



God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-18

First- and second-graders like to be involved in making plans. Encourage their planning skills, and talk with them about the difference between good plans and bad plans. Show them that God promises to have good plans for them. Talk about what those good plans might be. Use this lesson to instill in their hearts the understanding that God loves them and has very good plans for their lives and that they can rely on God to help shape their plans after his.



► **Bible Point**
God has good plans for us.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Let's Make Plans <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Plan a special party.	My Bible Fun, pencils	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
2 Bible Exploration	Counting the Stars <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Try to count things that are uncountable, and hear about God's covenant with Abram in Genesis 15:1-18.	Bible, 1 piece of black construction paper and 1 piece of chalk per child, tape, container of sand or salt, flashlight Teacher Pack: space lace	If you haven't done so already, cut the space lace into small pieces.

Key Verse
“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ ”
(Jeremiah 29:11).

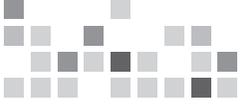
Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will trust that God's plans for them are good.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God Has Plans for Us <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Look at pictures, and read various Scriptures.	Teacher Pack: “God’s Plans” poster 	
	Winners <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make medals.	My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, hole punch, CD player, crayons, 2-foot length of yarn per child Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Let's Make Plans Supplies

My Bible Fun
pencils

Let's Make Plans Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 10
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

1

GETTING STARTED

Let's Make Plans

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Give each child a My Bible Fun page and a pencil.

Say: **Today we'll hear about God's plans for Abram in the Bible and God's plans for us. One special event that we make plans for is a birthday. Today let's pretend we're making plans for a special birthday party.**

Have kids pair off, and then say: **Look at your papers, and talk about all the things you need to plan for in order to have a very special birthday party. When you have finished discussing a picture, put a check mark next to that picture.**

Give kids a few minutes to work through the pictures and plan their parties. Then gather children in one large group. Give kids in each pair a chance to share some of the plans they made.

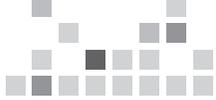
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What sorts of things do we plan for?
- What could happen that might make our plans turn out different from what we expect?
- How can you trust that God's plans will work out?

Say: **Sometimes as hard as we try, our plans just don't work out. It rains when we've planned a special day outside, or our best friend gets sick and can't come over and play. When this happens we might feel sad and disappointed, but we have to make the best of what happens. ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, and we can always trust they'll happen as planned. Today we'll hear about Abram and the special plans God had for him.**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Counting the Stars

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the black construction paper and chalk. Open your Bible to Genesis 15:1-18, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Today we'll hear about the covenant—or promise—that God made with Abram.**

God told Abram to “look up at the heavens and count the stars.” Let's make a starry sky to look at as we hear about Abram. Have kids draw as many stars on the construction paper as they can in 30 seconds.

Give each child a piece of tape, and have kids tape the star pages to the wall, all next to each other. Then have them gather around the starry sky they created.

Say: **Sometimes we don't know how God's plans for us will look. But even if we don't know, God knows.**

Read aloud the Key Verse, Jeremiah 29:11: “**‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’**” (Jeremiah 29:11). Have kids repeat the verse with you.

Say: **God had special plans for Abram. God wanted Abram to trust that these plans meant that good things would happen to him.**

Read Genesis 15:1.

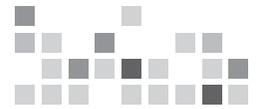
Say: **God told Abram that he would protect him and always give him good things. But Abram still felt sad.** Have kids show you a sad face.

Read Genesis 15:2-3.

Say: **Abram was sad because he didn't think God would ever give him a son. God understood Abram's sadness.**

Have kids tape pieces of space lace to the wall of stars. Turn off the lights and shine the flashlight on the starry night your group created. Read Genesis 15:4-5. Give each child a chance to shine the flashlight on the starry night as you continue.

Say: **God took Abram outside, into the dark, and told him that the number of stars equals the number of descendants Abram would have—too many to count! That's a lot. Let's see if we can find some things that are too many for us to count.**



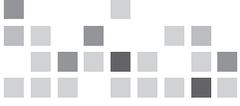
**Counting the Stars
Supplies**

- Bible
1 piece of black construction paper and
1 piece of chalk per child
tape
container of sand or salt
flashlight
Teacher Pack
space lace

**Counting the Stars
Easy Prep**

If you haven't done so already, cut the space lace into small pieces.





Put kids in groups of three and have them count the following. Say:

- **Count the number of people in your group.**
- **Count the number of people in the room.**
- **Count the number of chairs in the room.**

Turn on the lights. Gather kids around the container of sand or salt. If all your kids can't fit around it, invite five or six up at a time. Ask the kids to count the grains of sand or salt. Allow time.

Say: **It would be impossible for us to count all the grains of sand—that's like what God said to Abram. He said he'd give Abram so many children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on, so many descendants that there would be more than Abram could count. Let's see what else God promised Abram.**

Read Genesis 15:7-8.

Say: **Abram wanted to know how he could know God would keep his promises. God wanted Abram to know he would never break a promise to him. Turn to a friend and tell about someone who doesn't usually break promises he or she's made to you.** Allow time.

Say: **God never breaks promises, and he wanted Abram to know that even though his people would face hard times, God would give them land.**

Let's hear what happened next in Genesis 15:17-18: "When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared...On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates."

God appeared to Abram in a blaze of fire so that Abram would be sure to put his trust in him.

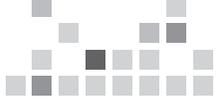
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What seems hardest to believe about God's plans for Abram?**
- **Why do you sometimes have a hard time trusting God's plans?**
- **How can we show trust in God's plans for us?**

Say: **We can always trust that God's plans for us will happen just as he wants. One of the plans that God has for us is to have a relationship with his Son, Jesus. God sent Jesus to earth so we could live with God forever. So, just like Abram trusted God's plans, we can, too! ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.**



3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

God Has Plans for Us

What You'll Do

Have kids form pairs, and ask partners to tell each other what they think God's plans for them might be. For example, God's plans for when they grow up, God's plans for their week, or even God's plans for the day. Then have them share their answers with the whole group.

Say: **God told Abram exactly what his plans for him were. God told him where to go and where to camp and what was going to happen to his children. But God doesn't always tell us his specific plans for us individually. Instead, God gives us the Bible to help us know his plans for us.**

Let's look at what the Bible says about some of God's plans for us.

Show kids the "God's Plans" poster. Point to the picture of the gifts, and invite a child to read the verse below it. Then have each child share a special gift or talent he or she believes God's given him or her.

Say: **One part of God's plans for us is to use the gifts and talents he gave us to love and help others.**

Point to the picture of the two smiling people, and invite a child to read the verse above it.

Say: **These people are happy because they've been able to do something important to them and to God. God promises his plans for us will be good.** Have kids turn to a friend and tell about successes they've had. Allow time.

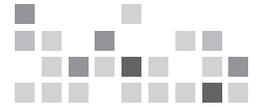
Point to the picture of the ear, and invite a child to read the verse below it.

Say: **God will always hear us. We can talk to him about our plans and his plans for us anytime.** Lead a brief moment of silence while kids pray to God about a plan they have.

Point to the picture of sunlight, water, a house, and food, and invite a child to read the verse above it.

Say: **God will give us all we need. What are some things you need that God has provided?** Let several kids share.

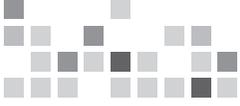
Point to the "no fear" picture, and invite a child to read the verse below it.



God Has Plans for Us Supplies

Teacher Pack
"God's Plans" poster





Winners Supplies

My Bible Fun
several pairs of scissors
hole punch
CD player
crayons
2-foot length of yarn
per child

Teacher Pack

CD: "The Lord's Plans"
(Jeremiah 29:11)
(track 26)

Say: **We don't need to fear because ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US all. Tell about something you're afraid of, and then explain why God is greater than that thing.** Allow time for several kids to share.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which part of God's plans on this poster stands out most to you right now?
- Tell about someone who needs to hear about God's plans like the plans we just discussed.
- What can you do to help others know God's plans?

Say: ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, and we can trust those plans because God always keeps his promises. Like he did with Abram, God will carry out the plans he's made for us.**

Winners

What You'll Do

Gather kids around a table. Distribute the My Bible Fun pages, scissors, crayons, and a 2-foot length of yarn to each child. Have kids cut out the medals and draw a picture of something they need from God on the back of the medals.

Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top of each medal. Have the kids thread the yarn through the hole, tie the two ends of the yarn together to form a necklace, and put the medals around their necks.

While kids are making their medals, play "The Lord's Plans" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 26 on the CD).

Say: **Because God loves us and has special plans for us, we're all winners. That's what our medals say: "We always win when we trust God's plans!"**

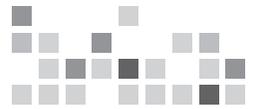
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about something you need.
- Explain whether you trust that God will provide that for you.
- How do you know whether God will provide what you need?

Say: **God always takes care of us. He provides all the things we need, but not necessarily all the things we want. We can trust him to always take care of us because ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US and he will carry them out, just as he carried out his plans to give Abram many, many children and grandchildren.**



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Fun

**4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**

Daily Challenges

Say: **Let’s think about how we can remember that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.**

Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Tell a friend who seems to be sad that God has good plans for him or her.**
- **Take a walk with a family member, and thank God for his plans.**
- **When you make plans, stop and pray that God will help you make plans that match up with his.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

Say: **God had good plans for Abram and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. Abram didn’t know everything God would do for him, but God always took care of him. We can trust God to take care of us, too, by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

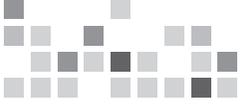
Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God’s plans. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Thank God for his plans for us, and invite kids to pray to God asking him to meet their needs.





Lyrics ■■■■

The Lord's Plans (Jeremiah 29:11)

Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey!

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.
I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.
For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.
I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.

They are plans for good and not disaster,
Plans to give you hope and a future.
They are plans for good and not for evil.
Why? Because he tells us so, oh-oh-oh.

Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey!

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.
I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.

They are plans for good and not disaster,
Plans to give you hope and a future.
They are plans for good and not for evil.
Why? Because he tells us so.

They are plans for good and not disaster,
Plans to give you hope and a future.
They are plans for good and not for evil.
Why? Because he tells us so, oh-oh-oh.

Hey, hey, hey, hey!

"The Lord's Plans" (Jeremiah 29:11) by Ben Glover. © 2004, 2010 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

