

God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-18

Third-and fourth-graders are great at making plans. They can plan a school project. They can plan an imaginary adventure to play all afternoon in the backyard. They can make plans with friends for a sleepover. But they can't always understand the difference between good plans and plans that'll fall apart or spell disaster for them. Use this lesson to help kids discover that God's plans for us are always good.



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

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started</p>	<p>10 Years From Now <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a fun game to predict where they might be in 10 years.</p>	<p>Bibles</p>	
<p>2 Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Let's Make a Deal <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Learn from Genesis 15:1-6 how God had good plans for Abram.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, bag of small treats, paper, pens Teacher Pack: CD</p>	

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).

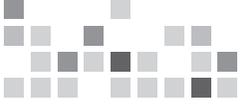
Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will find ways God works in the lives of his people.

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Personal Timelines <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make timelines that tell about their lives.	Bibles, CD player, Bible Truth Sleuth, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), paper, tape, washable markers, rulers Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Star Prayer <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Thank God for the Christians he's placed in their lives.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



10 Years From Now Supplies

Bibles

1 GETTING STARTED

10 Years From Now

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

When everyone's arrived, say: **Let's play a fun game about the future!** Have kids sit in one long line. **You'll have a few things whispered in your ear at the beginning of our game. Try your best to remember all three things that are whispered to you.** Choose a child at one end of the line to be Player 1. Take the child aside, and whisper the name of an activity or an occupation. Explain to Player 1 that he or she will then go down the line and whisper a different activity or occupation to each person in line. Allow time.

After Player 1 has whispered to each child in line, have him or her sit down in place again. Then choose the next child in line to be Player 2. Whisper the name of a place to Player 2, then have him or her whisper the name of a different place to each child in line. Allow time.

Then choose a Player 3, and whisper someone's name to him or her. Have him or her go down the line and whisper different names to each person in line. The child can name people from school, people from church, sports figures, TV or movie celebrities, or even fictional characters. Allow time.

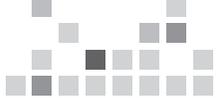
Say: **The name of this game is "10 Years From Now." As we go down the line, each of you can tell us what you'll be doing 10 years from now by repeating the three things that were whispered to you. You'll start by saying, "Ten years from now, I'll be..." Then you can say what you'll be doing, where you'll be doing it, and who you'll be with. For example, you might say, "Ten years from now, I'll be a teacher in Texas with Snow White."** Go down the line and let each child tell what he or she will be doing in 10 years.

Say: **Turn to a person sitting next to you to answer these questions. After each question, I'll invite pairs to share their answers with the rest of the group.**

Ask:

- **What do you think about the predictions the players whispered to you as ideas for your future? Explain whether you'd call them "good" plans.**
- **What makes God's plans different from the game we played?**

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them turn to the Key Verse, Jeremiah 29:11. Invite a willing child to read the passage aloud: " '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.' "



Talk With Kids

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can this verse help you understand about the way God makes plans for our lives?
- What do you like or not like about God’s plans for you so far?

Say: ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US** because he loves us. God knows exactly what he wants us to do in 10 years and every day of our lives. And it will be a whole lot more accurate than our silly predictions! No one else can tell us who we’ll be with or what we’ll be doing with that person. Only God has those plans. And we can trust God to guide us. Let’s find out about some other people who learned they can trust God’s good plans.

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2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Let’s Make a Deal

What You’ll Do

Have kids form two groups, Group One and Group Two.

Say: **Before we read the Bible today, let’s play a game called “Let’s Make a Deal.” Choose one person to be your group’s representative in this game.**

Let groups choose their representatives, and have the representatives come forward and stand facing each other. Designate the two kids Contestant 1 and Contestant 2 according to their groups.

Say: **In this game, our contestants will decide whether to make a deal or not. The rest of you will be the studio audience. The game show host on the CD will tell you how to play. Listen carefully, and respond to the CD as you’re prompted to do so. Ready? Let’s play!**

Play “Let’s Make a Deal, Part 1” (track 17 on the CD), pausing the CD between sections when instructed.

Ask your first contestant if he or she wants to make a deal. If the child says yes, tell the child to walk around the room once quacking like a duck. Then give your contestant a handful of treats (enough for everyone in Group One). Encourage the studio audience to clap and cheer for the contestant as he or she heads back to the group.

If the child chooses not to make a deal, send the contestant back to his or her group with a round of applause—but no treats.

Let’s Make a Deal Supplies

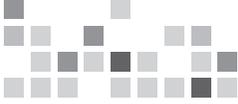
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Bibles
CD player
bag of small treats
paper
pens

Teacher Pack
CD: “Let’s Make a Deal,
Parts 1-3” (tracks
17-19)

 **ALLERGY
ALERT**





Say: **Now it's Contestant 2's turn!** Play "Let's Make a Deal, Part 2" (track 18 on the CD).

When you pause the CD after this segment, ask your second contestant if he or she wants to make a deal. If the child says yes, tell the child to walk around the room once singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." Then give your contestant a handful of treats (enough for everyone in Group 2). Encourage the studio audience to clap and cheer for the contestant as he or she heads back to the group.

If the child chooses not to make a deal, send the contestant back to his or her group with a round of applause—but no treats.

Say: **What a fun game! I wanted to play "Let's Make a Deal" because in the Bible, God sort of made a deal with Abram. God made a covenant with Abram. A covenant is a deal or an agreement, but God's covenant with Abram was very different from the deals we made in our game. I'll show you what I mean.**

Give each group a Bible. Have each group invite a willing child to read aloud Genesis 15:1-6.

Say: **Abram and God were making an agreement. Answer these next questions in your group. After each question, I'll invite groups to share their answers with everyone. Feel free to go back to the Bible to find the answers.**

Ask:

- **What do you think about Abram's worries about his future?**
- **What things do you worry about for your future?**
- **What kind of deal would you make if it meant you didn't have to worry about those things?**
- **Explain whether you think God was making a good deal for Abram.**

Say: **Let's listen to what this conversation between God and Abram might have sounded like if they had been playing "Let's Make a Deal."** Play "Let's Make a Deal, Part 3" (track 19 on the CD), stopping the CD when instructed.

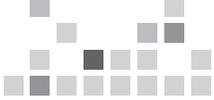
Say: **God meant that Abram's offspring would be all of the people who would come to believe in God after Abram. That means you and me! We're part of God's plan!**

Ask:

- **What do you think about being part of the offspring God promised to Abram?**

Say: **Let's find out about the rest of God's deal with Abram. One willing person in each group can read aloud Genesis 15:9-11, and then also verses 17 and 18. Allow time.**

Give each group paper and pens. Say: **Let's write the next "Let's Make a Deal" segment between God and Abram. Group One, you'll write about what God asked Abram to do and how Abram followed through on his part of the deal. Group Two, you'll write about what God did to show the deal was made. You'll have three**



minutes to write, and you can look at your Bibles for help with the details. Ready? Go! Allow time.

Say: **Now, pair up with someone in the other group.** Allow time (kids can form trios if Groups One and Two are uneven). **Act out the last part of “Let’s Make a Deal” with the people from Group One acting out Abram’s part and the people from Group Two acting out God’s part. Ready? Go!** Allow two minutes.

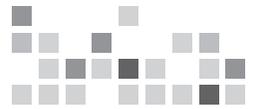
Talk With Kids ■■■■

After kids finish acting out the last “Let’s Make a Deal” segment, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How effective do you think the way God and Abram sealed their deal was? Explain.**
- **Tell about a deal you’ve made with another person and what you did to show you’d keep your part of the deal.**
- **Abram lived a *long* time ago. If God could see that we’d be a part of Abram’s offspring, what does that tell us about God’s promises and plans?**
- **What about God’s promise to Abram helps you believe that God will keep his promises to you?**

Say: **Abram knew he could trust God’s plans to keep his promises. Earlier in his life, God told Abram to pack up and leave his home. What did Abram do? He trusted God. Later, Abram let his nephew, Lot, have the best land, and God promised Abram lots of land and offspring. Abram knew that God had a plan for his life. And we know that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too. We may not know what those plans are, but God does know what’s best for us. Let’s explore what that means for us.**



Personal Timelines Supplies

-
- Bibles
- CD player
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)
- paper
- tape
- washable markers
- rulers

Teacher Pack
CD: “Got a Reason for
Livin’ Again” (track 20)
Bible Timeline

Personal Timelines Easy Prep

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Tear out the Lesson 10
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

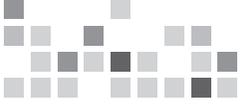
Personal Timelines

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We can experience joy when we know that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. His plans can give us a reason and a purpose to live. Let’s sing a song about that.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play “Got a Reason for Livin’ Again” (track 20 on the CD). Sing along with the kids.





 Got a reason for livin' again,
 Oh, oh, oh.
 Got a reason for laughin' again,
 Oh, oh, oh.
 Got a reason for lovin' again.
 I got the love of God in my heart!

No reason to cry anymore,
 Oh, oh, oh.
 No reason to sigh anymore,
 Oh, oh, oh.
 No reason to die anymore.
 I got the love of God in my heart!

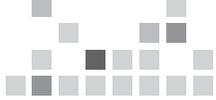
Monday, I was all alone.
 Tuesday, I had my sins to atone.
 Wednesday, I cried and I cried.
 Thursday, Lord, I thought I would die.
 Friday, I started to pray.
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 Sunday, Lord, the heavens did part.
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(Repeat from the beginning.)

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 No reason to die anymore.
 I got the love of God in my heart!
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 I got the love of God in my heart!

Say: When we've got the love of God in our heart, it's easy to trust that God has great plans for our lives. Because God loves us, we can know that he'll make plans to take care of us. Let's make personal timelines that'll help us see these plans. A timeline is a long chart that shows when certain important events occurred. Look at the Bible Timeline to see what I mean. Allow kids to examine the Bible Timeline.



Say: **Our timelines will show things that have happened in our lives, important things we've seen God do in our lives, and good plans we hope God might have for us in the future. We'll also add something we can do this week to think about God's plans in our lives.**

Distribute today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have the other supplies available. Say: **Work in groups of three or four to make your timelines. You can tape together pieces of paper for your timeline. You'll have paper and some colored markers, Bibles, and rulers for each group to share. Find the "My Timeline" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth page, and follow the directions to make your timelines. Allow time.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which things on your timeline are things you planned to have happen?
- Which things were surprises to you? Talk about that.
- What do you think are the differences between God's plans and our own plans for our lives?
- What can you do to thank God for the best events in your life?

Say: **Take your timeline home, and hang it in your room to remind you that God loves us and that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, just as he had wonderful plans for Abram. Remember how God said that Abram's offspring would be as many as the stars? Let's close with a star prayer!**

Star Prayer

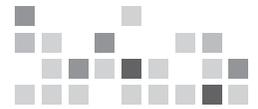
What You'll Do

Have kids find the "Star Prayer" section on today's Bible Truth Sleuth page, and make sure everyone has a pen.

Say: **Inside the star shape, write a prayer to God, thanking him for the good plans he has for your life.** Give kids a few moments to write; then have kids stand in a circle.

Say: **Because we believe in God, we each represent one of the stars God told Abram about. That didn't happen by accident. It was part of God's good plan for us. Think of someone who's helped you believe in God. God put that person in your life on purpose. As we go around the circle to the right, put your right arm into the center of the circle and say the name of someone who's helped you believe in God. After we've gone around the circle, our arms will form a star!**

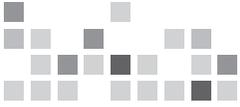
Say a name, and put your right arm into the circle. After each child has said a name and placed his or her arm in the circle, close with a short prayer, thanking God for loving us enough to make good plans for our lives.



Star Prayer Supplies

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Bible Truth Sleuth
pens





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the things you wrote about in your star prayer?
- What are some ways you can see that God has used other people to do good things in your life?
- In what ways can you be a part of God's good plan for someone else?

Say: Just as God made good plans for Abram, ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US** and does so many wonderful things to make those plans come true. God puts people in our lives to help us believe in him, and we can do that for others, too. God's plans are amazing and the best for our lives. Let's look at ways we can seek God's plans for us this week.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US** this week as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Talk to God about the things you hope to do in the future. Ask him to help you trust his plans.
- Talk to your leader at church about how he or she has experienced God's good plans.
- Create an "I Trust God" certificate to promise in writing that you'll follow God's plans in your life.

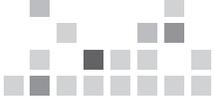
Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

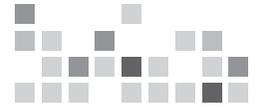
Ask:

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





Say: **Remember when you feel worried—this week, or any time—that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. As you follow through on your Daily Challenges, think about what God planned for Abram and know God cares for you that way, too. Talk to God about your worries, and remember: You can trust that God has a plan for every day of your life.**



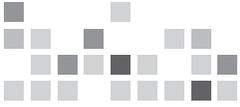
Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God’s good plans for us. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth 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, thanking God for making good plans for each person’s life. You may want to mention each student by name.





Lyrics

Got a Reason for Livin' Again

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Got a reason for laughin' again,
Oh, oh, oh.
Got a reason for lovin' again.
I got the love of God in my heart!

No reason to cry anymore,
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Tuesday, I had my sins to atone.
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