

LESSON 10

God Gives Abram a New Name

GENESIS 17:1-10, 15-21



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD AFFIRMS HIS PROMISE, AND ABRAHAM BOWS TO GOD'S AUTHORITY

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 10)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 10

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Names That Mean Something

Naming the Promises

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God gave Abram a new name.

Ask your children who would like a new name. (When you get a volunteer, ask them their name and then think of a similar name, perhaps put a new ending on their name. If her name is Emily, you might call her Emilia. If his name is Jeff, you might rename him Jefforolla.)

The children should think this is funny. Ask them if they know why God gave Abram a new name? (God sometimes renames people he is going to use in special ways.)

Ask the children if any of them know what their name means. If you or any of the other adults in the class know what your name means, tell the children.

Tell the children that God gives Abram a new name: Abraham. Ask them, “Does anyone know what Abram’s new name means? Think of what God promised Abram. See if you can guess what Abram’s name means.” If they are not forthcoming with guesses, you can try some of the following: father of a giraffe? father of many pizzas? father under the sea? The correct one is “father of many children.”

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 10, “God Gives Abram a New Name,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What did God do when Abram was ninety-nine years old?

(God appeared to Abram and spoke to him.)

Why did God appear to Abram?

(God wanted to remind Abram of his promise. God called his promise a covenant.)

What did God promise to do for Abram?

(God promised to make him the father of many nations.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

What did God say would come from Abraham?

(many nations and even kings)

What are some of the names of kings that have come from Abraham?

(King David, Solomon, Jesus, etc.)

Read Matthew 1:1. Ask the children if they knew Abraham was related to Jesus. Tell them Abraham was Jesus' great-great-far-off-great-grandfather.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Philippians 2:5–11

God renamed Abram, Abraham, which means "father of the multitude." The Hebrew meaning of the name shows that God was not just promising that Abraham would have a large number of descendants. God was promising that through Abraham's offspring salvation would come to many people.

Names are important to God, and he chooses them on purpose. God instructed his Son to be named Jesus, which means "Jehovah is salvation." Jesus is the one who brings the salvation of many that God promised when he changed Abram's name to Abraham. Jesus humbled himself on a cross and God gave to him a name above all names.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 10—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What is your favorite part of the story about Abraham? Why?

(Accept any answer. See if you can help the children to see how special it was that Abraham talked with God.)

Can we talk to God like Abraham did?

(Yes, since Jesus died on the cross for our sins, he has opened the way to the Father. We can call out to God with the confidence that he hears our prayers.)

Have you ever tried to talk to God?

(See if the children have ever prayed on their own. Explain to them that they can talk to God; prayer is talking to God.)

Names That Mean Something

Give the children an opportunity to create meaningful names for the following roles. Take several examples for each:

- A football player (example, catcher of the ball)
- A cartoon character (example, duck that talks too much)
- A pastor (example, leader of the church)
- A children's ministry teacher (example, helper of the children)
- A brother or sister (example, person who lives with me)

The name tells us something about the person who bears the title. Remind the class of Abram's new name: Abraham. God was doing a great work in Abram's life and God wanted to mark it with a new name.

Naming the Promises

Ask the children to name all of the promises God gave to Abraham in this passage:

- 1 You will be the father of many nations.
- 2 Your name will be Abraham.
- 3 Kings will come from you.
- 4 I will establish my everlasting covenant between you and me to be your God and the God of your descendants.
- 5 I will give the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession to you—I will give it to you forever.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 10 - GOD GIVES ABRAM A NEW NAME

