

## Ancient Christmas Promises (Part 2)

**Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-5, 15:1-6

**Memory Verse:** Genesis 12:3b *“And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

**Lesson Focus:** Last week we went all the way back to the beginning and looked at the creation of our world and its fall. But even in the midst of the fall, we saw God promising a future Rescuer in **Genesis 3:15** (which ultimately points to Jesus Christ). Today we will fast forward several generations (but just a few chapters in Genesis) to see God take some more steps toward keeping that promise by calling Abraham and making some amazing promises to Him. As we study Abraham and God’s promises to him, we will emphasize once again how they point us to Christmas, the first coming of Jesus Christ.

**Activities and Crafts:** God’s Promise to Abraham Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson.

Activity for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders: Abraham Under the Stars Craft

**Starter Activity:** We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room after worship for a quick video (4 minutes) that we will use to introduce the lesson. Before the video we will briefly review the lesson from last week and remind the kids of the ancient promise God had made when Adam and Eve plunged the world into ruin with their sin. \*

Q: After God created all things and looked at all He had made, what did He say?

A: It was very good! (**Genesis 1:31**). Everything was the way it was supposed to be.

Q: But what did Adam and Eve, our great-great-great grandparents, do that ruined everything?

A: They disobeyed God. And suddenly everything changed and the world became the way it was NOT supposed to be (with death, sickness, sadness, hatred, etc.)

Now what we saw in our video last week was that even as the world became what it wasn’t supposed to be (because of sin), God made a promise to send Someone to make things right again. He promised a rescuer, someone Who will crush the devil and his schemes! (**Genesis 3:15**) Today, we are going to fast-forward a little in our Bibles to see God take an important step toward keeping that promise. \*

START VIDEO HERE!

Q: Who did God make these new promises to? A: A man named Abraham (not Abraham Lincoln!) and his family. Let’s open our Bibles now and take a deeper look at Abraham and God’s amazing promises to him.

## Bible Study:

**Genesis 12:1:** God told Abraham to do what? Get out and MOVE!

Q: How many of you have had to move to a new city before? I bet you knew where you were moving to! \*

But God didn't tell Abraham where he was moving to. God just said, "Get going, and I will show you where!"

**Genesis 12:2:** Thus begins God's promise to Abraham. Let's take a deeper look at this:

1) He promises to make him a great nation.

Q: What is a nation? A: A group of people united by culture or code into a country. Our nation is America. Abraham's nation will become Israel.

2) He promises to make his name great, or famous.

Q: Who are some famous people today? I bet all of those people will be forgotten after a few years. But Abraham lived over 4000 years ago and he is still famous! God kept that promise, didn't He?

3) He promises to bless him. We will see how as we continue to read.

**Genesis 12:3:** God continues His promise with a promise of protection. But notice that the blessing doesn't just apply to Abraham, but all of the peoples of the earth!

Q: Do you like it when someone does something nice to you? Give me an example! \*

God is promising to bless or do some really nice things to Abraham. But here we see that these blessings are for you and me too! Remember the promise of the rescuer after Adam & Eve sinned (**Genesis 3:15**)? You and I live in the same broken world that was ruined by Adam & Eve's sin so long ago. But God chose Abraham and his family to be the people who would bring forth this promised rescuer that would bless you and me!

**Genesis 12:4-5:** What did Abraham do? He trusted and obeyed! This trusting and obeying of God to "just go" was a big undertaking for him!

Q: When you move to a new city, or a new house, what do you bring with you?

A: All of your stuff! Abraham had a wife Sarah, his nephew Lot, and many servants and stuff that he had to bring with him.

Now when we move we might get a moving truck and tell the drivers where to take all of our stuff. But was Abraham able to tell anyone where they were going? NO! Abraham had to trust God. (**Teachers:** Consider inviting a volunteer to come up and pretend to "move". Bring in a heavy backpack or something for him/her to carry, but add a twist by blindfolding \* him and having him "trust" you as you give directions. Consider making it interesting by setting up a few obstacles in the room. Place a prize at the destination to "bless" the volunteer for his/her trusting in you.)

So many years had passed and after traveling hundreds of miles he finally settled in this new land with his wife, Sarah, his servants, and his stuff. But he was afraid. God had taken care of him so far, but he wasn't a great nation or anything like that yet.

**Genesis 15:1:** But God reassures him of His promises of blessing and protection that He made to him years ago.

Q: Has anyone ever made a promise to you, but you had to wait a long time for it to be fulfilled? \* How did you feel? Well, Abraham has been trusting and obeying God for many years, but it seems like he might be wondering if God will actually come through!

**Genesis 15:2-3:** It seemed impossible to Abraham for God to keep His promise to bring forth from him a great nation that will bless the whole world.

Why? Because he had no kids and he and his wife were both almost 100 years old!! \* How could he possibly have a family? He was wondering if his hired servant would be the promised heir. But is anything too hard for God?

**Genesis 15:4-5a:** God says NO and \* points him to the stars and asks him to count them.

Q: Have you ever been outside on a clear night when you can see the stars? Can you count them? NO! There are millions and millions of them!

**Genesis 15:5b:** Then God says so shall the number of your children and grandchildren be! What? How could a man this old with no children possibly have millions of descendants? It sounds preposterous and I bet people in his day laughed at him!

**Genesis 15:6:** But he still trusted in God. He believed! As it said in the video we watched, "*Abraham trusted what God said more than what his eyes could see*". And as we also saw in the video and we know from later on in the Bible, God does indeed bless him with a boy named Isaac. And from Isaac we get Jacob who was the father of the nation of Israel: millions and millions of people. God kept His promise!

Q: But how does this bless people like you and me, as **Genesis 12:3** also promised?

**Key Point:** One of Abraham's descendants would be the promised "head-crusher" of Satan. This is the One who would restore the world to the way it was supposed to be!

Q: Who is that? A: Jesus! Through Him, the great-great-great grandchild of Abraham, all the world is blessed! And that is why Christmas is such a big deal. The promised Rescuer had finally arrived!

Q: But how do we receive this blessing? A: Through faith, not works! Just like Abraham trusted God, and God declared Him righteous, so we trust in God and in Jesus Christ, and God declares us righteous. We become children of God and heirs of His promise! \*

Just like Abraham, trust in God, trust in Jesus, and know that you will be blessed according to God's promise! (read **Galatians 3:9**)