



UNIT 3 | SESSION 1

GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12–20

CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The Lord is great. Psalm 135:5

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God made a promise to Abraham.
- God always keeps His promises.
- God promised to send Jesus into Abraham’s family.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Long ago, God made a special promise with a man named Abram. God told Abram to move to a new land. Abram obeyed God. One night, God showed Abram the sky. God said, “Count the stars, if you can. That is how big your family will be.” Abram believed God. When Abram was 99 years old, God said, “Your name is Abraham now. I will give you a big family to live in this land, and I will be their God.”



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Genesis 12. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A BIBLE STORY SONG

Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“God keeps all His promises. We can trust all that God says.

He will always do what’s right. We can trust Him day and night.

God keeps all His promises. We can trust all that God says.”

SAY “ God made a special promise to Abraham, and Abraham trusted God. God promised to send Jesus into Abraham’s family. God sent Jesus just as He promised! ”

2 MAKE STAR ART

Provide dark construction paper for each baby. Help her place star stickers on the paper to make a night sky. Point to the stars and count them. Use a white crayon or gel pen to write one of the gospel gems on her art. Talk about the Bible story.

SAY “ God made a special promise to Abraham. God was going to make his family so big, as many as the stars in the sky—too many to count! Abraham trusted God to keep His promise. God always keeps His promises. ”

3 READ BOOKS ABOUT GOD’S PROMISES

Provide an age-appropriate Bible storybook and other stories that focus on God’s promises. After you read the books, reaffirm that God always keeps His promises. Talk about the Bible story.

SAY “ Abraham believed God’s special promise because God always keeps His promises. God promised to send Jesus into Abraham’s family. When the time was right, God sent Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Genesis 12. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 LACE STARS

Provide a small paper plate for each toddler. Punch five holes on the edge of his plate in the shape of a star. Give him a long piece of yarn, ribbon, or a shoestring. Tape one end of the yarn to the plate and show him how to thread the yarn in and out of the holes to make a star-shaped pattern. Write the Christ connection on his art. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God made a promise to Abraham. He said He would make Abraham’s family big. Even more importantly, God promised to send Jesus into Abraham’s family. God always keeps His promises. ”

3 LEARN THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Show toddlers the sign language for the word Lord. (Make an L-shape with your finger and thumb; move it from your left shoulder in an arc to your right hip.) Practice the sign several times. Find Psalm 135:5 in your Bible and say the key passage phrase. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that the Lord is great. Out of His great love, God made a promise to Abraham. God always keeps His promises. ”

4 LOOK FOR STARS

Cut several star shapes from colorful paper. Tape them around the room at a toddler’s eye level. Dim the lights and provide flashlights for toddlers to shine on the stars. Guide older toddlers to count aloud with you as they shine lights on the stars. Instruct toddlers not to shine lights in anyone’s eyes. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God made a promise with Abraham to make Abraham’s family so big, as many as the stars in the sky—too many to count! Abraham believed God. God always keeps His promises. ”

5 COUNT PEOPLE

Before the session, gather 30 to 40 people figures. Invite toddlers to sit on the floor with you. Hold up two figures to represent Abraham and Sarah. Tell the Bible story. Assist toddlers in placing one people figure for each member of Abraham’s family. Count each member of Abraham’s family, encouraging older toddlers to count along with you.

SAY “ Abraham and Sarah were old when God promised to give them a son. God made a promise to Abraham. Abraham and Sarah trusted God. God keeps His promises. God made Abraham’s family so big, it kept growing and growing! God promised to send Jesus through Abraham’s family. ”

GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

GENESIS 12–20

CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The Lord is great. Psalm 135:5

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY WITH SAND

Provide a large shallow bin with an inch of clean play sand. Place bin on a plastic tablecloth for easy cleanup. Provide sifters, scoops, and other sand play items. Ask toddlers if they can count the grains of sand. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God made a promise to Abraham. Abraham had no children, but God promised to give Abraham a large family that could not be counted, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the shore. Abraham believed God always keeps His promises. God sent Jesus into Abraham’s family. ”

2 SING A SONG

Sing “Father Abraham” and invite toddlers to perform the motions with you. If you are unfamiliar with the song or actions, look them up online before the session. It’s OK if toddlers cannot perform all the motions; they will enjoy watching you!

3 WORK PUZZLES

Print an extra copy of the Bible story picture and write the Christ connection on the back. Cut the picture into four pieces. Guide toddlers to help you put the picture together. Tell the Bible story, and then gently flip over the picture to read the Christ connection.

SAY “ God made a promise to Abraham. God promised to send Jesus into Abraham’s family. God sent Jesus just like He said. God always keeps His promises. ”

4 PLAY OUT GOING ON A TRIP

Arrange chairs or sitting mats to resemble seats in a vehicle. Invite toddlers to sit down and pretend they are going on a trip with you. Call out different objects or landmarks you might see on the trip. Play out silly scenarios like a flat tire or a bumpy road. When you reach your destination, stop and tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God called Abraham to leave his home and go to a new land. God made a promise to Abraham to give that land to his family. Abraham believed God. God always keeps His promises. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.