

God's Amazing Promise

Abraham is called by God
Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7

Character Trait: Patience

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that trusting God is the right thing to do, even when it is difficult.
- Children will recognize and discuss that God is faithful to keep His promises.
- Children will demonstrate patience by being respectful listeners to others.

Supplies:

- *God's Amazing Promise* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A seed *(or picture of a seed)*
- Cardstock, cardboard or stiff paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Scrap pieces of fabric, yarn and felt
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Hold up the seed (or picture of a seed). Ask the children if they know what it is and then invite them to answer in unison aloud: a seed!

SAY: A seed is similar to a promise. Inside, it holds the promise of some kind of plant to come. When we look at it now, it is tiny and hard to imagine how big it will be one day . But if we are patient and wait for it to grow, it will grow.

SAY: Today, we will learn about a man named Abraham who trusted God and was patient to wait on God's promise.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Who did God spare from the flood?** *(Noah and his family)*
- **What did God tell Noah to collect and take onto the boat** *(Two of every kind of animal: one male and one female)*
- **God promised to never flood the whole earth again. What did God put in the sky as a reminder of this promise?** *(A rainbow)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *God's Amazing Promise* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Abraham lived in Haran.
- "Abraham," God said, " I want you to leave Haran and go to another land."
- God didn't tell Abraham where that was. "Trust Me," God said.
- "Do this," God said, " and your children will become a great nation!"

- "How?" Abraham wondered. His wife, Sarah, was too old to have children.
- "Trust Me," God said.
- "Go where I tell you," God said, "and you will have more descendants than there are stars in the sky! They will bless the whole world. Trust Me."
- So Abraham trusted God.
- He took Sarah, his nephew, Lot, and everything they owned.
- He went where God told him to go. He went to the land of Canaan.
- When he arrived, Abraham camped at Shechem.
- God appeared to him!
- "I will give this land to you and your children," God said.
- Abraham built an altar to God there.
- Abraham traveled around God's promised land. He was glad that he had trusted God.
- So he built another altar and gave thanks to God for all he had been promised.



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **What did God tell Abraham to do?** *(God told him to leave his home in Haran and travel to another land.)*
- **What did God say after He told Abraham what to do?** *("Trust Me.")*
- **What did God promise Abraham?** *(God promised to give Abraham more descendants than there are stars in the sky. He also promised to give the new land to Abraham and his children.)*
- **How did Abraham respond to God's instructions?** *(Abraham showed he trusted God by obeying Him. Abraham travelled to the new land of Canaan. When Abraham arrived in the new land, he gave thanks to God by building an altar.)*

SAY: How would you feel if you found out you had to move to a new place where you had never been before? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: Abraham probably felt this way, too, but his trust in God was stronger than his fears. No matter how scared he might have been, Abraham chose to obey God. He traveled to Canaan, and when he arrived, God blessed Abraham with a new life in the brand new land. Trusting God is always the right thing to do, no matter how we feel.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Trusting God is the right thing to do, even when it is difficult. Abraham trusted God, and God was faithful to lead him to a new life in Canaan. God provides a way for each of us to have new life, too, when we choose to trust in and follow Jesus.

Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

"I will make you *(point forward)*
into a great nation *(raise hands slowly from the floor upward)***.**
I will bless you *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)*
and make you famous *(throw hands up in the air)***,**
and you will be a blessing to others *(sweeping motion with palms up)***...**
All the families on earth *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
will be blessed *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)* **through you."**

Genesis 12:2, 3b (NLT)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

SAY: Abraham trusted and obeyed God, not his feelings. Now, you will be playing a game to practice obedience, too.
Select one child to be the "caller." Have the remaining children sit in a circle. The caller taps the top of the other children's heads while saying, "Stay." This process continues until the caller taps someone and calls out, "Go!" That child then stands up and chases the caller around the circle. If the child is able to touch or "tag" the caller, then the caller must sit in the middle of the circle *(until someone else is tagged to take his or her place)*. If the caller sits in the empty spot in the circle before being tagged, then he or she is "safe" and the other child becomes the next "caller." Play as time permits.

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

SAY: Abraham and his family lived in tents, both when they traveled and probably when they made their new home in Canaan.

Explain that each of them will now make a tent to take home as a reminder of Abraham's trust in God. Provide each child with a piece of cardstock, cardboard or stiff paper. Instruct them to fold it in half like a card. Provide scrap pieces of fabric, yarn and felt for the children to glue to the top of their paper tents. While they work, explain that tents help shield people from the weather and the hot sun.

SAY: God provides instructions to guide and protect us, too, and promises to encourage us while we trust in Him and wait on His timing.

For younger children...
The paper tents can be folded in advance of the lesson for younger children.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by challenging them to think of specific things they can do while they wait on God's timing in their own lives. *(These may include praying, reading God's Word, choosing to be content and grateful, and striving to help those around us who may need help or encouragement.)*

Character Trait: Patience
(10 minutes)

SAY: Patience is the ability to wait calmly. Abraham showed patience in God's timing as he traveled to Canaan.

Encourage the children to think more about patience by asking the following:

- **Why is patience important?** *(It shows that we have self-control and that we do not let our feelings or emotions control us.)*

- **Is it easy or difficult to be patient?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can choosing to be patient honor God?** *(Patience shows that we trust God and His timing.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

Pair each child up with a partner. Encourage them to show patience as they take turns sharing with each other.

SAY: Take turns sharing the tent you made during the activity with each other. Practice patience by listening carefully and asking your partner questions.

Provide a few minutes for the children to share their projects with one another. Walk around the room and provide help and encouragement as necessary. Younger children may benefit from sample questions to ask their partner such as what supplies did they like using the most, why did they select the colors they did and what do they like most about their finished project.



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Abraham trusted in God's timing. Abraham showed this by leaving his home in Haran and traveling to the new land of Canaan. In doing so, Abraham showed patience, too. This was likely very difficult for Abraham to do, but God was faithful to give Abraham a brand new life in Canaan. When things are difficult for us—including when it is difficult to be patient—we can trust God and know that He will be faithful to keep His promises to us, too.



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for Your faithfulness. Help us to show our trust in Your ways and in Your timing by choosing to be patient in all we do.
Amen.

Notes