

The **BIBLE** Story

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12; 15; 17

Abram and his wife Sarai (SEHR igh) lived long ago. Abram was part of Noah's family. One day, something amazing happened to Abram: God chose Abram out of all the people in the world and made a covenant—a very special promise—with him.

God told Abram to move to a place he had never been. God said Abram would have many descendants. That meant

Abram would have many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. So many people would be born into Abram's family that they would become a whole nation of people. They would have land to live on, and everyone would know who Abram was.

Abram obeyed God.

Abram and his wife were old and they did not have any children. Abram did not know how God was going to give him a big family, but Abram trusted God to keep His promise.

Later, God spoke to Abram again. **God promised to give Abram a great reward.**

Abram asked God, "Who will get that reward when I die? I have no children."

God took Abram outside. **"Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can," said God. "That is how many descendants you will have**



someday.” Abram and his wife were getting old. How would they have a baby? But Abram believed it would happen because God said it would.

God promised to give Abram the land, too. **God made a special ceremony to show Abram that He would keep His covenant.** First, God told Abram to bring some animals: a cow, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a pigeon. Abram followed God’s instructions.

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the animals. **God showed that keeping the covenant was His job, not Abram’s job.**

When Abram was 99 years old, God talked to him again. “I am changing your name to Abraham. You will be the father of many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren,” God said. “They will become many nations, and some of them will be kings. I will give them the land where you are living, and I will be their God. My promises will last forever.”

Christ Connection: God promised to bless all the people in the world through Abraham. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham’s family. God blesses all the people on earth through Jesus because Jesus saves people from their sins.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Vary your voice:

Use different voices for the times in the Bible story when God speaks and when Abraham speaks. You may use a booming voice for God and a voice like an old man for Abraham.

• Use the “Genealogy of Christ” poster:

Point to Abraham on the “Genealogy of Christ” poster (005802967). Gesture toward Abraham’s descendants on the timeline when they are mentioned in the Bible story.