

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 REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Read Genesis 17:1–10, 15–21 from the Scriptures or read story 10, “God Gives Abram a New Name,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Names  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ baby name book (or search the Internet for “baby names” and several sites will come up, which you can also access)
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Waiting for the Promise  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ large pretzel rods  
✓ white grape juice  
✓ cups enough for the class
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Abraham  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ coloring page 10—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Waiting, Waiting, Waiting  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ five-minute timer  
✓ small candy prize for the class

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

***A note to the teachers:*** Chapter 17 includes the introduction of circumcision, which is described as an operation to the foreskins of the males in the house of Abraham. The most explicit verses have been passed over so as to avoid the need to explain what a foreskin is. Should a child inquire as to the nature of circumcision, simply refer them to their parents for a more detailed explanation. It is not that we are afraid of these topics, but rather, we do not want to infringe on the intimacy between a parent and child that can be fostered by discussing these topics.

**Abram attempts to fulfill God’s promise**—It had been about 24 years since God had called Abram and promised him offspring, but Abram still had no children. His wife, Sarai, was just too old. In those days it was a disgrace for a woman to bring her husband no son to carry on the family name, so Sarai offered her servant, Hagar, as a second wife for Abram. Hagar bore him a son, Ishmael.

But Ishmael was born normally, without a miracle, and this was not God’s plan. (Paul explains this in Galatians 4:22–23.) God didn’t need help from Abram, Sarai, or Hagar to fulfill his promise. He was going to do something amazing!

**God renames Abram**—God changes Abram’s name (Abram means “father of many”) to Abraham, which means “father of the multitude.” So here was a 99-year-old man named “father of many” who had only one child suddenly telling people his new name was “father of the multitude”! Some people must have laughed, but in Scripture we don’t see Abraham being embarrassed. Instead, he took the name in faith.

**Abraham worships God**—Abraham was 75 when God first promised to give him many offspring. By Genesis 17 he is 99 years old and his wife Sarai still has no child. But when God visits Abraham again, Abraham does not complain. He worships God by falling on his face.

God repeats his promise about Abraham’s many offspring. God also renames Sarai, Sarah, and gives Abraham the commandment about circumcision. Abram obeys the Lord that very day. In Romans 4:11 Paul says that Abraham “received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.”

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**Note: Set up Object Lesson 2 at this point:**

At the start of class, tell the children that you brought in pretzels and juice for them today. Ask them if they would like some, and then tell them that you will give it to them. Then without warning, start going over another part of the lesson.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Genesis 17:1–10, 15–21 from the Scriptures or read story 10, "God Gives Abram a New Name," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

#### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

Names

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ baby name book (or search the Internet for "baby names" and several sites will come up which you can also access)

Prior to class, look up the names of the students in your class and write them down on a piece of paper. Pick ten of them to use in class for the game. Place the meaning of the names on a list. Then have the children try and guess which of the children in their class have those names. You may want to help the children out by listing the names on the board.

The purpose of this exercise is simply to teach the children that names have meaning.

This will help them to see how God’s promise is built into Abraham’s new name. Tell them that Abraham means “father of a multitude,” and ask them how this connects to God’s promise.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

Waiting for the Promise

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ large pretzel rods
- ✓ white grape juice
- ✓ cups enough for the class

At the start of class, tell the children that you brought in pretzels and juice for a snack today. Ask them if they would like the snack and then tell them that you will give it to them. Then without warning, start going over another part of the lesson.

After each segment of the lesson, remind them of the snack and then abruptly move on to the next part. Finally, toward the end of class, pull out the juice and pretzels. As the children are eating, talk about Abram’s promise and how he was patient and believed.

Ask the children how they felt while waiting for the promised snack. Help them to see that just as you were faithful, God was faithful to Abraham. Then connect the lesson to Christ for Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy given to Abram.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Abraham**

**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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Waiting, Waiting, Waiting**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ five-minute timer
- ✓ small candy prize for the class

Explain to the class that you are going to help them see how hard it is to wait patiently. Tell them to sit quietly in their seats without talking or moving for five minutes. If they succeed, you promise to give them a prize. Set your timer and say, "Go." Five minutes of quiet without movement can seem like an eternity. So at two minutes, remind them about the prize. Then at three minutes tell them, "Only two minutes left." Give them an "almost done" encouragement at the four-minute mark.

## ■ LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON 10

When the timer sounds, congratulate the children and talk about how hard it was to wait and how helpful the reminders and encouragements you gave them were. Explain that God had Abraham wait for over twenty years before the promise of a son was fulfilled. That is why God reminding Abraham of his promise was so important.

*Note: If the children struggle to reach 5 minutes, consider 3 minutes. Some grace is called for here as the point will be made even with one or two uncooperative children.*

LESSON 10 - GOD GIVES ABRAM A NEW NAME

