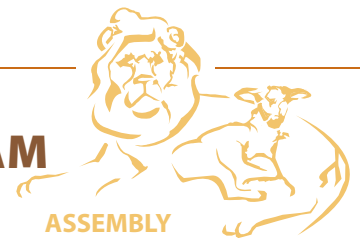


GOD MAKES A COVENANT WITH ABRAM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 15-17



ASSEMBLY

*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

COVENANT MEANS PROMISE

Hold up your left hand and point to your wedding ring. (If you are single, ask for a married volunteer to serve you in this exercise.) Ask the children to tell you what you are pointing to and then ask, "what does it mean?" Try to steer their guesses in the direction of "promise". A wedding ring represents a "promise" to the person who is wearing it. The promise of marriage or the "covenant" of marriage is to remain faithful for your whole life. That is, to stay married until you die. A wedding ring reminds the person wearing it of the promise he or she made. Ask the children the following questions:

What promises did God make to Abram? (Let's start with a review of the 4 Promises found in chapter 12 of Genesis and then add to the list from this week.)

Genesis 12

1. I will make you into a great nation (12:2)
2. I will make your name great (12:2)
3. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you (12:3)
4. All the people of the earth will be blessed through you (13:3)

Genesis 15

5. Abram's offspring will be as numerous as the stars (15:5)
6. Abram's descendants will be enslaved, but then delivered and come out with great wealth (15:13)
7. Abram will die in peace at an old age (15:15)
8. Abram's descendants would own the land between the river of Egypt and the Euphrates River (15:18)

Genesis 17

9. Your wife will be the mother of nations and kings will come from her (17:16)
10. Your wife will bear you a son and you will call him Isaac (17:19)
11. Isaac will be fruitful and become the father of twelve rulers (17:20)

You may want to then quiz them and see how many they can remember. When they can't think of any more, point out how God is so good to give Abram so many promises that we can't even remember them all!

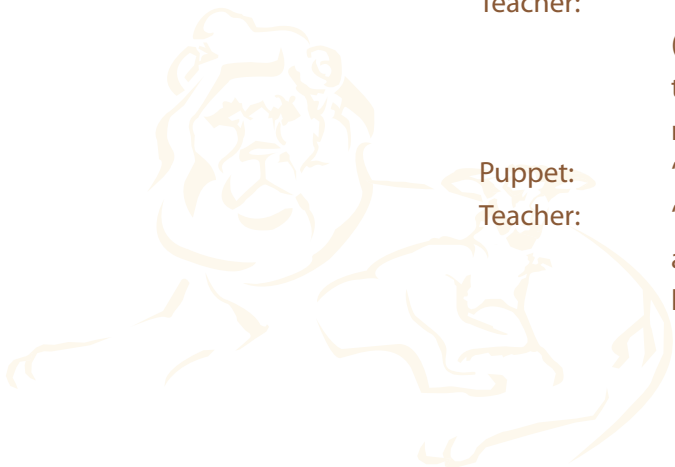
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PUPPET SHOW

It's Hard to Keep a Promise

- Teacher: "Puppet, where are you?" (Repeat several times, looking around.)
 "Puppet, where are you?" (To the class)
 "I just don't understand it, Puppet promised me he would be here."
 "Puppet, where are you?"
 (Teacher looks over his/her shoulder and says,) "Oh, there he is, he is sleeping!" "Why don't you help me wake him up? Wake Up, Puppet!"
- Puppet: "What? Who? What's going on? Where am I?" (Puppet looks at the class and then, surprised, says) "Hello!"
- Teacher: "Puppet, where have you been? You promised me you would wake up in time to help me teach the class today."
- Puppet: "I'm here. My promise is as good as gold."
- Teacher: "I'm not so sure about that."
- Puppet: "Go ahead, test me."
- Teacher: "Okay. How about you promise me you will pay attention while I teach the children and you will not be looking around and fooling around."
- Puppet: "Oh, that's easy, as easy as a piece of cake. I promise!"
- Teacher: "Okay. (Turning toward the class) Who can tell me... (Puppet starts looking all around and bumps the teacher.) Puppet, what... I thought you promised not to look around."
- Puppet: (Quickly looking straight ahead) "I'm paying attention, I promise."
- Teacher: "Okay, we will try again. Okay class, who can tell me... (Puppet starts fidgeting with his clothes and tries to distract the children in the front row.) "Puppet, what are you doing now?"
- Puppet: "What? Who...me?"
- Teacher: "Class, Is it easy for puppet to keep his promises? (Class should answer "No.") Well, I think we will put Puppet away. Thanks for helping us out, Puppet."



GOD MAKES A COVENANT WITH ABRAM

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When the skit is complete, ask the following questions:

- Why is it so hard to keep our promises? (We sometimes forget, or we are distracted by other things.)
- Does God always keep his promises? (Yes)
- Does anyone know what we call someone who keeps his promises? (Faithful)
- How is God different than we are? (God always keeps His promises. He is perfectly faithful.)

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.

God made a promise to Abram that through him all nations would be blessed. Abram himself would not be the one to bless all peoples; the one who would one day fulfill that promise is Jesus Christ.

Paul tells us in Galatians 3:26 – 4:7:

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Once we were slaves to sin, but through faith in Jesus Christ, God adopts us and makes us sons! So, we become one of those stars that Abram saw when he looked up to the sky!

