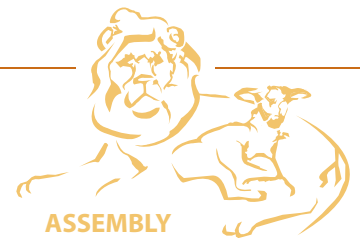


GOD GIVES ABRAM A NEW NAME

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 17:1-8



*Please do not feel the need to cover the entire portion of scripture in your lesson.
The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can
present this material.*

LESSON IDEAS

YOUR NAME HAS A MEANING

Supplies:

baby name book for
preparation for the class,
which gives the meaning
of various names

Ask the children if any of them know what their names mean. Explain to them that names were important to God and often He would name people with names that explained something about their lives.

Abram means exalted father. Ask the children if they can guess what Abraham, the new name God gave Abram means. Abraham means father of many. Pick out a few of the names of children in the group and tell them what their names mean. You should look these up from the roster prior to class so that you can avoid looking up a name that has a derogatory meaning.

If more of the class would like to find out what their name means, you can have them ask their parents. Ask the children if they know the name that is above every other name. You can tell them God gave one special name to a man that is above every name. (Read Philippians 2:9) Since God has authority over all, He can name anyone He wants to name.

NAMING THE PROMISES

See if the children can 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 Me and you to be your God and the God of your descendants
5. I will give the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession to you

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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.

When God touched Abraham, his whole life changed! God gave him a name that reflected his new job description. Abraham means "father of the multitude." One day, this multitude will all bow their knees to Jesus, who received the name above all names. Philippians tells us about the name God gave Jesus.

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

