

God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-18

Five- and six-year-olds know about making plans. They make plans for which games to play and what they want to do at their birthday parties. But the idea that God has plans for their lives might be new to them. When God made a covenant with Abram, God showed that he had a very special plan for this man. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God loves them and makes good plans for them.



► Bible Point
God has good plans for us.

Key Verse
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5).

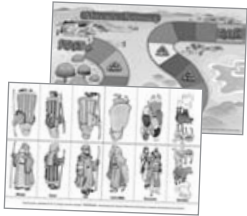
Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will thank God for the good plans he has for them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	We Can Trust Talk about people they can trust.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what a star has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, construction-paper star Teacher Pack: CD	Place the star in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: God’s Covenant Hear about the good plans God had for Abram and pretend to look at the stars.	Bible, Star Maker tube, small flashlight, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put together a Star Maker tube as described in the “Center 4: Star Maker” activity.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Starry Night Trace around the stars on the My Bible Playground pages and add glitter glue.</p>	My Bible Playground, yellow and orange crayons, glitter glue	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: So Many Stars Cut bread into star shapes.</p>	bread, star cookie cutters, honey, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Abram's Journey Game Play a board game to learn about waiting for God's good plans.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Abram's Journey" game board, "Abram's Journey" game pieces, color block</p> 	
	<p>Center 4: Star Maker Make "stars" in the night sky and talk about God's good plans.</p>	½ paper-towel tube per child, dark construction paper, scissors, rubber bands, pencils, several small flashlights	Cut 1 construction-paper circle (about 5 inches in diameter) per child.
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p>Star Prayer Hold up a star and thank God for his good plans for us.</p>	star from "Theo's News"	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Reveals His Plan to Abram

Abram had just returned from defeating a coalition of kings to rescue his nephew, Lot, and God appeared to him in a vision. Notice that in Haran God simply spoke to Abram; later in Canaan God appeared before Abram; now God appeared in a lengthy vision. With each meeting, God’s plan for Abram became a bit more clear.

God’s first words to Abram were words of comfort. What was bothering Abram was Abram’s continuing lack of a son to be his heir. In response to God’s words of comfort, Abram poured out his heart—pleading with God to bless him in this one area he’d not yet received God’s promised blessing.

Abram Displays Faith in God

When God assured Abram by restating his promise that Abram would have his own son, Abram responded in faith. He believed God, and God declared him righteous because of his faith! Nothing that Abram could *do* in obedience to God could make him righteous, but his faith in God did!

To give Abram complete assurance, God made a covenant with him. In those days a covenant was a very serious thing. The cutting in half of animals described in Genesis 15:10 was to signify that the same would happen to any party breaking the covenant. Notice, however, that Abram wasn’t asked to pass between the animals, which would have sealed his commitment to the covenant. Only God, symbolized by the smoking firepot and blazing torch, passed and sealed God’s commitment to the covenant. Only God was required to fulfill the covenant.

God Promises to Bless Abram’s Descendants

Another interesting note is that each type of animal that was sacrificed was later used in particular cleansing ceremonies and sacrifices.

God’s listing of all the things that were to come for Abram’s descendants accomplished at least two things: First, it confirmed that God’s promise would come true because God could see the results more than 400 years in the future. Second, it assured Abram that even though his people would endure hardship, they would eventually possess the land as God had promised.

The Jesus Connection

Make this your prayer today: *God, your plans are perfect. We thank you for Jesus, who revealed your plans and helped us see that when we follow your direction, you’re with us at every step.*

When have you recognized God’s plans for you? It’s a special feeling when God guides you. Pray for God’s guidance for the individuals in your ministry. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22),
“Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Philippians 4:4) (track 29)


1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead the kids in doing the actions and singing “Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22 on the CD) to the tune of “Found a Peanut.”


 **Shake a friend’s hand,** (*shake someone’s hand*)
Shake a friend’s hand, (*shake another person’s hand*)
Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello”*)
Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)
Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello”*)

Give a big hug, (*hug someone*)
Give a big hug, (*hug another person*)
Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello”*)
Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)
Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello”*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: Today we’re going to learn that ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. God’s good plans give us joy. Joy means we’re happy! Let’s sing a song to show God how happy we are.**

Sing “Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Philippians 4:4) (track 29 on the CD). As you sing, have children jump up with arms in the air for each “rejoice.”

 **Rejoice! Rejoice!**
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)



Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

Say: I'm so happy that ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US!** Because God makes good plans for our lives, we can trust his plans. Let's learn about trusting God with our whole hearts.

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

We Can Trust

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Proverbs 3:5, says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." The word *Lord* is another name for God. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to trust God with all your heart?**

Say: **When we trust God, it means we know God is always with us, always hears us, and always loves us.**

Ask:

- **Who are other people in your life you can trust?**
- **What are things your parents do to take care of you and give you the things you need?** Help children think of things their parents do to take care of them, such as buying groceries, getting them ready for school, or teaching them to how to do things on their own.

Say: **You can trust the adults in your family to make good plans to take care of you and always want the best for you. That's a lot like the way God makes good plans for you.**



We Can Trust Supplies

Bible





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you trust your parents?
- Why can you trust God?

Say: **We know that we can always trust God with all our heart and that God always makes good plans for us. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
construction-paper star
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the star in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the star around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, how many stars do you think there are in the sky?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this star in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, there are lots and lots and lots of stars in the sky. I like to look at the night sky and the millions of stars.

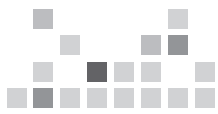
Teacher: I do, too, Theo! That reminds me of when God used the stars to describe a very special promise to Abram.

Theo: He did?

Teacher: Yes, he did—because God had good plans for Abram, and ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.** Friends, let's find out what happened!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, say goodbye to Theo.



Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: God's Covenant

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Open your Bible to Genesis 15, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. Let's hear about God's good plans for Abram. Abram himself will tell us about those plans.**

Start out with the children sitting in a circle, and play "Abram's Adventures" (track 24 on the CD). The CD will tell you when to pause for discussion and when to have the kids lie on the floor and look at the ceiling (no need to pause the CD for this part). At that time, turn off the lights, turn on your Star Maker, and shine it so that stars appear on the ceiling. At the end of the track, turn on the lights.

Say: **What an awesome promise God made to Abram! Abram was worried he wouldn't ever have any children, and God promised Abram he'd have so many children he wouldn't be able to count them—just like he couldn't count all the stars in the sky. Let's learn a song to help us remember God's promise to Abram.**

Lead children in singing and doing the motions for "The Song of Abram" (#2) (track 25 on the CD) to the tune of "Jack and Jill."

 **God appeared to Abram,** (*raise hands in air*)
And he said, "You'll have a son!" (*pretend to rock a baby*)
Abram was so happy that (*smile big*)
God had good plans for him! (*hug self*)
(Repeat.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the promise God made to Abram?**
- **What do you like or not like about waiting for something you really want?**
- **What can you do to wait and not complain?**

Say: **Abram learned that God had good plans to give him a son, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and some beautiful land. God had good plans for Abram, and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too, and we can thank God for his good plans—even if we sometimes have to wait for them.**



Bible Time: God's Covenant Supplies

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Bible
Star Maker tube
small flashlight
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Abram's Adventures" (track 24), "The Song of Abram" (#2) (track 25)

Bible Time: God's Covenant Easy Prep

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Put together a Star Maker tube as described in the "Center 4: Star Maker" activity.





Center 1: Starry Night Supplies

My Bible Playground
yellow and orange
crayons
glitter glue

Center 1: Starry Night Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10
pages from each My
Bible Playground student
book.

Center 2: So Many Stars Supplies

bread
star cookie cutters
honey
plastic knives
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Starry Night

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Tell children to use the crayons to trace around the edges of the stars. Let kids fill in the stars with glitter glue to make the stars sparkle.

Say: **Abram looked at the night sky and talked to God about his hopes for the future. Abram wanted more than anything to have children. When Abram talked to God about his future, God told him the wonderful plans he had for his life.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you hope to be when you grow up?
- What can you do to talk to God about your hopes for your future?

Say: **There are many, many stars in the sky, and God said that Abram would have many, many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. God had good plans for Abram, and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too.**

CENTER 2:

So Many Stars

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Explain how to use the cookie cutters to cut out a star shape in the bread. Then have kids spread honey on the bread to make their stars shine.



As kids work, say: **Tell about the plans you make when you get up in the morning for your day or things you like to do every day. Do you plan to eat breakfast? to play with friends or brothers and sisters? to go visit a friend?**

Allow children to share.

Say: **Abram made plans, too, and he talked to God about his plans. God told Abram the wonderful plans he had for his life—to have as many children as there were stars in the night sky! God has a wonderful plan for every one of you, too.**

Pray: **God, thank you for making good plans for our lives. Please help us remember to talk to you about the good plans you have for us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children eat, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about how Abram talked to God?**
- **What can you do to talk to God about his plans for you this week?**

Say: **Just as God had good plans for Abram, the Bible tells us that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too! We can thank God for his good plans for us.**

■ CENTER 3:

Abram’s Journey Game

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Gather children around a table with the “Abram’s Journey” game ready to play. Have kids form no more than six teams, and assign each a different game piece. Have children play the game by taking turns rolling the color block and moving their game pieces to the next space that has the color rolled. They can roll again if they land on a space with an altar (the pile of rocks). As kids play, tell them how God had a plan even when Abram was making his way to a new land.

Say: **Before Abram got to his new home where God told Abram he’d have so many kids they’d be like the stars in the sky, Abram had a long journey. God asked Abram to move his family and all his things to a new land. Abram obeyed God and followed God because he knew God’s plans were good.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was hard about this game?**
- **What’s hard about doing something new?**



Center 3: Abram’s Journey Game Supplies

.....
Teacher Pack

- “Abram’s Journey” game board
- “Abram’s Journey” game pieces
- color block





Center 4: Star Maker Supplies

½ paper-towel tube per child
dark construction paper
scissors
rubber bands
pencils
several small flashlights

Center 4: Star Maker Easy Prep

Cut 1 construction-paper circle (about 5 inches in diameter) per child.

Say: **When we do new things or go to places we've never been to before, it can be scary because we don't know for sure what'll happen. It's hard to make a plan for something we've never done before. But ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US every day, even when we're unsure.**

■ CENTER 4:

Star Maker

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Find a partner and help each other cover the end of a cardboard tube with a paper circle. Then rubber-band the papers in place.** Allow time, helping as necessary so the papers are taut and held securely in place with the rubber bands. Then say: **Use sharp pencils to carefully poke holes in the papers.** Allow time. **Now you can take turns shining a flashlight into the open end of the tube so the light shines through the holes.** If possible, dim the lights so it's easier to see the "stars" shine.



After kids enjoy the star show, say: **We made our own little night skies! God showed Abram the night sky to explain how many children Abram would have. God had wonderful plans for Abram.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was so amazing about the plan God had for Abram?**
- **What can you do this week to thank God for his good plans for you?**

Say: **When we look up at the night sky and see the stars, we can remember God's good plans for Abram and that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US!**





5

LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. I'd like each of you to choose a way to thank God for the good plans he has for your life this week.**

Read these three ideas for kids to choose from:

- **Each day, thank God for the wonderful plans he had for you that day!**
- **Act out some of the things you could be when you grow up (such as a doctor or a teacher). Then thank God for the plans he has for your life.**
- **Ask your mom or dad to go outside at night and look at all the stars with you. Then thank God for the good plans he has for your life.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

Star Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle and pass around the star from "Theo's News."

Say: **Think about what you hope to be when you grow up or another plan you have for your life.** Allow time and help kids as needed. **As we pray, we'll pass the star around the circle.** Hold up the star so all can see. **When you've got the star, hold it over your head and say the plan you have for your life.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for all of your good plans. Help us trust your plans for us as we grow up and make plans, too.** Pass the star around and allow willing kids to each share a plan for their life. **In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
My Bible Playground

Star Prayer Supplies

.....
star from "Theo's
News"





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

