



God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-18

Young children are beginning to understand what plans are. We've all seen preschoolers excited about an approaching birthday party or a trip to an amusement park. They understand what great plans are and can understand short-term plans better than long-term plans. Use this lesson to help kids know that God has great 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 their lives.

.....

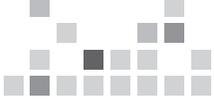
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Leap of Faith Take a "leap of faith" as they tell about times they can trust in God.</p>	<p>Bible, masking tape</p>	<p>Use masking tape to make a starting line on the floor. Then, about 2 feet away from the starting line, use the masking tape to make a large heart (about 2 to 3 feet in diameter) on the floor.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo wants to be a baby.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, infant's toy, string Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Tie the toy to Theo's paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Abram's Promise Help dramatize the promise God made to Abram.</p>	<p>Bible, tape, black construction paper, 1 piece of white chalk per child</p>	<p>Tape the construction paper to a wall, allowing enough space for kids to work.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Child Star Frames Color star picture frames.</p>	My Bible Hugs, glitter crayons, scissors	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Popcorn Stars Enjoy a snack as they talk about God having good plans for them.</p>	CD player, popped popcorn, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Center 3: What Will I Be? Match tools with community helpers.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Community Helpers" matching cards</p> 	Separate the "Community Helpers" matching cards into two piles: people and tools.
	<p>Center 4: A Star-Studded Sky Make pictures of God's good plans.</p>	black construction paper, star stickers, colorful chalk	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Do motions to a rhyming prayer.</p>		
	<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.

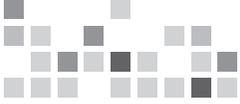
God's listing of all the things that were to come for Abram's descendants accomplished at least two things: First, it confirmed that God's promise would come true because God could see the results more than 400 years in the future. Second, it assured Abram that even though his people would endure hardship,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





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Come On in to God's Church" (track 20), "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 7)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together sitting in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Come On in to God's Church" (track 20 on the CD) to the tune of "This Old Man." Sing the song again, replacing the word *friend* with a child's name until every child has been welcomed with "Welcome, [child's name], to God's church." Encourage the kids to join you in repeating the song as many times as needed.



Come on in to God's church.

We're glad to have you here with us.

With a hello, how are you, nice to shake your hand,

Welcome, friend, to God's church.

(Repeat.)

Say: **Let's sing another song to God. We can praise God and thank him because God does amazing things! ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. So let's rejoice right now as we sing. That means to celebrate and be happy.**

Have children stand, and lead them in singing "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 7 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



Rejoice! Rejoice! *(jump in air)*

And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*

Rejoice! Rejoice! *(jump in air)*

And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*

Rejoice in the Lord always. *(point up)*

And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*

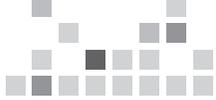
Rejoice in the Lord always. *(point up)*

And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

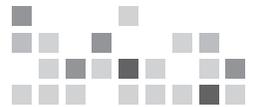
Rejoice! Rejoice! *(jump in air)*





And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*
 Rejoice! Rejoice! *(jump in air)*
 And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*
 And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*
 And again I say rejoice! *(wave hands)*

Say: ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.** That’s a great reason to rejoice and praise God!



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Leap of Faith

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5, and show children the words. Tell children that 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.” This means that God wants us to listen to him, do what he says, and believe that he loves us. Let’s say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5).**

Say: **“Lord” is another name for God. Our Key Verse tells us to trust in God with all our heart, but sometimes that’s hard.**

Say: **Today we’ll learn that we can trust God because ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. When people trust God even when it’s difficult, we sometimes say they make a “leap of faith.” That means they chose to jump out there and trust in God, even when they didn’t understand how God could make everything work out. Let’s play a game to show how we can take a leap of faith and trust in God.**

Tell kids to each say a time they need to trust in God, such as when they’re sad, when they’re alone, or when something bad happens. Then, after each child has shared, have him or her leap from the starting line to the masking-tape heart. When kids land, have them say the Key Verse: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5). Then have them sit on the other side and wait for the other children to take their turns.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time something bad happened to you.
- Tell about who you went to for help.
- What’s a way you can go to God for help?

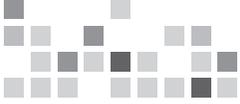
Leap of Faith Supplies

Bible
masking tape

Leap of Faith Easy Prep

Use masking tape to make a starting line on the floor. Then, about 2 feet away from the starting line, use the masking tape to make a large heart (about 2 to 3 feet in diameter) on the floor.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
infant's toy
string

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the toy to Theo's
paw.

Say: **This week, let's take a leap of faith and remember to trust in the Lord with all our heart—even when it's hard to do, because we know that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

Theo: I brought this baby toy with me.

Teacher: Why do you have a baby toy?

Theo: I want to be a baby.

Teacher: Oh, I see. Well, Theo, you can pretend to be a baby, but you'll never get to be a baby again.

Theo: Waaaa! Why not?

Teacher: Theo, don't act like a baby! God has plans for you to grow up and be a big dog!

Theo: He does?

Teacher: Yes, he does! Friends, let's say our Bible Point for Theo.

(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.)

Teacher: God has good plans for everyone's life, Theo!

Theo: I'm going to go put this baby toy back because I don't want to be a baby again. I'm glad I'm going to grow up to be a big dog.

Teacher: That sounds great! Friends, let's 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.

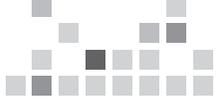
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was funny about Theo today?**
- **Tell about a time you maybe didn't want to grow up.**
- **What are some plans God might have for you when you get bigger?**

Say: **Today we'll read in the Bible about how Abram found out that God had good plans for him and his family, just as ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.**



Bible Time: Abram's Promise

What You'll Do

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

Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.**

Say: **The Bible says that Abram and Sarai were getting very old. They had wrinkled skin and gray hair. They were old enough to be a grandma and grandpa, but God hadn't given them children yet. Poor Abram. He'd waited his whole life, hoping and praying for a little baby to hold and tickle, take on walks, and tell stories to.** Have kids tell about a time they waited a long time for something.

Say: **Abram sighed.** Have kids sigh deeply with you.

Say: **Abram said, "Well, God, I know you promised to give me lots of children, but I'm getting too old now. Did you forget me?"** Have the children show their saddest faces.

Say: **Abram went into his tent to go to sleep.** Have the children go into pretend tents and lie down.

Whenever "the Lord" talks in the rest of the verses, use a deep voice.

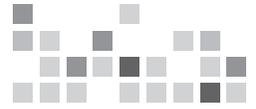
Say: **All of a sudden, Abram heard a voice. It was the Lord! "Abram, don't be afraid. I have good plans for you."**

Abram said, "Lord, I have everything I need. I have a strong tent, a good wife, lots of animals, and plenty of food to eat. The only thing I really want is a child."

The Lord answered, "Abram, I have good plans for you. I'll give you your very own child! Come outside. I want to show you something special in the nighttime sky." So Abram came out of his tent to look at the sky. Have the children leave their "tents." Lead children to the pieces of black construction paper taped to the wall. Give each child a piece of white chalk to make lots and lots of dots on the black "sky." Then encourage the children to lie down and look at the stars.

Say: **God said to Abram, "Look at the heavens and count the stars." Abram looked up and saw thousands of stars in the sky. God said, "Just as you see thousands of stars in the sky, you'll have thousands of children, more than you can count."** Have kids try to count all the stars they made on the black construction paper.

Say: **When God showed Abram the stars, God was telling him that there would be thousands of people in his family. There would be grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, and cousins—as many people as there are stars in the sky! Abram was so glad that God had good plans for him. ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too.**



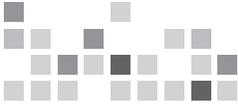
Bible Time: Abram's Promise Supplies

Bible
tape
black construction paper
1 piece of white chalk per child

Bible Time: Abram's Promise Easy Prep

Tape the construction paper to a wall, allowing enough space for kids to work.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you think God's promise to Abram was so special?**
- **Why do you think Abram was so happy about what God promised?**

Say: **God has always had good plans for people. He had good plans for Abram and his family, and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US and our families. We can be happy about God's plans because we know they'll be great!**

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:

Child Star Frames

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Hugs Lesson 10 page. Say: **God told Abram that he'd give him so many children, there'd be more children than stars in the sky.** Point to the stars on the My Bible Hugs page.

Say: **God made each of you, and you can be his children when you believe in him.** Make glitter crayons available so children can color the stars.

Once they're finished coloring, encourage kids to try to count all the stars on the page. Then help them cut out the center boxes to make frames for photos. Have each child take his or her frame home so a parent can supply a picture to go in it.

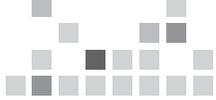
Say: **God wants all of us to be his children. Take your frame home and put your picture in it to remember that God wants you to be one of his stars. ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, just as God had good plans for Abram.**

Center 1: Child Star Frames Supplies

My Bible Hugs
glitter crayons
scissors

Center 1: Child Star Frames Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
10 pages from My
Bible Hugs, and write
children's names on
them.



CENTER 2:

Popcorn Stars

What You'll Do

Provide popcorn for a snack. Invite one child to pray and thank God for the snack before you begin.

Say: **Just as God promised, Abram had so many children, they're too many to count—just like the stars in the sky!** Suggest that the children pretend the popped kernels are stars, and encourage them to count how many “stars” they can eat. Watch younger kids carefully, since popcorn can present a choking hazard for young children.

As children eat, play “My God Has Good Plans for Me” (track 23 on the CD) to the tune of “London Bridge” in the background. Encourage children to sing along when they finish eating.

 **My God has good plans for me,
Plans for me, plans for me.
My God has good plans for me
Because he loves me so.**
(Repeat 2x.)

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you like about God having good plans for you?**
- **What could you tell people who don't believe that God has good plans for them?**

Say: **God kept his promise to Abram—and it was a really big promise. Like that, ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. We can trust and believe God because we know he loves us.**

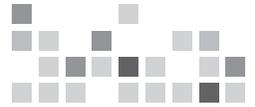
CENTER 3:

What Will I Be?

What You'll Do

Say: **God had good plans for Abram and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US! He has plans for you tomorrow and for when you grow up. Let's play a game about jobs God might have for you when you grow up.**

Show kids the “Community Helpers” matching cards. Lay out people cards face up where kids can see them all. Put the tool cards facedown in front of the children. Have children take turns choosing a tool card to turn over and guessing who might use the



Center 2: Popcorn Stars Supplies

CD player
popped popcorn
napkins
antibacterial gel
(optional)

Teacher Pack

CD: “My God Has Good Plans for Me”
(track 23)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: What Will I Be? Supplies

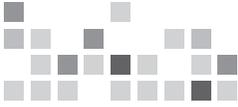
Teacher Pack

“Community Helpers”
matching cards

Center 3: What Will I Be? Easy Prep

Separate the
“Community Helpers”
matching cards into two
piles: people and tools.





Center 4: A Star-Studded Sky Supplies

black construction paper
star stickers
colorful chalk

tool or object pictured. Help kids find the correct matching card. Continue until all the kids have had a turn.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What would you like to do when you grow up?
- What plans do you hope God has for you?
- Why do you know you can trust God's plans for you?

Say: **We don't know what plans God has for us when we grow up, but we do know that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US; so we can trust whatever they are!**

■ CENTER 4:

A Star-Studded Sky

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a piece of black construction paper and several star stickers.

Say: **God promised Abram that someday there would be as many people in his family as there are stars in the sky. That's a lot of people!**

God had good plans for Abram, and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too! Let's think about some good plans that God might have for us.

God has good plans for our friendships. Have each child put a sticker somewhere on the paper and then draw a picture of friends. Say: **We can trust God to bring us some friends.**

God has good plans for our families. Have each child put a sticker in a different location on the paper and then draw a picture of family members. Say: **We can trust God to take care of our families.**

God has good plans for our futures. Have each child put a sticker in another location on the paper and then draw a picture of himself or herself as an older person. Say: **We can trust God to bring us good things in life.**

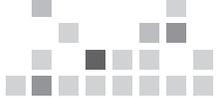
What do you trust God for? Invite children to share. If children bring up any new ideas, have them draw pictures on their papers and add stars.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Look at the things you drew. Explain what you trust God most for.



Say: **These stars can remind us that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, just as God had a good plan for Abram’s family to have as many people as there are stars in the sky.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a 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 would like each of you this week to choose a way to thank God for the good plans he has for you.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

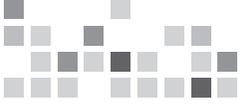
- **Look at a picture of yourself from your first birthday. Thank God for all the wonderful plans he’s had for you since you were a baby!**
- **At the end of the day, tell your mom or dad about everything you did that day. Pray together and thank God for the wonderful plans he had for your day.**
- **Have your mom or dad take you to the library or go online to look up something you want to be when you grow up, such as a doctor, a firefighter, or a scientist. Then talk about how God has great plans 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 Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the children in a circle. Say: **We can trust God because ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. Let's thank God for the good plans he has for us.** Invite children to thank God for things he's already given them such as family, friends, and a place to live. Then repeat the prayer for each child in the circle, and have kids follow you as you do the motions.

Pray: **Thank you, God, for who you are.** (*point up*)

Thanks for [child's name. He or she]'s **a star.** (*point to child*)

My God has good plans for me. (*point to self*)

I'm in God's big family. (*hold hands in the circle*)

In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs 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.

