



Session 3



GOD'S PLAN FOR ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7; 17:1-22

Abraham was born in Ur. Ur was a prominent ancient Sumerian city located in modern-day southern Iraq. At the time of Abraham, the city would have flourished as the Babylonians were at one of their cultural and political peaks. The people of Ur would have been well-educated, had a written language, been celebrated through visual arts, carving, gemstone crafting, and boasted a highly developed legal system. The world Abraham grew up in was unlike the world to which God was calling him.

At the time of God's call, Abraham was living in Haran. Terah, Abraham's father, had moved the family from Ur to Haran. When Abraham was 75, he received a message from God. God's command to Abraham was not specific; Abraham was simply told to leave the land of his relatives and travel to the land that God would show him. The promise for Abraham's obedience was tremendous, however. God promised Abraham that he would become a great nation and a blessing to all the peoples on the earth. Abraham took his wife, Sarah, his nephew, Lot, and everything they owned and followed God to Canaan where Abraham built an altar to worship the Lord.

Part of God's promise to Abraham was that he and Sarah would have a son. In Genesis 15 God again confirmed the truth of His promise that Sarah would give birth to a son. Abraham was convinced that his inheritance would pass to a servant in his home instead of through a true-born heir.

God told Abraham to look at the stars in the sky and number them if he could. God's promises concluded that Abraham's offspring would exceed the number of stars in the sky. In one of the best Old Testament explanations of the gospel, Abraham believed what God said and God credited Abraham's belief as righteousness. When Abraham was 99 years old, God appeared to him again to recall and fulfill the promise of offspring. Within the year, Sarah would give birth to a son whom they would name Isaac.

GOD'S PLAN FOR ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7; 17:1-22

God chose a man named Abram for something special. God said, "Leave your land, your relatives, and your father's house. Go to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. All the people of the earth will be blessed through you."

Abram was 75 years old when he took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his possessions and servants. They set out for the land of Canaan. When they first arrived in Canaan, God spoke to Abram again. "I will give this land to your descendants," God promised Abram. So Abram built an altar to God.

One day God spoke to Abram in a vision. "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield. Your reward will be great." God took Abram outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Your descendants will be that numerous." Abram believed God and God credited it to Abram as righteousness.

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him. The Lord said, "I am God Almighty. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly. You will become the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram but will now be Abraham."

God also told Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, do not call her Sarai anymore. Sarah will be her name. I will bless her; indeed, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will produce nations. Kings of people will come from her descendants."

Abraham laughed and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man that is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, a ninety-year-old woman, have a son?"

God said, "Your wife Sarah will have a son and you will name him Isaac. I will continue the covenant I have with you with Isaac. This time next year, Sarah will have your son Isaac."

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham and promised him that one day his descendants would be God's special people and one day, He would send a Messiah—Jesus—to rescue them.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND HOME THESE FAMILY RESOURCES EACH WEEK.

- "Explore the Bible At Home" (Printables)
- Explore the Bible: Kids Family Cards

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: “You Can’t Say That” (Printables), “Royal Game” (Slide)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth 3” (Slide)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Isaiah 40:28” (Poster Pack), stopwatch
- Prayer: dry erase board, dry erase marker, Family Cards

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Place the “You Can’t Say That” cards in a stack.
- Welcome kids with your best game show host voice, asking who wants to play a game of “You Can’t Say That!”
- Say: “When I give the signal, a volunteer will pick up a game card and read it. The word at the top of the card is what you are trying to get us to guess. The words listed below on that card are the ones that you cannot say as hints. You can use any other words to get us to guess the right answer. If you say one of the words on the card, your turn is over. Alright, let’s play ... YOU CAN’T SAY THAT!”
- Play the game until all the cards have been used.
- Display the “Royal Game” slide.
- Say: “People have always had fun playing games. This slide shows one of the oldest board games in the world, called the ‘Royal Game of Ur.’ Ur is a city and the birthplace of Abraham. Seeing a game that looks similar to something we might play reveals that Ur was a real place, made up of people who enjoyed doing things just like us.”
- Conclude: (*in game show announcer voice*) “That is the end of our game time; let’s get ready to read our Bible story!”

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask: “Have you ever made a promise to someone and then not been able to keep it? Or maybe someone made a promise to you, but they were unable to keep it.”
- Continue: “There is only One who is able to keep all of their promises and that is God. We are going to find out what He promised Abraham.”
- Say: “Abraham was named Abram at his birth. He was born in the city of Ur but his dad moved their family to Haran and that is where our story picks up today.”
- Ask volunteers to read Genesis 12:1-5.
- Inquire: “What did God promise Abraham?” (*Make a great nation of him. Bless him. Make his name great. Bless those that blessed him. Curse those who dishonored him.*)
- Invite the kids to talk about the choice Abraham made to trust God and move, and what might make it a difficult decision.
- Continue telling the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide. Ask kids to listen for Abraham’s age when his name is changed by God.
- Select someone to read Genesis 17:16-17. Ask: “How would you respond if God told you that he was going to make you a great nation by giving you a son at 100 years old?” (*Allow for answers.*)

- Say: “Abraham may have laughed, but he did trust God to keep the covenant, or promise, that God made to him. We can trust God to keep His promises. Our Text Truth says: **God made a covenant with Abraham, and God always keeps His covenants.**”

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 3 video. Ask: “Where was Joel in today’s video? Who joined him in his camping adventure? Could you count all the stars in the sky? Who had a plan for Abraham? Who has a plan for you?”

MEMORY VERSE

- *Bible Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:28. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bible Verse. This week’s Bible Verse is Genesis 12:2.*

- Use the stopwatch to time kids while they run in place.
- Say: “I’m going to time you for 2 minutes as you run in place. Pace yourself and let’s see who is still running when the time reaches 2 minutes.”
- Give kids a signal to begin and stop them after two minutes. Allow them to have a seat.
- Say: “I see many of you are breathing harder after that short workout. Some of you may have even broken out in a sweat. Two minutes is not really that long, yet it makes us weary when we are doing an activity to raise our heart rate. The Memory Verse that we have been memorizing says that God never gets tired or weary! Let’s read it together.”
- Display the “Isaiah 40:28” poster and read aloud with kids.
- Form two groups to say the verse back and forth, sentence by sentence. Let each group take turns beginning so that they both say each sentence at least once.

PRAYER

- Help the kids list some of God’s promises on the dry erase board. (*Examples: to never destroy the whole earth with a flood again, to never leave us or forsake us, to be with us wherever we go, to forgive us when we ask, to be our helper, to be our friend, that He has a plan for us, to finish the work He began in us.*)
- Say: “For our prayer today, let’s take turns praying God’s promises. It is as simple as saying, “Thank you God for promising to never leave me.””
- Lead kids in a prayer time of promises.
- Distribute the Family Cards. Encourage girls and boys to talk about the questions on the back of the card with their family this week.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: globe, “Review Questions” (Printables)
- Tech Connect (Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids app

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today’s pages.
- Review today’s object by inviting a volunteer to read aloud about the “Royal Game of Ur.”
- Direct kids to read about the “Abraham Clothing.”
- Help boys and girls use their math skills in the activity, “Promises for You!”
- Invite volunteers to read “All About Abraham.”
- Guide kids to review the Bible story by completing the activity “In Order.”
(*Answers: 5, 1, 9, 2, 6, 8, 4, 10, 3, 7*)

REVIEW

- Lead kids to form a circle with a globe placed in the center of the circle.
- Introduce the game: “We are going to travel like Abraham did to review the Bible story! We are going to see if we can get around the world as we review today’s Bible story. To begin, the first player will turn and stand in front of the person to her right. I will ask a review question and the first of those two people to say the correct response will move to stand in front of the next player to the right. I will ask another review question and the player to answer correctly will continue traveling around the world to the next player. It is possible for one person to make it all the way around the world, so let’s see what happens!” (*Use previous “Review Questions” if needed.*)

TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Small Group, download the LifeWay Kids app. Use the activity labeled “Explorer Plus” in the Explore the Bible: Kids section of the app.

GOD'S PLAN FOR ABRAHAM

GOD MADE A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM, AND GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES.



ROYAL GAME OF UR

God chose **ABRAHAM** for something special. God told Abraham to leave his land and his relatives and to go to a **NEW LAND**. God promised to bless Abraham and to bless all the people of earth through Abraham. So Abraham obeyed God, left Ur, and travelled to the new land.

Ur is located in modern-day Iraq. This **4,300 YEAR OLD GAME** was discovered in a royal site in Ur. Games like this were played by real people—just like you—who lived in the time of Abraham.

ALL ABOUT ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM GREW UP IN UR OF THE CHALDEES AND MOVED TO HARAN.

HE WAS CALLED BY GOD TO MOVE TO CANAAN WHEN HE WAS 75 YEARS OLD.

ABRAM MEANS "FATHER IS EXALTED." ABRAHAM MEANS "FATHER OF A MULTITUDE."

IN ORDER

Number the events of Abraham's life in the correct order.

- GOD TOLD ABRAM TO COUNT THE STARS IN THE SKY.
- GOD TOLD ABRAM TO MOVE TO A NEW HOME.
- GOD CHANGED SARAI'S NAME TO SARAH.
- ABRAM AND SARAI PACKED UP THEIR HOME AND MOVED TO THE LAND GOD SHOWED THEM.
- GOD PROMISED THAT ABRAM'S FAMILY WOULD BE AS BIG AS THE NUMBER OF STARS ABRAM SAW.
- GOD PROMISED TO MAKE ABRAHAM THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS.
- ABRAM BUILT AN ALTAR TO WORSHIP GOD.
- GOD PROMISED THAT SARAH WOULD HAVE A SON NAMED ISAAC.
- GOD PROMISED THAT ONE DAY ABRAM'S FAMILY WOULD LIVE IN THE LAND GOD WAS SHOWING ABRAM.
- GOD CHANGED ABRAM'S NAME TO ABRAHAM.

(ANSWER: 5, 1, 9, 2, 6, 8, 4, 10, 3, 7)

BIBLE PASSAGE:

GENESIS 12:1-9;
15:1-7; 17:1-22

MEMORY VERSE:

ISAIAH 40:26



STARS, STARS, STARS!

God told Abraham that his family would be as big as the number of the stars in the sky. Wow! Think about God's special promise to Abraham as you search today's pages to find the hidden stars. **SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ALL 10 STARS!**

ABRAHAM'S SON ISAAC WAS BORN WHEN ABRAHAM WAS 100 YEARS OLD AND SARAH WAS 90.

GOD PROMISED TO GIVE ABRAHAM MORE DESCENDANTS THAN THERE ARE STARS IN THE SKY.

GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM.

ABRAHAM WAS MARRIED TO SARAH.

GOD PROMISED TO BLESS THE ENTIRE WORLD THROUGH ABRAHAM'S FAMILY.

BEEHIVE HOUSES OF HARAN

Abraham lived in the city of Haran for a little while. The ruins of Haran—including these interesting homes—are located in modern-day Turkey.

These beehive-shaped houses are over 3,000 years old and are made of mud and clay. **HOW ARE THEY LIKE YOUR HOME? HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?**

