

GOD GIVES ABRAM A NEW NAME

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 17:1-8



The STORY

Read the story of God changing Abram's name from the NIV Bible.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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

- What did God do when Abram was 99-years-old? (God appeared to him and spoke to Abram.)
- 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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: an old man sleeping with pictures all around him of many different peoples, kings, a fruit tree all from what God spoke to Abraham. Engage the children by asking:

- What is your favorite part of the story about Abraham? Why? (Accept any answer. See if you can help them to see how special it was that Abraham talked with God.)
- Can we talk to God like Abraham talked to God? (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.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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 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.

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)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

