

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND SARAH

Genesis 15, 17-18

God Story:

God's Promise to Abraham and Sarah | Genesis 15, 17-18

Big Idea:

God keeps his promises.

Key Verse:

"God has made a great many promises." 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Leader Tip:

Prepare the free-play activities and pray for the children in your group before they arrive.

Ls Life Story

- 1. Big Idea Rocks!** **Free Play**
Review the Big Idea as the children arrange the rocks in correct order.
- 2. All the Stars in the Sky** **Free Play**
Hunt for hidden star stickers and then create a large starry sky together.
- 3. Father Abraham** **Large Group**
Sing along and do the actions to "Father Abraham" on the *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD.

Gs God Story

CIRCLE TIME!

- 4. Bible Story** **Large Group**
Read "Son of laughter" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.
- 5. Key Verse** **Large Group**
Practise the words and actions for this month's key verse.
- 6. Music** **Large Group**
Get everyone moving and singing "There Are Promises" on the *Little Praise Party: Taste and See* CD.

Ms My Story

- 7. Small Group Activity** **Small Groups**
Pray together using the bag of prayer starters as guides.
 - 8. Thankful Trees Craft** **Large Group**
Reinforce the Big Idea as the children decorate their activity pages.
- Additional Activity: Baby Matching Game** **Free Play**
Play a matching card game and review the Bible story and the Big Idea.

Os Our Story

- 9. Dismissal**
Connect with parents. Remember to give them take home cards!

Life Story

1. BIG IDEA ROCKS!

Supplies:

- 4 river rocks, each with a word from the Big Idea written on it (2 sets)
- Bowl to hold rocks
- Big Idea sign

Leader Tips:

- Use the Big Idea sign to help younger children as they put the rocks in order.
- If you only have 3-year-olds in your class, use 1 set of rocks.

Instructions:

- Gather a few children together at a table with the supplies.
- Show them the bowl of river rocks and point out that each rock has a word on it.
- Explain that the rocks go together to form the Big Idea: **God keeps his promises.**
- (JK and SK only) Let the children know that there are 2 sets of words in the bowl so they can form the Big Idea twice.
- Help the children arrange the rocks in order (see sample photo below).



2. ALL THE STARS IN THE SKY

Supplies:

- Black paper
- 30 large star stickers/class

Before the Activity:

- Hide the star stickers throughout your space. Place the black paper on a table.

Instructions:

- During free play, encourage the children to find the hidden stars.
- As the children find the stars, have them stick them onto the black paper.
- When all the stars are found, hold up the black paper for all the children to see.
- Explain that today's Bible story is about a promise God made to Abraham that the number of people in his family would be as many as all the stars in the sky.

3. FATHER ABRAHAM

Supplies:

- CD player
- "Father Abraham" (track 2) on *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD

Leader Tip:

- Set the tone for this activity by being energetic and leading by example.

Instructions:

- Gather all the children together in an open space on the floor.
- Tell them that you are going to do actions to a fun song together.
- Play "Father Abraham" on the CD player.
- Encourage the children to follow your actions. They will not get them all but, if you play the song a few times, they will catch on!
- Tell the children that God made a big promise to Abraham and **God keeps his promises.**



CIRCLE TIME!

Supplies:

- CD player
- Tidy up and/or circle time songs on class CD

Instructions:

- Make sure the CD player is easily accessible during circle time.
- Play music while clearing space on the floor.
- Gather the children into a circle to do the God Story activities together.
- Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

4. BIBLE STORY

Supplies:

- "Son of laughter" (God's promise to Abraham from Genesis 12-21) in *Jesus Storybook Bible* (pp. 56-61)

Leader Tip:

- Use the Bible story to start conversations about God with the children.

Instructions:

- Sit on the floor with the children.
- Tell them that today's story is from the Bible.
- Read the story aloud. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
- Encourage everyone to repeat the Big Idea: **God keeps his promises.**
- PRAY: Dear God, Thank you for keeping your promises. Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for your love. Thank you for your promise that we will be with you forever. We love you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

5. KEY VERSE

PRESCHOOL

Supplies:

- Key verse sign
- Wall-safe tape

Before the Activity:

- Tape the key verse sign to a wall or play panel where everyone can see it.

Instructions:

- Remind the children that 2 Corinthians 1:20a is this month's key verse.
- Say the words and do the actions with the children:
 - God [point to the sky]
 - has made a great [jump]
 - many [jump]
 - promises [jump].
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 [hold hands together with palms up like a book]

6. MUSIC

Supplies:

- Song lyrics sheet
- Wall-safe tape
- CD player
- "There Are Promises" (track 9) on *Little Praise Party: Taste and See* CD
- (Optional) Scarves or musical instruments

Before the Activity:

- Tape the lyrics sheet to a wall or play panel so all the leaders can see it during this activity.

Leader Tips:

- Remember, you set the tone by being energetic and having fun during music activities.
- Feel free to extend your music time with the class CDs.

Instructions:

- Mix it up each week! Here are some options:
 - Sing along with the song.
 - Wave the scarves.
 - Use the musical instruments.
 - Make up fun actions that go with the song.
- If using any optional supplies, hand them out.
- Play the song(s).
- After the music is finished, prompt the children to return any supplies to the bin.



7. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Pictures showing city, neighbourhood, food, family, and friends
- Bag to hold pictures

Before the Activity:

- Place the pictures inside the bag.

Leader Tip:

- During the activity, show excitement to raise the children's curiosity about the contents of the bag.

Instructions:

- Gather all the children into their small groups.
- Explain that God wants to talk with us about different areas of our lives.
- Bring out the bag and ask the children what they think might be inside it.
- Pull a picture out of the bag and show it to the children.
- Ask the children if they would like to pray about what the picture shows. Keep the prayers short (sentence prayers) or you will lose their attention.
- Continue pulling the pictures out of the bag and praying about them.
- Remind the children that **God keeps his promises.**

8. THANKFUL TREES CRAFT

Supplies:

- Thankful Tree activity pages
- Leaf cutouts in autumn colours
- Glue sticks
- Markers

Leader Tips:

- Help older children "write" their own words by writing them in yellow marker. Then show them how to write over top.
- Remember to help children write their names on crafts.

Instructions:

- Gather the children to sit at a table.
- Give each child an activity page and a selection of leaf cutouts.
- Place the glue sticks and markers on the table where everyone can reach them.
- Have the children glue leaves on the tree and draw or colour with the markers as they like.
- As time allows, write what each child is thankful for on the leaves. Older children may be able to copy a simple statement (see Tips above).
- Talk with the children about being thankful that **God keeps his promises.**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: BABY MATCHING GAME

Supplies:

- Baby matching cards

Before the Activity:

- Place the matching cards face down on a table before starting the activity.

Instructions:

- Gather a small group of children together at the table where you placed the matching cards.
- Show the children how to flip over the cards 2 at a time and look for matching pictures of babies.
- As you play, talk with the children about how Abraham and Sarah wanted to have a baby.
- End with the Big Idea: **God keeps his promises.**

9. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Children's crafts
- Take home cards
- Key verse colouring pages

Before Dismissal:

- Place take home materials and crafts where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their children's experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
- b. Give parents take home cards and key verse colouring pages. Remind them to take any crafts.
- c. Make sure children's security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave the classroom.