

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAM

Genesis 15:1-6



Key Verse:

“Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them... So shall your descendants be.”
Genesis 15:5

The Point:

God cares for us as communities, families, and individuals.

Making Connections:

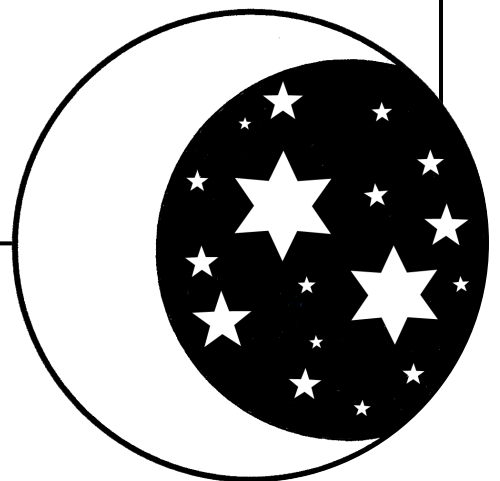
Promises Made, Promises Broken

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Origin Stories

Spiritual Practice:

Fellowship



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Following the first sin and its consequences, Adam and Eve's son Cain murdered his brother, Abel. Humanity's downward spiral continued until enough was enough. God sent a flood, but first God made a way for Noah and his family to survive and for animal life to continue. Even after that fresh start, people struggled with pride and temptation. Despite the negative actions of humankind, God reached out with yet another promise: to make Abram a father to nations.

Story Summary:

God's Promise to Abram

Abram believed in God and lived for God. God told Abram that God is Abram's shield, and Abram's reward would be great. Abram asked how he would be rewarded because he had no children or heirs. God told Abram to look at the stars in the sky. God promised Abram that he would have that many descendants.

Abram believed God's promise. God cared about Abram, about Abram's family, and about the community that would come from Abram's descendants. (Note: Later, God changed Abram's name to Abraham.)

The Point

God cares for us as communities, families, and individuals. In today's text, God's blessings for Abram and Sarai (Sarah) demonstrated God's love and care for Sarai and her desire to give birth, for Abram and his desire to have a son, and for Abram and Sarai's marriage and family. The text also shows God's love for those who would live in

the community that would grow as a result of their son's birth, for all generations to follow. Each person is important to God and plays a unique part in God's plans for humanity.

Bible Nuts and Bolts:

Origin Stories

Origin stories are stories used to explain the origin or cause of something. Genesis as a whole is an origin story. It begins with two stories about the origin of the universe and then addresses the origin of the people of Israel. The call of Abram, along with the promise to make of Abram a "great nation" is often considered to be the origin story of the Israelites through Abram and Sarai (Abraham and Sarah). Within Scripture, the purpose of these stories is often to explain how something came about, comment on how God is interacting with the world, and provide the Israelite people with a clear cultural and theological identity.

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

As individual members of the Body of Christ, bound together in the love of God, we are each a part of the family that began a long, long time ago. Do you experience joy when in the fellowship of believers? Why or why not? How can you extend the hand of fellowship to the families of the children that you minister to each week? Perhaps a card or an email would be a nice touch. How can you help the families who are only as involved as dropping their children off each week to see the joy of fellowship at your church?



God Made a Promise to Abraham

Word Search



Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle.
The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

I T N H J A T B H E S I S
T I O C A N A A N A T V E
L A I Q U N O R E W A R D
O F F S P R I N G L R Q B
Z R I T E U F G F I S V E
C A O A B R A H A M T E L
S O M E N D R E T A T V I
L I V I T L L A H A C I E
U N T E L I A T E E R I V
L O R E N S S A R A H T E
N U L L A A C O E Q U I D
N O N S E Q N I S L L A N
G R E A T L E T E R I U R

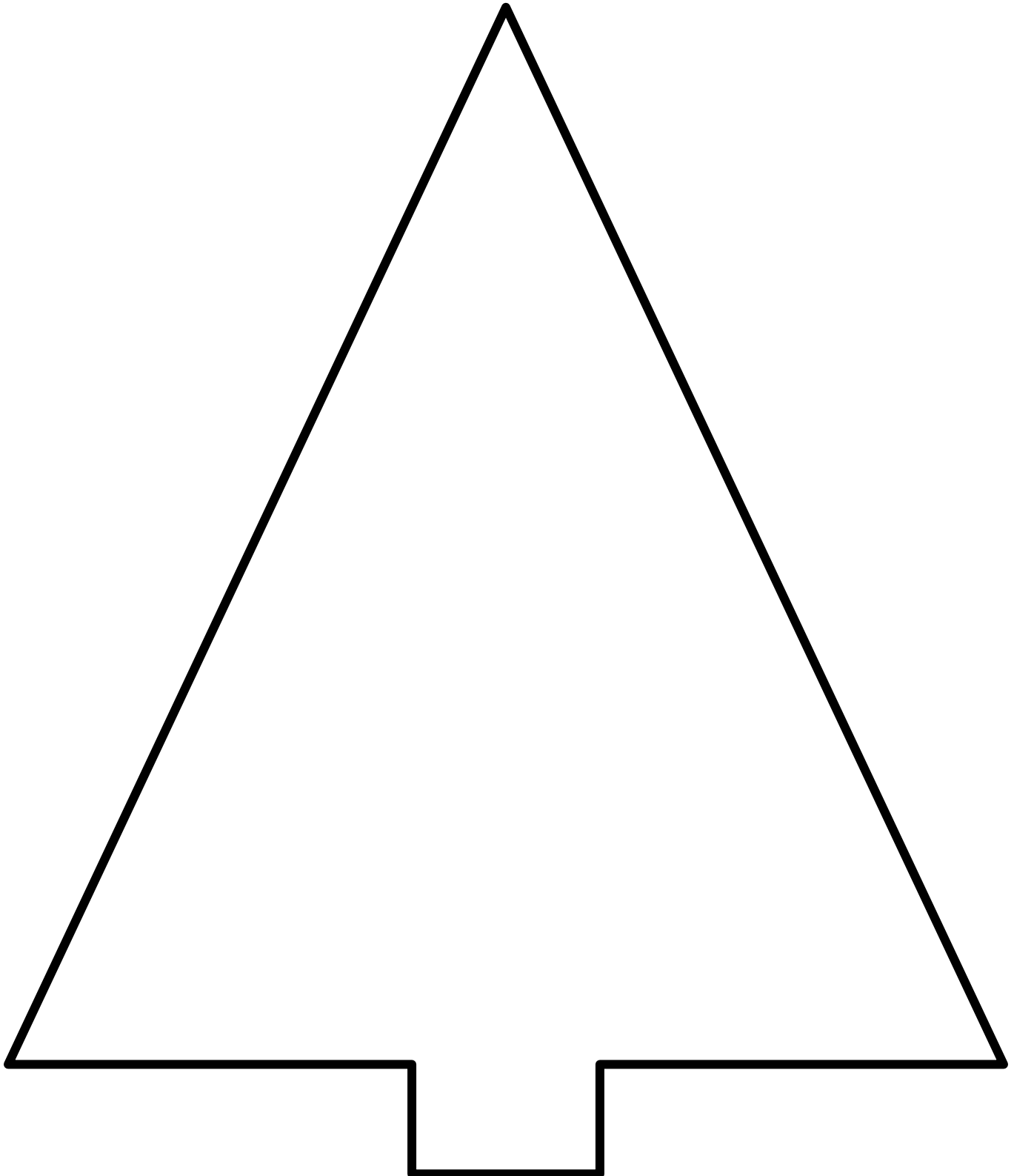
ABRAHAM
BELIEVED
CANAAN
COVENANT

FATHER
GREAT
REWARD
SARAH

OFFSPRING
STARS

JESUS' FAMILY TREE

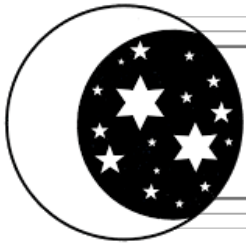
Create a family tree.



FINDING STARS

Count the stars.





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

Lesson #3-2
Genesis 15:1-6

LAST WEEK

At the beginning of creation God makes a promise to the first humans, but they quickly break the promise they make to God (Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17, 3:1-8).

THIS WEEK

God promises Abram (Abraham), that he and his wife Sarai (Sarah) will have many descendants, even though they are old and have no children (Genesis 15:1-6).

STORY SUMMARY

God's Promise to Abram

Abram believed in God and lived for God. God told Abram that God is Abram's shield, and Abram's reward will be great. Abram asked how he would be rewarded because he had no children or heirs. God told Abram to look at the stars in the sky. God promised Abram that he would have that many descendants. Abram believed God's promise. God cared about Abram, about Abram's family, and about the community that would come from Abram's descendants.

THE POINT

God cares for us as communities, families, and individuals.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Origin Stories

Origin stories are stories used to explain how something began. Genesis is a book of origin stories. It begins with two stories about the origin of the universe and then addresses the origin of the people of Israel. The call of Abram, along with the promise to make of Abram a great nation is often considered to be the origin story of the Israelites through Abram and Sarai (Abraham and Sarah). Within Scripture, the purpose of these stories is often to explain how something came about, comment on how God is interacting with the world, and provide the Israelite people with an identity.

PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

How can your immediate family extend the hand of fellowship to others in the family of God? Contact another family at church, perhaps one that you have not spent much time with, and invite them to a night of games and dessert (or other fun activity). Enjoy a time of fellowship.

NEXT WEEK

Despite many difficulties, God keeps Abram's great-grandson Joseph safe and keeps the promise God made to Abram, too. (Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-20).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ What do you learn about God in this story?
- ✚ What do you learn about people in this story?
- ✚ What can we thank God for after hearing this story?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Genesis 15:1-6

God promised Abram to be a father of nations. Look through a family photo album and remember good times with family members.

Monday—Read Genesis 17:1-18

God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Adults, share with children what their names mean and why they were given their names.

Tuesday—Read Genesis 18:1-15

God promised a son to Abraham and Sarah. This seemed unbelievable. Share stories about the most unbelievable thing that ever happened to you.

Wednesday—Read Genesis 21:1-7

Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah. The name Isaac means "laughter." Tell a joke or do something to make everyone laugh.

Thursday—Read Genesis 22:1-14

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. Have children jump off a step, bed, or chair and into the arms of an adult who promises to catch them.

Friday—Read Genesis 27:1-17, 30-38

Isaac blessed his son Jacob with Esau's blessing after Esau exchanged his birthright for stew. Have each person draw a cross with their finger on another person's forehead or hand and say, "God loves you!"

Saturday—Read Genesis 35:9-15

God appeared to Jacob and blessed him. Lay hands on each family member, one at a time, and pray for God to bless them.