

Adventures with GOD!

FAITH AND THE PROMISE OF GOD (B.3.FALL.7)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 15:1-7, 15-20
Key Verse	Genesis 15:6
Key Concept	God has made wonderful promises
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell what the promises were that God gave to Abraham and Sarah 2. Name some of the promises God has given to those who follow in God's ways 3. Draw some of God's promises

LIFE APPLICATION

God made wonderful promises to Abraham and Sarah. Those of us who have put our faith in God through Jesus Christ have also been given promises from God (promise of unconditional love, peace, eternal life). These promises help us to hold on to our faith in God even when it gets hard.

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
Introduction	Map	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bibles	10 minutes
Activity	Bibles	5 minutes
Activity	Bibles, card stock, aluminum paper, string	10 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 so 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 biblical reference for the day (Genesis 15:1-7) 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 through the story?

Introduction: Begin with a brief review about the adventures of Abraham and Sarah up until now. Use the map to review the names of the places and people. Then on a big piece of paper or on the board write the word "Promise." Talk about the meaning of the word and if possible have illustrations of things that represent a promise (a wedding ring, a rainbow, etc.)

Bible exploration: The Bible story today is found in Genesis 15. Remember that Abraham and Sarah didn't have the Scriptures to guide their life of faith. They were getting to know God as they followed and as God guided. Their faith pleased God. God blessed them and gave them some wonderful promises. Some of the important points to highlight are:

- God told Abraham not to be afraid, because God would be his shield (vs. 1)
- Abraham expressed his worry about not having children (vs. 2-3)
- God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars (vs. 4-5)



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- Abraham believed in God, even though he knew that he and Sarah were old and that having children would be difficult. He honored God with his faith and was called “just.” (vs. 6)
- God promised the land that he had shown Abraham (vs. 7)
- God promised a long life of peace (vs. 15-20)

Activity: “Promises.” Talk about promises. One way to do this is to represent the promises that God made by making a drawing that represents the promise. For example, Genesis 15:1, “I am your shield,” can be represented by the picture of a shield. Or Genesis 15:5 can be represented by a drawing of the night sky with many stars. You could give them different promises and have them work in groups to make the drawing. Also, make sure to give them some of the promises that God has given us, who believe in Jesus Christ. For example, John 8:12, Matthew 28:20, Philippians 4:7 .

Activity: There are several activities to choose from. Either you can pick one for the whole class to do or you can create learning centers so that the children can choose the activity they want to participate in. Here are some options:

- “Remembering the promise.” Making a star medallion with the verse on it.
- “Promises are promises.” Based on the activity sheet in the following pages.
- “My book of promises.” See the instructions in the following pages. Make sure to print out the promises ahead of time. They can make a book with construction paper, gluing on the promises that you will have previously printed out.

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?

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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.



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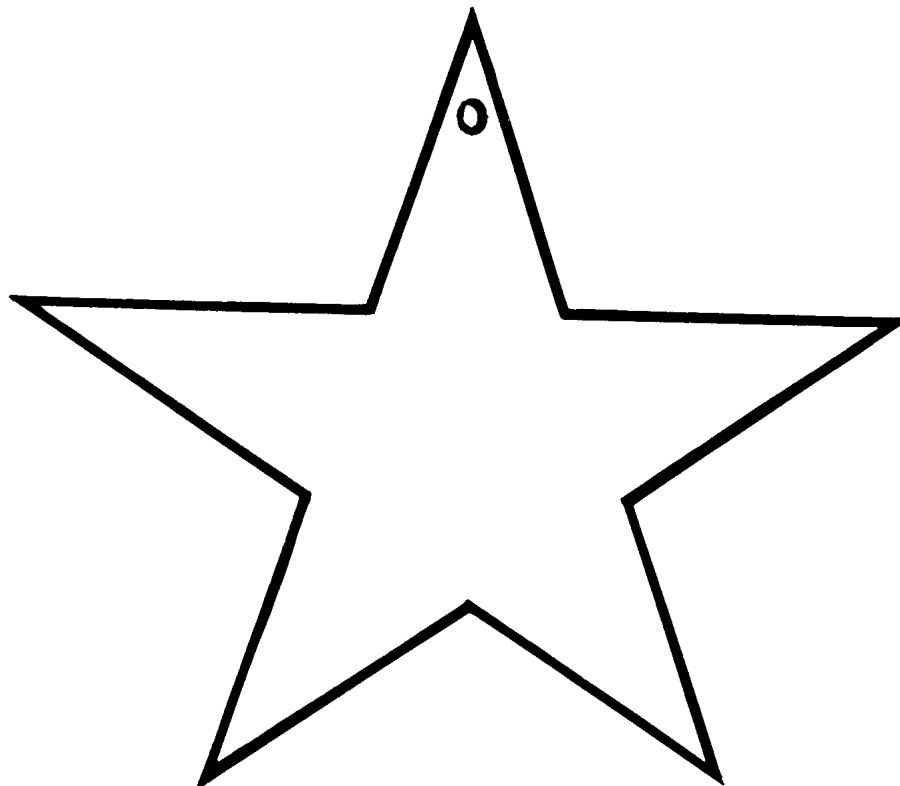
ACTIVITY 1

REMEMBERING THE PROMISE

God gave Abraham a promise that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Today the children can make a medallion in the form of a star, as a reminder of God's promise and God's faithfulness to keep the promise.

Materials: card stock or cardboard
Star pattern
Alluminum foil
Hole puncher
String or yarn

Instructions: 1. Give each child a star pattern and have them trace and cut it out on a thicker type of paper or cardboard.
2. Give them a piece of aluminum paper big enough to wrap around the star.
3. Punch a hole in one of the tips of the star.
4. Give them string or yarn to string through the hole and make a loop with. Make it long enough so it goes around their neck.
5. When they are finished they can wear it like a medallion.



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ACTIVITY 2

PROMISES ARE PROMISES

Give each student a copy of this sheet to work with. When they have answered the questions they can copy the answers on a big sheet of paper. Escriba esta información en una cartulina o papel grande. The answers are found in Genesis 15:

Genesis 15	Who received the promise?	What was the promise?
Verse 1		
Verse 5		
Verse 15		
Verse 18		



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ACTIVITY 3

MY BOOK OF PROMISES

The children can make a little book to take with them that's filled with God's promises. Provide colored construction paper for the cover of the book and white paper for the inside of the book. Allow them time to decorate the cover. Have the Bible verses pre-printed out and cut into strips so they can just glue them in their books.

You can include the following verses:

Matthew 28:20

Psalm 34:15

Psalm 34:4

Proverbs 3:7-8

John 8:31

Philippians 4:7

Psalm 86:7

Psalm 23:1

