QUESTIONS

How do you think it must have felt for Sarah and Abraham to follow God when they didn't know how it would end? They just had to trust God.

Imagine always living in a tent, with your family – what would that be like?

Where would you cook and wash? And do your school work?

This is the story of God's amazing promise to Abraham – that he would bless him and give him a child. This was something Abraham really, really wanted and had asked God for many times. For many years God also told Abraham that he would give him a special country to live in and he would bless his children, and their descendants.

READ

“Abraham,” God said. “How many stars are there?” (God was about to tell His friend a wonderful secret).
“Let me see,” Abraham said, rolling up his sleeves. (But have you ever tried counting stars?) Then you know how hard it is.
“993,994,997, Uh-Oh. No wait 1,2,...” Of course, he kept losing count. “Too many!” he said.
“Guess what?” God laughed.
“I will give you so many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, you won’t be able to count them either.”
Abraham couldn’t help giggling at such a wonderful idea. But he stopped himself. How could he have a family? Don’t be silly. He didn’t have any children, let alone grandchildren. He wiped away a tear. Anyway it was far too late for him to start having babies at his age, he was 99 years old! What could God mean?
“Abraham,” God said. “Believe me.”
And then God told Abraham his Secret Rescue Plan. “Abraham, I will make your family very big,” God promised. “Until one day, your family will come to number more than even all the stars in the sky.”
Abraham looked up at the dark night sky, thick with stars.
“You will be my special family, my people, and through you everyone on earth will be blessed!” It was an incredible promise – God was going to rescue the world through Abraham’s family! One of his great-great-great grandchildren would be the Child, the Promised One, the Rescuer.
“But it’s too wonderful!” Abraham said. “How can it be true?”
“Is anything too good to be true?” God asked.

“Is anything too wonderful for me?”

So Abraham trusted what God said more than what his eyes could see. And he believed.
Now when Sarah heard God’s promise, she just laughed to herself. But it wasn’t a happy laugh, it had tears in it. She’d always wanted a baby, could her dream come true? Could she really have a baby when she was 90 years old? No, of course not, don’t be silly, it was far too late.
Sarah didn’t believe God could do what He promised. She had forgotten that when God says something, it’s as good as done. (Of course, it was as easy for God to give her a baby son as it was for Him to make all the stars in the sky).
Sure enough, nine months later, just as God had promised, Sarah gave birth to a baby boy. They named him Isaac, which means “son of laughter.”
And Sarah laughed. But this time it was a glorious, happy laugh. Her dream had come true. God would do as he promised. He would always look after Abraham’s family, his special people.))

Genesis 12-21

The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones, pages 56-60, Zondervan © 2007

EXPLORE

The promise God made to Abraham was really important because Abraham wanted it to come true sooo much. More than anything, he and Sarah wanted to have a child. And when you are really good friends the way Abraham and God were, promises mean a lot.

QUESTIONS

What does it mean to make a promise?

Does it make any difference if you have your

fingers crossed behind your back?

Is there anything you really, really want? Have you prayed for it?

Abraham asked for a child but he got so much more than he ever dreamed of. Because he knew God was faithful he was able to be patient. The Bible tells us that God promised to bless Abraham (Gen 12:1-3).

QUESTIONS

What do you think it means to be blessed?

Does it mean everything will be easy?

Does it mean you will get everything you want when you want it?

Is that what it meant for Abraham?

SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN A TIME WHEN YOU PRAYED AND ASKED GOD FOR SOMETHING AND HE ANSWERED YOUR PRAYER IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN YOU EXPECTED; YET YOU DISCOVERED THAT HIS WAY WAS BEST IN THE END.

A promise is a bit like the stamp we put on a letter before we post it. That stamp is a sign that the letter will be delivered to the person it is addressed to, no matter what – whether it is sunny or rainy – or even if it snows!

GIVE EACH PERSON AN ENVELOPE and ask them to write on it a promise to someone in the family. Draw a star stamp in the corner and put it under their pillow tonight (parents may need to give some ideas).

OTHER IDEAS

1 Take the children outside on a starry night this week and challenge them to count the stars. See if you can identify some of the stars, planets and constellations.

2 Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left, he had no idea where he was going... He did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real eternal foundations – the city designed and built by God.

(Hebrews 11:8-9 The Message).

Sarah and Abraham and their family and servants had to live like Bedouins in the desert. Look up some of the ways that Bedouin people live and survive in the desert. Share what you learn at the dinner table.

FAITH BOARD

