

Adventures with GOD!

DESCENDANT OF ABRAHAM (C.1.WINTER.3)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 18:18-19, Matthew 1:1, Luke 3:34, Acts 3:25
Key Verse	Acts 3:25
Key Concept	In Jesus, God fulfilled the promise given to Abraham and God's promises continue to be fulfilled today.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Define what a genealogy is, using their own family genealogy 2. Explain how God fulfilled the promise given to Abraham 3. Tell some of the promises that God has given them

Life Application

When God told Abraham that through him God would bless all of the nations on earth, God was thinking in the future. God was thinking about the arrival of Jesus. Abraham and his descendants were part of God's plan to save the world. The children have to know that when God makes a promise, God keeps that promise. Just like God did with Abraham. Genealogies were very important to the Jewish people. The genealogy of Jesus tells us some fascinating things about how God fulfilled the promise made to Abraham.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Post it notes, slips of paper, tape, pens	15 minutes
Bible story	Bible, paper, post it notes, markers	20 minutes
Hidden Picture		5 minutes
Activity	Markers, paper, pens	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the key verse Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Activity: In preparation for the class, make a giant tree and tape to the wall or draw on the board. Have the children write the names of parents, grandparents, great grandparents on slips of paper or post-it-notes and have them put them on the branches of the tree. Ask a couple of the children to share a memory about one of the people you listed. Then ask if any others have a memory of a family member sharing a moment with Jesus (could be prayer, serving, reading, Bible, etc...).

Together read Genesis 22:17-18. Explain how this was a promise from God to Abraham. Draw out a timeline or a family tree that shows how Abraham lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Add some of the different names that are included in the genealogy of Jesus.

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Remember that there were 14 generations between Abraham and David, 14 generations between David and the captivity, and 14 generations between the captivity and Jesus' birth. Together look at Acts 3:25. It says that God fulfilled the promise to Abraham through Jesus.

Pray giving thanks to God because God is faithful and always keeps promises. The children can pray, asking God to keep his promises to them.

Bible Story: Look up and read Genesis 22:17-18 before reading. Explain that this is a promise from God made to Abraham nearly 2,000 years before the coming of Christ. Read it a couple of more times to the students asking them to draw pictures or symbols that are present in this promise. Next, look up and read Acts 8:13-14, 3:25. Explain that this is part of a message preached by the Apostle Peter after Jesus' death and resurrection. After reading the passages ask if there are any names they recognize (make special note of Abraham for whom God made a promise and Jesus- the fulfillment of God's promise). Explain that glorify in verse 13 means that God has revealed Christ as the long awaited Messiah, as the Holy one, God who has come to bless us. Ask: How do you think God blesses us through Jesus? Answers could include: Dying for us, forgiving our sin, loving us, showing us how to love and how to live, eternal life, giving our life purpose, inviting us to serve. Write these on post-it-notes and put above the tree. "Explain: Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise made to Abraham and his entire family tree". This promise is for you and everyone on your family tree.

Hidden Picture: Again, take off 2 pieces from the hidden picture. Use this time to reinforce the Bible verses for today.

Activity: Have students write a prayer or draw a picture thanking God for one of the blessings they have received. Ask them to share with the class.

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Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen