

4



ABRAHAM

God's Big Promise - The Abrahamic Covenant

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Genesis 12 - 21

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- God made a promise to Abraham to bless him and make him the father of a great nation.
- God promised to lead Abraham to a new land where his people would live.
- God promised Abraham that he (through his descendants, the Israelites) would be a blessing to all peoples on earth. (Second promise of the Forever King.)
- The blessing would come to pass through Abraham's obedience to God's word.

Memory Verse "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3 - NIV)

ACNA Catechism Connection Today's story of Abraham is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q 26 What is the Holy Scripture? ...God's Word written, the Bible...

Q 30 How are the OT and NT related to each other? ...the New is in the Old concealed...

Q 28 What is in the OT? ...points to Christ, revealing God's intention to redeem the world...

Q 227 How should you "mark" passages of Scripture? ...note connections between passages in the Old and New Testaments in order to grasp the full meaning of God's Word.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- Backpack with bottle of water, a can of food, and a map.
- Baby doll for Sarah to hold
- Toy microphone (optional)
- A sign for the Suggested Questions time with the Scripture:
"God said,"...all the people on earth will be blessed through you."
- Chart paper and a felt pen for the life application section
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes: Abraham and Sarah

Memory Verse: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3 - NIV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - Old Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the key concepts highlighted in this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (A man, night sky, stars....)

I wonder who this man is.

I wonder what he is doing.

I wonder what he sees in the sky.

Is there anything else you are wondering about in this picture?

Let's hear more in our story....



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the book of Genesis, in the Old Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY (Important introduction to the lesson): *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster: Many years after Noah and the great flood, God made a promise to a man named Abraham. God said, "Leave your country and your relatives and go to the land I will show you. I will bless you and make you a great nation. And all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." And Abraham listened to God and obeyed Him. Abraham took his wife Sarah, and all their belongings and journeyed off to a new land, the promised land called Canaan.*

At this time Abraham and Sarah were old and did not have any children. But God's promise was for Abraham to become a great nation. After 25 more years, Abraham and Sarah had their first son and named him Isaac. Abraham trusted and obeyed God. He had moved away from his own country just as God told him to. And God kept his wonderful promise to Abraham. Abraham had many descendants (great grandchildren etc.) and they became a great nation. Many years later, Jesus was born. He was one of Abraham's descendants too! JESUS came as the greatest blessing, for all the people on earth, just as God had promised!

STORY:

TEACHER (ASK THE CHILDREN): I need 3 volunteers to come up to the front.

TEACHER TO ASK THE 3 VOLUNTEERS:

Look, I have a backpack. Can each of you pull out one item to show us what is in the pack? Yes, inside there is water, a can of food, and a map. Put all the items back in the pack. Now I want to know which one of you will take this backpack, go home and pack up the rest of your stuff, and then start walking and walking until I ask you to stop. And, if you do this, you will become great and famous sometime in the future.

Who is willing to do this?

(If a child answers "yes" – ask them why?) Look for reasons such as: I trust you.

Who is NOT willing to do this?

(If a child answers "no" – ask them why they are not willing to do this.) Look for reasons such as: I do not trust you. I do not know where you are sending me. I don't know if your promise will come true.

ACTION: *Thank the 3 children who volunteered. The children can go back and sit down.*

TEACHER: Many years after the flood, God made a promise to a man named Abraham. And Abraham trusted God and did what God asked him to do. Here comes Abraham, and his wife, Sarah now.

ACTION: *Abraham and Sarah walk onto the stage.*

TEACHER: God said,

GOD (student): "Leave your country and your relatives. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you, and you will be a blessing to others...all the people on earth will be blessed through you."

TEACHER: This was a very important promise from God. God promised to bless Abraham and his family *so that* they could be a blessing to others. Abraham (and his family) would be a blessing in two ways. First, Abraham and his family were to obey the Lord and do what is right and good and tell others about the One True God. Second, God promised that through Abraham's descendants (descendants means great grandchildren etc.) that someday, Jesus, the Forever King would be born. Jesus would be the blessing for all the people on the earth.

ACTION: *Abraham and Sarah start walking around the room.*

TEACHER: At this time, Abraham was 75 years old. He trusted God and he took his wife Sarah and everything they owned and started travelling to the land of Canaan.

As time passed, God spoke to Abraham in a vision. (A vision is like a day dream – but more "real"). God said to Abraham....

GOD (student): "Abraham, don't be afraid. I will give you a great reward."

ABRAHAM: "God, what can you give me? I have no son."

TEACHER: And God replied,

GOD (student): "You will have a son. Look up into the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. Just like the stars, your descendants will be too many to count."

TEACHER: So God promised Abraham he would be the father of many nations. And God said that he would bless Sarah.

GOD (student): "I will bless her. I will give her a son, and you will be the father. She will be the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will come from her. "

TEACHER: And God cared for Sarah, and he did as he promised. Sarah became pregnant, even in her old age, and she gave birth to a son. They named the son, Isaac. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

ACTION: Give Sarah the baby doll to hold.

TEACHER: When someone makes a promise, how long should you have to wait for the promise to be kept? Do you wait a day? A year?

Abraham had to wait 25 years!

Because Abraham believed God's word, it made God very happy. God kept his promise to Abraham... First, He gave Abraham many descendants. In fact, Abraham had SO many descendants, that there were too many to count! Just like the stars in the sky.

God also kept his second promise.

A descendant of Abraham would be born and

ALL the peoples of the earth would be blessed through him. We know that this promised descendant of Abraham was Jesus our Forever King.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (God had a great plan to rescue (bless) people right from the beginning. God wants to bless ALL the people of the earth because He loves them. He makes and keeps his promises.)
- Bring out the printed Scripture sign, "**God said, "...all the people on earth will be blessed through you"** and say: Let's talk about this part of the promise that God gave to Abraham.
- Did Abraham trust and obey God when God told him to leave his country? (Yes)
- What did God mean when he said he would make Abraham a great nation? (that Abraham would have many descendants, that is, he would have many great grandchildren etc.)

- What did God mean when he said that ALL the people on earth will be blessed? (This part of the promise meant that someday, God would send a special person to be born through Abraham's descendants who would be a blessing to ALL the people of the world.)
- Who do you think that one special person was? (Yes, it was Jesus, God's Son! This part of the promise was pointing to Jesus.)

At this point, the older children may want to have a look at Matthew 1:1-17 to discover the genealogy of Jesus through Abraham. This passage shows how important God's promise to Abraham was and that God is faithful to his promises even if they take a long time to be fulfilled.

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Use the felt pen and chart paper and write up the children's answers so that they can be seen, valued and remembered.

What are some promises that God makes to us? (He will always love us. He will always be with us. He will guide us.)

How can we show God that we have faith in his promises? (Thank him every day for loving us, being with us and guiding us. Read his word - the Bible)



Making connections between our two "starry night" posters

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Give each child a glow in the dark star (from dollar store). Teach them how to draw a star.
- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



Reviewing our Foundations posters

"I will make you into
a great nation, and I
will bless you...and all
peoples on earth will
be blessed through
you."

(Genesis 12:2-3)