



Abram and Lot

Lesson Aim: To learn how to be a peacekeeper.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18

What He has done: God gave Abram the land and blessed it.

Key Verse: Genesis 13:8

THE WAY

Christ Connection: James 4:1-3

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how to be a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.
37	Life of Jacob: The Blessing, Genesis 32:24-30; 33:4, 8-10; 35:1, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To inspire spiritual growth in pursuing God's blessings and in mending relationships.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 5:12-21. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You keep Your promises. Help us lead the children as promise keepers and peacekeepers. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Herding Cattle	Balloons (three or four balloons per child, one color for each of the two teams), floor tape
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:13	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 32 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	Map—Ancient Egypt and Canaan, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: James 4:1-3	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Map of ancient Canaan (indicating Bethel and Hebron) with Bible Memory Verse, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Crunch Munch	Chips or crackers
	Up to 10	Game: Look North, South, East, and West	Four signs titled North, South, East, and West
	Up to 10	Craft: Peaceful Sand	Several colors of sand (available at craft stores), white glue in squeeze bottles, craft sticks, pencils, card stock, newspapers
	Up to 10	Discussion: Take a Walk with God	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: Where would you like to live?

GAME: HERDING CATTLE

Purpose: To introduce the concept of herding, teams race to move their balloons across the room.

Supplies: Balloons (three or four balloons per child, one color for each of the two teams), floor tape

Prepare: Inflate the balloons with air (not helium). Use the floor tape to mark start and finish lines at opposite sides of the play area. Use the tape to place a dividing line down the middle of the play area from the start to the finish line. Divide the balloons into two equal sets according to color and place a color set behind each side of the start line (so each team will have its own color balloon).

Let's herd some cattle! These balloons will be your cows. You will need to move all of your cattle from the pasture (start line) to the barn (finish line); however, you may not carry the cows or step onto the other team's side!

Directions:

1. Divide the class into two equal teams, which line up behind their start lines.
2. On your signal, the teams will move their balloons across the room to the finish line. They cannot carry the balloons, but they can push, bat, or blow the balloons across the room.
3. If a balloon strays onto the other team's side, that team picks up the balloon and returns it to the start line of the team to which it belongs.
4. The goal is to be the first team to get all their balloons across the finish line.
5. Play the game again. This time, teams must return any escaped balloons to the other team at the point where the balloon crossed the dividing line. The balloon does not have to be taken back to the start line.

Great game! In the first game, if you lost your balloon, the other team returned it to the start line and you had to start over with that balloon. How did you feel? (Mad, annoyed.) In the second game, the other team returned your balloon to where you lost it and you could continue to the finish line. How did you feel about the other team, then? (Happy with them, got along better.) Today, we will learn about two families who were herding their cattle on the same land. Like in our first game, they did not work well together. This caused an argument. Let's see how they solved their problem.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship God for who He is and what He has done in keeping His promises to us. In today's story, after Abram settled a family argument between Lot and himself, God promised to give Abram land that would be for his future family. Abram took time to make a special place called an altar to thank God. Let's make this our special place and use this time to thank God for keeping His promises.



As we give our offerings, let's sing our new Bible Memory Verse Song, which is about a promise God has given to us all. Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" while the offering is collected.

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on thanking God for His promises.



Read: Psalm 145:13.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 32.



Abram kept the peace with Lot

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we discovered God called Abram to move to a new land. What do you remember about that story?** (Children respond.) **What did Abram build when he reached Bethel in Canaan?** (An altar to worship God.)

Today, we will read how Abram acted as a peacekeeper with his nephew Lot. Our story begins with them leaving Egypt. A few years earlier, there had been a famine (which means there was very little food), so they had moved to Egypt. Abram became very rich while living in Egypt. If a map is available, point to Egypt, then to Bethel and Hebron in ancient Canaan.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 13:8.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

As we read, keep in mind that to quarrel is to argue. The word offspring means children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Read Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18.



Be a peacekeeper

THE WAY

What was the problem between Abram and Lot? (It was too crowded for sharing, so their herdsmen quarreled.) **Why did Abram say they should not quarrel?** (They were “brothers,” meaning they belonged to the same big family.) **Abram cared about his nephew Lot and wanted to be at peace with him.**

What did Abram do to make peace between Lot and himself? (He let Lot choose the land he wanted.) **When Abram told Lot to choose some land, what selfish choice did Lot make?** (He chose the best land.) **What choice would have been the best peacemaking choice for Lot to make?** (To give the best land to Abram or to divide it fairly.)

Abram made the choices that pleased God. God wants us to be generous. What choices can you make this week in order to be more generous? (Children respond.)

When Lot looked up, he only saw the best well-watered land. When God told Abram to look up, what did God show Abram about his land? (That it would be filled with many offspring—his future family.) **How many offspring did God say Abram would have?** (As many as the “dust of the earth,” which means he would have more than he could count.)

God wants us to be at peace with each other. Abram let Lot have first choice of the land so they could be at peace. God blessed Abram for being faithful and made his land great. What are some ways we can make peace when others want to fight? (Examples: Let them choose/go first, ask them to help you find a way to solve your problem together, find a way to show them you care.) Discuss specific conflict issues the children have encountered with siblings or classmates. Lead children in discovering ways to resolve each conflict peacefully.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 2000 years after Abram said, “Let’s not quarrel,” the apostle James explained the cause of people quarreling.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: James 4:1-3. **Let’s see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read James 4:1-3.

It is not wrong to disagree with someone, but to quarrel is unnecessary and it does not honor God. What is the difference between respectfully disagreeing and quarreling? (Quarreling is disrespectful or angry arguing. Give examples.) **Why do people quarrel?** (For selfish reasons, because they cannot get what they want.)

To ask with wrong motives is to ask for selfish reasons. It means to ask without caring for the needs of others or for what God wants. What do you quarrel about with others? (Children respond.) **How can you avoid these quarrels?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a card which shows our new Bible Memory Verse with a map of Canaan, the land God gave to Abram. Whenever you look at your card, remember Abram chose peace with Lot instead of taking the better land. God had great plans for Abram and blessed him with land and a big family that became a nation.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 32 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Abram and Lot dividing the land. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: CRUNCH MUNCH

Purpose: To provide a positive environment to discuss peacemaking opportunities.

Snack Suggestion: Chips or crackers

In today's story, two families argued over sharing the same land. Sometimes we also have arguments in our own families. As we eat our snack, let's talk about some of the things that cause you and your brothers and sisters to argue, then we can work together to find ways to have peace with them.

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, enjoy the discussion mentioned above.

GAME: LOOK NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST

Purpose: This version of Four Corners reminds children that God told Abram to look up at and walk through the land God was giving to him.

Supplies: Four signs titled North, South, East, and West

Prepare: Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Genesis 13:14-15 says, "The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, 'Lift up your eyes from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.'" Then God told Abram to go walk through it. In this game, we will scatter to the north, south, east, and west as we remember God's promise to Abram.

Directions:

1. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room to count aloud to ten with eyes closed.
2. Children rush to stand in different corners before the Caller says, "10."
3. Caller calls out one of the four corner titles (North, South, East, or West).
4. Children in that corner must be seated. Remaining children then scatter again to stand in one of the corners. This continues until only a few remain standing.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PEACEFUL SAND

Purpose: This sand art scene will remind children of God's promise to give Abram many offspring.

Supplies: Several colors of sand (available at craft stores), white glue in squeeze bottles, craft sticks, pencils, card stock, newspapers

Prepare: Protect the work area with newspapers.

Abram wanted to have peace between his family and Lot's family. Abram unselfishly chose to let Lot choose the better land. God promised Abram would have as many offspring as there is dust on the earth. Let's create a peaceful picture using some of the dust of the earth. In this case, we will use sand. Notice how many grains of sand we use.

Directions:

1. Give a sheet of card stock and a pencil to each child.
2. Ask the children to draw a peaceful scene (such as the beach, a park, the woods, or their bedroom) with the pencil on the card stock.
3. For each color of sand they would like to apply to their pictures, they will need to coat the area with glue (use the craft sticks to spread the glue), cover it with the selected color of sand, and then shake off the excess sand on the newspaper.
4. Repeat the process for each new color.
5. Keep the pictures flat until they are dry.

DISCUSSION: TAKE A WALK WITH GOD

Purpose: To inspire a thankful heart for what God has given each child.

Supplies: None

After Lot and Abram parted ways, God blessed Abram and gave him the land to be his own. Do you think God was pleased with Abram for choosing to make peace in his family? (Yes.) God told Abram to go and walk through the land He had given him. It is good for us to take time to look at the gifts God has given us. What are some ways God has blessed you? (Children respond.) At home, you can begin a list of the many things God has given you. Each day, close your eyes and review your list as if you are walking past each thing God has given you. Then, give Him thanks for who He is and what He has done for you!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us, and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) How did God save Noah and the animals from the flood? (He told Noah how to build a boat or ark.)

The Tower of Babel Why did God stop the building of the Tower of Babel? (Because the builders were trying to make themselves famous instead of God.)

Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) Initially named Abram, God later changed his name to Abraham. What was the first thing God asked Abram to do? (Go to a new land God would give to Abram and his family.) **What did Abram do to keep the peace with Lot?** (He let Lot choose his land first.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350.B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)



Hagar and Ishmael

Lesson Aim: To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20

What He has done: God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.

Key Verse: Genesis 16:13

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Matthew 6:26, 31-33

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how to be a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.
37	Life of Jacob: The Blessing, Genesis 32:24-30; 33:4, 8-10; 35:1, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To inspire spiritual growth in pursuing God's blessings and in mending relationships.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 23. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, God, for watching over us, hearing our cries, and rescuing us. Comfort the children with this story of rescue and promise. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Water From the Well	Small spray bottle or squirt gun and two buckets per team, optional: adhesive tape, plastic tarp (if playing indoors)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 121:1-8	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 33 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	Map—Canaan, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Matthew 6:26, 31-33	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Bird feather, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
	Up to 10	Snack: Well Water	Blue gelatin (in cups or cut into shapes)
	Up to 10	Game: My Eyes See	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Well of Water	Play-doh or colored modeling clay in blue and brown (or yellow)
	Up to 10	Discussion: Name Change	Bibles
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline	

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite drink?

GAME: WATER FROM THE WELL

Purpose: To introduce the story about Hagar and the well as teams race to be the first to fill their bucket with water.

Supplies: Small spray bottle or squirt gun and two buckets per team, optional: adhesive tape, plastic tarp (if playing indoors)

Prepare: If possible, play this game outside. If the game will be played indoors, protect the play area with a waterproof tarp or see dry variations of the game below. Mark the start and finish lines and place a bucket for each team on each line. Fill the start line buckets with water. If the buckets are large or are not the same size, use adhesive tape to mark a fill line inside each finish line bucket. Be sure the fill line represents the same amount of volume in each bucket and can easily be reached during the time allowed for your game.

Today, we are going to learn the story of Hagar and Ishmael. We will discover God watched over them by showing them a well full of water when they were thirsty and in the desert. Let's pretend we are in the desert and there are people nearby that need water. The only way you can get the water to them is by using your spray bottle to fill their well.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into two teams and line them up behind their start line buckets. Give an empty spray bottle to the first person on each team.
2. On your signal, players fill their spray bottles and race to their team's finish line bucket (well).
3. At the well, players squirt water into the bucket five times. Then, they race back to their team and hand the spray bottle to the next person in line. That person repeats the relay. As needed, players should refill the spray bottle before racing to their well.
4. Play continues until one of the teams wins by reaching the fill line on their well.

Variations: Instead of spray bottles, use sponges or cups to transfer the water. For a dry version of the game, fill the start bucket with small stones, marbles, rice, or confetti and use spoons or cups to transfer the "water" to the well.

Small classroom or a large number of players: Use one of the suggested dry versions of the game and form two teams. Place the buckets at either end of the room and have each team sit between their buckets. The player next to the start bucket fills a spoon or cup with the "water" and passes it to the next player, and so on down the line, until the "water" is emptied into the finish bucket. You may choose to give each team one cup or spoon that is passed up and down the line or to give each child a cup or spoon that the "water" is transferred to from the start line to the finish line. Play continues until one of the teams wins by reaching the fill line on their well.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promise to always watch over us. In today's story, we will read how God watched over Hagar and her son Ishmael. He made a special promise to them and provided for them in the desert.



As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to always watch over us by singing Psalm 121. Sing: "I Lift Up My Eyes" while offering is collected.



Read: Psalm 121:1-8.



Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God watching over us.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 33.



God watched over Hagar and Ishmael

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Abram acted as a peacekeeper with his nephew Lot. When Abram moved to the new land, what did he do to keep the peace with Lot? (He let Lot choose his land first.) **Today, we will read how God watched over Hagar and her son Ishmael and gave them a special promise.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 16:13.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Sarai and Abram did not want to wait any longer for a son, so Sarai told Abram to marry her servant Hagar. When Hagar became pregnant, she and Sarai didn't get along, so Hagar ran away. Let's read what happened next. If a map of Canaan is available, point to Shur between Kadesh and Bered and to the desert of Beersheeba. Read Genesis 16:7-16.

A few years after Ishmael was born, God changed Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah. For more information, see the NAME CHANGE game in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **When Sarah and Abraham finally had their son Isaac, Sarah sent Hagar and Ishmael into the desert. Let's read.** Read Genesis 21:9-20.

Teacher Tip: If questions arise, explain that thousands of years ago in Abraham's culture, it was not unusual for a man to have more than one wife at one time.



God watches over you

THE WAY

What did Hagar call God? (The God who sees me.) **Why do you think she called God that?** (Children respond.) **What did the angel tell Hagar to do when she ran away?** (Go back to Sarai.) **The angel said God had heard of her misery, which is her pain, sadness, and worries. What did the angel tell her about God's plan for her life?** (Her baby son would grow up to be a strong man. She would also have many descendants, which means children and grandchildren.)

Have you ever wanted to run away from your problems? (Children respond.) **If you ever feel that way, how might it help if an angel told you God sees your misery and has a good plan for your life?** (Children respond.) **Instead of running away, God wanted Hagar to stay close to Him as she faced her problems and trust His plan for her.**

Ishmael was a teenager when Isaac was born. What did Ishmael do to Isaac which caused Sarah to send Hagar and Ishmael away? (He mocked Isaac.) **How did Abraham feel about sending them away?** (Worried.) **God comforted Abraham with the promise about His plan for Ishmael. What was that promise?** (Ishmael's family would also become a nation.)

Why did Hagar cry in the desert? (She had no water for her son or herself. She thought her son was going to die of thirst.) **How might Hagar have reacted differently if she had trusted God's plan for Ishmael as told by the angel years earlier?** (She would have trusted that Ishmael was not going to die in the desert because God promised to make his family into a nation.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 2000 years after the angel told Hagar that God saw her misery, Jesus reminded us that God sees our every need. Check out what Jesus tells us to do instead of worrying about what we need.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Matthew 6:26, 31-33. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Matthew 6:26, 31-33.

God promises to watch over us. He always sees our needs. What are some of the things you worry about? (Children respond.) **How might Jesus' words help you with your worries?** (Children respond.)

How did God keep His promise to watch over Hagar and Ishmael in the desert? (He sent an angel to comfort Hagar and opened her eyes to see the well of water.) **Can you think of a time when God helped you see He was with you?** (Examples include being comforted when afraid, having a friend or parent arrive at the right time to help, etc.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a bird feather. When you look at the feather, remember the Bible tells us in Matthew 6 that God watches over the birds, so He is definitely watching over and caring for you! Take the feather home and tell others how God cares for them, too.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 33 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Hagar and Ishmael drinking water from the well in the desert. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: WELL WATER

Purpose: To enjoy a snack while reviewing how God watches over us.

Snack Suggestion: Blue gelatin (in cups or cut into shapes)

In today's story, we discussed how God watched over Hagar and her son Ishmael. He helped them see the well in the desert so they could get the water they needed to stay alive. As we enjoy our own refreshing water and a snack that looks like water, let's talk about times when we knew God was watching over us.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When have you known God was watching over you?"**

GAME: MY EYES SEE

Purpose: This version of "I Spy" reminds children that God sees the details of our lives.

Supplies: None

Hagar called God "the God who sees me." God notices everything about us. He even sees what we are wearing right now. Let's see how quickly we can see something God sees about each of us.

Directions:

1. Choose a child as the "Spy" to stand in front of the room.
2. The Spy silently chooses something, such as a piece of clothing or jewelry, on another child to "spy" and whispers to the teacher what the object is.
3. The Spy completes the sentence, **"My eyes see something _____."**
Example: "My eyes see something round," or "My eyes see something blue."
4. The remaining children take turns guessing what the object is and who it is on.
Example: Joy's round earrings.
5. When a correct guess is made, the teacher says, **"Spy's name's eyes see item and wearer. God's eyes see everything about the wearer of the item."**
Example: "Maya's eyes see Joy's round earrings. God's eyes see everything about Joy."
6. Repeat this game until everyone has a turn as the Spy.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: WELL OF WATER

Purpose: Children create a well to remind them that God is watching over them, just as He watched over Hagar and Ishmael.

Supplies: Play-doh or colored modeling clay in blue and brown (or yellow)

God showed Hagar and Ishmael He was watching over them. He promised their family would one day be big enough to become an entire nation. God provided water for them when they were thirsty in the desert. God watches over each of us, too. He is with us in good times and in bad times. Let's make clay wells full of water to help us remember God is watching over us, just as He did for Hagar and Ishmael.

Directions:

1. Divide the two colors of clay into equal parts and hand out to the children.
2. Suggest they form the well by creating a cup shaped out of the brown clay.
3. Fill the well with blue clay. Encourage them to create splashes or bubbles in the water.

DISCUSSION: NAME CHANGE

Purpose: For children to engage in a deeper discussion of the day's lesson.

Supplies: Bibles

Today, we discovered God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Let's discuss why God changed his name. Let's look up and read Genesis 17:3-8. Read Genesis 17:3-8.

God repeats His promises to Abraham several times throughout his life. Let's see if we can pick out all the promises God gives Abraham in this passage.

- Abraham will be the father of many nations, have many descendants - including kings.
- God's promise will also be good for Abraham's descendants.
- God will be their God, and Abraham and his family will own the land of Canaan.

Why does God change Abram's name? (Because he will be the father of many nations.) Abraham means "father of many." God wanted Abraham's name to tell people who he was and how God had blessed him.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

The Tower of Babel Why did God stop the building of the Tower of Babel? (Because the builders were trying to make themselves famous instead of God.)

Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) Initially named Abram, God later changed his name to Abraham. What was the first thing God asked Abram to do? (Go to a new land God would give to Abram and his family.) What did Abram do to keep the peace with Lot? (He let Lot choose his land first.)

Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) What did God do for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert? (He watched over them and gave them water.) What promise did the angel make to Hagar? (God would make Ishmael into a great nation.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350.B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)



Abraham and Isaac

Lesson Aim: To challenge children to a more active faith.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18

What He has done: God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.

Key Verse: Genesis 22:8

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 1 John 4:9

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how to be a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.
37	Life of Jacob: The Blessing, Genesis 32:24-30; 33:4, 8-10; 35:1, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To inspire spiritual growth in pursuing God's blessings and in mending relationships.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 23. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, God, for watching over us, hearing our cries, and rescuing us. Comfort the children with this story of rescue and promise. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Test of Faith	Pencils, markers, copies of the test (See GOT TIME? for student copies.)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:9-10	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 34 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	Map—Mount Moriah in Jerusalem area of Ancient Israel, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: 1 John 4:9	
	Final 5	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: As Many As the Stars	Bread, jelly, plates, spoons, large star-shaped cookie cutters
	Up to 10	Game: Trusted Provision	Planters, pots, or hanging baskets (1 per team, large enough to plant a few seeds), potting soil, water, flower seeds, paper and markers, newspapers or plastic
	Up to 10	Craft: Faith Stars	Yellow sturdy paper, scissors, pencils, glue, glitter, hole punch, yarn, markers or glitter pens
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: Who is the oldest person you have ever met?

GAME: TEST OF FAITH

Purpose: To introduce the story about Abraham's faith being tested, children will take a test.

Supplies: Pencils, markers, copies of the test

Prepare: Make a student copy of the "Test of Faith" (found in GOT TIME? segment) for each student.

Today, we are going to learn the story of Abraham and Isaac. We will discover God tested Abraham's faith to make it stronger. Before we get started, let's take a test of our own. Just like Abraham's test, this one is not for a grade. It is to learn more about God and your faith in Him.

Directions:

1. Give each child a pencil and a copy of the test.
2. Read the directions, scripture, and questions aloud for the children.

TEST OF FAITH

The Lord has given a special promise to us found in Hebrews 10:16-17.

Directions:

1. Listen and follow along as your leader reads this covenant promise from the Lord.

**"This is the covenant (promise) I will make with them
after that time," says the Lord.**

**"I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."
Then God adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."**

2. Circle your choice (true, false, or not sure) for each statement below.

True	False	Not Sure	God's perfect memory never forgets the sins of a believer.
True	False	Not Sure	The Lord helps us know what He thinks is good and right.
True	False	Not Sure	Even if I fail, I trust God will still keep His promises.

3. Trade tests with the person next to you. Explain your answers to each other.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promises—no promise is too hard for Him to keep. In today's story, we will read how God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac. To sacrifice is to give up something special to you. Abraham proved he was willing to give up his special son, just to obey God. This was a picture of a future time when God would send His one and only Son to be the sacrifice for the whole world.



Read 1 John 4:9-10. **Today, the types of sacrifices Jesus wants from each of us are to love God and to love one another.**



As we give our offerings, let's offer the sacrifice of praise by telling God how much we love Him. Sing: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God sending His Son.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 34.



Abraham trusted and obeyed God

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned about Hagar and her son Ishmael. What did God do for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert? (He watched over them and gave them water.) **What promise did the angel make to Hagar?** (That God would make Ishmael into a great nation.)

Today, we will read about Abraham and the special son he had with Sarah. God promised a son to Abraham. He said Abraham would become the father of a nation through this special son. But after many years had passed, he still did not have the son God had promised. In fact, he and his wife Sarah became too old to have a baby. Finally, when Abraham was 100 years old, he and Sarah did have a baby, just as God had promised. It was a miracle! They named their son Isaac. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Through this miracle, Abraham and Sarah saw God really could do anything!**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 22:8.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

When Isaac was older, God tested Abraham. This test took place on Mount Moriah. If a map of Ancient Israel is available, point to Mount Moriah. It is located between Mount Zion and the Mount of Olives, just outside of Jerusalem. **Abraham's test involved a sacrifice. Remember, a sacrifice is something special to you that you give up. During Abraham's lifetime, people used to give special things to God by burning them on a mound of stones called an altar. Let's read Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18.** Read.



We can have faith as Abraham did

THE WAY

Earlier you were given a test (See THE WELCOME.) to help you grow in your faith. What does it mean to have faith in God? (To trust God and to believe everything He says is true and will happen as He says.) It's not always easy to trust God will provide what we need, but remembering what He has already done in our lives builds our faith. How does this story help you trust God more? (Children respond.)

What did God ask Abraham to do? (Sacrifice his son.) **For this test, Abraham knew the four things listed below.** Discuss why each of these would have helped Abraham to trust and obey.

1. Isaac was a special gift from God.
2. God had promised Isaac would live to have children.
3. God always kept His promises.
4. God could do anything He promised.

Knowing these things, Abraham was able to trust God enough to obey, even though it looked like obeying would ruin everything. Abraham had faith in God to keep His promise. Hebrews 11:19 explains Abraham reasoned that if he sacrificed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead so all God's promises about Isaac would still come true. Who did God send to stop Abraham from sacrificing Isaac? (An angel.) What did God provide to be sacrificed instead of Isaac? (A ram.)

God gave a special test of faith (trust in God) to Abraham by asking him to give up his son. What do you think Abraham learned about God during that test of faith? (Children respond.) How might the test have helped Abraham trust Him even more? (Children respond.) Just as Abraham trusted God, when we obey His instructions and trust Him to keep His promises, we get to see God do amazing things! What amazing things have you seen God do that have helped you trust God?



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 2000 years after God provided the ram, God provided His Son Jesus as a final sacrifice to pay for our sins once and for all. This showed God's love for us.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 John 4:9. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read 1 John 4:9.

The Bible says God did this so we might live through Jesus. Do you trust Jesus can give you life forever close with Him? (Children respond.) Ask God to build your faith so that each day you can trust and obey Him in all things as Abraham did.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a (glow-in-the-dark) star. Each time you look at it, remember God kept His promise to Abraham and made him the father of an entire nation with more family members than there are stars in the sky!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 34 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Abraham and Isaac finding the ram in the bushes. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: AS MANY AS THE STARS

Purpose: To enjoy a snack while understanding the magnitude of God's promise to Abraham.

Snack Suggestion: Bread, jelly, plates, spoons, large star-shaped cookie cutters

God promised Abraham he would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. How many stars exist? (More than anyone can count.) So how many children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on did God promise? (More than anyone could ever count.) God made an amazing promise to Abraham, even when it seemed impossible to do! Let's make a star-shaped snack and talk about some of the amazing things we have seen God do.

Directions:

1. Give each child two slices of bread, a spoon, plate, napkin, and water.
2. To create a sandwich, spread a spoonful of jelly on one slice of bread and place the other on top.
3. Use the cookie cutters to cut out a star shape(s) from each sandwich.
4. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
5. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"Have you ever had a time when you have waited for a miracle from God?"**

GAME: TRUSTED PROVISION

Purpose: Teams complete a planting project to benefit others while learning to trust God will provide.

Supplies: Planters, pots, or hanging baskets (1 per team, large enough to plant a few seeds), potting soil, water, flower seeds, paper and markers, newspapers or plastic

Prepare: Decide where the plants can be used, such as gifts to the elderly or the hospitalized or for your classroom. Protect the work area with newspapers or plastic. Hide the container of seeds in your pocket or in a bag you carry with you.

I have a very important project for you to work on today. Let's plant some seeds that will grow into beautiful flowers. Then, we can give them to location where the flower gifts will go. They will be so happy to receive your great gifts! You can trust me to make sure you have everything you need for this project.

Directions:

1. Divide children into groups of two or three.
2. Give a planter and some soil to each team and show them how to fill the container with soil.
3. As the teams finish filling their containers, they may begin to ask you for the seeds. Keep telling them to trust you because you will provide the seeds at the right time. To add to the suspense, you might wish to lead the group in singing a song or provide markers and paper for them to create cards to accompany the gifts.
4. Provide the seeds and guide the teams through the planting instructions on the seed packet. Be sure to finish by watering the seeds.

I promised to give you everything you needed to complete the project. What did you think when I did not give you the seeds right away? (Children respond.) God promised to give Abraham a son. How do you think Abraham felt as he waited until he was 100 years old for God to provide him with that promised son? (Children respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: FAITH STARS

Purpose: For children to create a star to help them remember how God has provided for them.

Supplies: Yellow sturdy paper, glitter, yarn, glue, scissors, pencils, hole punch, markers, optional: Bible open to Genesis 22:15-18

Prepare: Create a few large star patterns from the cardstock. Cut the yarn into 8" lengths.

We discovered today that God kept His promise to Abraham. Abraham trusted God could do anything, even the impossible! God must have been very pleased that he trusted and obeyed. God repeated His promise to Abraham that he would have many descendants through Isaac. How many? (As many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.) You may wish to reread Genesis 22:15-18. **Let's each make a star to help us remember how God has provided for us. We can trust Him, just like Abraham did!**

Directions:

1. Using a star template, each child traces and cuts out a star onto yellow paper.
2. On his or her star, each child writes or draws ways God has provided for them. Examples might include home, family, healing, His love, and Jesus' sacrifice.
3. Use glitter and glue to decorate the rest of the star.
4. Punch a hole in the top of the star.
5. Thread the yarn through the hole and tie it in a loop.

Hang your star at home. Each time you see it, remember what God has already given you. You can trust Him to keep His promises.

TEST OF FAITH

The Lord has given a special promise to us in Hebrews 10:16-17.

1. Listen as your leader reads this covenant promise from the Lord.
“This is the covenant (promise) I will make with them after that time,” says the Lord.
“I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”
Then God adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”
Hebrews 10:16-17
2. Circle your choice (true, false, or not sure) for each statement below.
True False Not Sure God’s perfect memory never forgets the sins of a believer.
True False Not Sure The Lord helps us know what He thinks is good and right.
True False Not Sure Even if I fail, I trust God will still keep His promises.
3. Trade tests with the person next to you. Explain your answers to each other.

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GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) Initially named Abram, God later changed his name to Abraham. What was the first thing God asked Abram to do? (Go to a new land God would give to him and his family.) **What did Abram do to keep the peace with Lot?** (He let Lot choose his land first.)

Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) What did God do for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert? (He watched over them and gave them water.) **What promise did the angel make to Hagar?** (God would make Ishmael into a great nation.)

Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) How did God test Abraham? (He told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.) **Who did God send to stop Abraham before he sacrificed Isaac?** (An angel.) **What did God promise Abraham?** (He would have more family than there are stars in the sky.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)



The Search for Rebekah

Lesson Aim: To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 24:34-51

What He has done: God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.

Key Verse: Genesis 24:48

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Ephesians 6:5-8

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how to be a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.
37	Life of Jacob: The Blessing, Genesis 32:24-30; 33:4, 8-10; 35:1, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To inspire spiritual growth in pursuing God's blessings and in mending relationships.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Philippians 4:4-7. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for hearing our prayers. Call Your children to a life of prayer. Give us all an understanding of doing our work for You. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Secret Message	Sturdy paper, markers, box of cookies
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 35 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 24:34-51	Map—Mesopotamia, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	O.P.G. folders, pencils or pens, Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Ephesians 6:5-8	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Secret Snack	Cookies from the SECRET MESSAGE game in THE WELCOME segment of this lesson
	Up to 10	Game: What's My Job?	Index cards or sturdy paper, marker, hat or container
	Up to 10	Discussion: The Rest of the Story	Bible
	Up to 10	Craft: Watercolor Messages	White cardstock, white crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups of water, newspaper
	Up to 10	Discussion: I Can O.P.G.	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the hardest job you have ever been given?

GAME: SECRET MESSAGE

Purpose: Start class time with this theme-related activity to help students begin to focus on the lesson.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, markers, box of cookies

Prepare: Hide the box of cookies inside your class area. Make 10 footprints for each team by tracing the outline of a foot from sturdy paper. Write each one of the following phrases on a footprint so the footprints can be put in order to show the full verse.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” / Jeremiah 29:11-13

Place the footprints in order, turn them over, and in a different color marker, write:

Go to location of cookies to find today's snack.

Option: If you have a large number of beginning readers, purchase a simple puzzle for each team instead of using the footprints. Draw a simple map to the cookie hiding spot on the back of the puzzle.

Who likes to watch detective and secret agent movies? Often, the detective or secret agent receives a special assignment. Sometimes it is top secret or requires decoding a secret message. The detective or secret agent then follows a path of clues or takes a trip to complete the mission.

In our Bible Story today, we will discover how Abraham sent his servant on a very important special assignment. But, first, I have a special assignment for you. Decode these mysterious footprints and put them in order so they display the Bible Memory Verse. Then, when you turn them over you will be able to discover the secret message that will lead you to a special treat.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into teams of five or six players per team. If possible, include at least one good reader on each team.
2. Give a set of footprints to each team. Tell teams which color/side of the footprints they are to put in order.
3. On your signal, each team races to put the footprints in order. When the footprints are in order, the team stands and reads the Bible Memory Verse together.
4. After a teacher or helpers checks to make sure the footprints are in order, the team flips over the footprints, in order, to read the secret message. They may then race to the hiding spot and retrieve the cookies for the class to share at snack time.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promise to listen when we come and pray to Him. In today's story, we will read how God listened to the prayer of Abraham's servant and helped him do his job. God has heard our prayers and He will help us do our work, too.



As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to always watch over us. He is with us and watching over us, just as He was with Abraham's servant while he searched for Isaac's future wife Rebekah. Sing: "I Am with You" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God watching over us.



Read Jeremiah 29:11-13.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 35.



The servant searches for Rebekah

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we discovered God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Who did God send to stop Abraham just before he sacrificed Isaac? (An angel.) What did God promise Abraham? (He would have more family than there are stars.)

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Isaac and Rebekah. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Today, we will read how Abraham's chief servant was sent to search for a wife for Isaac. Abraham wanted Isaac's wife to be from his homeland because they believed in God there. Let's read what happened when the servant neared the town of Abraham's brother Nahor.** If a map is available, point to Mesopotamia, a country between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 24:34-51. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 24:48.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Today, we will be given a special mission: "OPERATION O.P.G." Listen closely to the story Abraham's servant tells the family. The servant gave us a great example of a successful O.P.G. Mission. Read Genesis 24:34-51.



Our mission: Obey, pray, and give yourself away

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: O.P.G. folders, pencils or pens

What special job did Abraham give his chief servant? (Find a wife for Isaac.) **Why did Abraham want Isaac's wife to be from far away?** (Abraham wanted Isaac to have a wife from his homeland where they followed God.) **What did Abraham make his servant do before leaving?** (Swear an oath, which is a promise, to complete his special job.) **These O.P.G. folders hold clues that will help us complete our mission.** Distribute Operation O.P.G. folders.

What did the servant do when asked to do this job? (He obeyed.) **The first part of our Operation O.P.G. job is to obey. Print the letter "O" on the first blank in your O.P.G. folder. When given a job to do by God, our parents, or teachers, we should obey.**

Who did the servant ask for help? (God.) **Abraham said God would send an angel to help the servant complete his special job. What sign did the servant ask for to help him find the right woman?** (The woman would give water to him and his camels.) **What happened?** (Rebekah appeared and did exactly as he had asked in his prayer.) **What did the servant do after he found Rebekah?** (Praised and thanked God.) **The "P" in Operation O.P.G. stands for "Pray." Print the letter "P" on the second blank of your folder.**

Not only did the servant obey and pray, but he also gave his best effort to complete his job. The "G" in Operation O.P.G. stands for "give away." That means to give your time, energy and best effort so you will do a great job. Print the letter "G" on the third blank of your folder. How did the servant give himself away? (He gave his time, his energy, his best effort, and the jewelry Abraham had sent with him.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

2000 years after the servant found a wife for Isaac, Paul wrote to the Ephesians about giving yourself away. Paul's advice to the slaves in Ephesus is true for us today.



FIND IT FIRST Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Ephesians 6:5-8. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Ephesians 6:5-8.

God wants us to do our best work, as if He was the one who gave us the job. He wants us to obey with a smile, pray to ask Him for help, and then give our best effort.

What three things should you do when given a job? (O.P.G. = Obey. Pray. Give yourself away.) **What are your chores or jobs?** (Children respond.) **List your jobs in your O.P.G. folder. In the jobs you have been given, what are some ways you can obey, pray, and give yourself away?** If time allows, use the I CAN O.P.G. discussion located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is your Operation O.P.G. folder. Your folder will help you remember to "O.P.G." each time you are given a job to do: Obey, pray, and give yourself away. Each time you are given a job or chore, be sure to add it to your list in your O.P.G. folder—then obey, pray, and give yourself away—it's for the Lord!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 35 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Abraham's servant praying at the well. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: SECRET SNACK

Purpose: To enjoy a snack while discussing the idea of secret missions.

Snack Suggestion: Cookies from the SECRET MESSAGE game in THE WELCOME segment of this lesson

Let's share the cookies you discovered in the "Secret Message" game.

Directions:

1. Hand out the snack and drinks.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"If you were a secret agent, what type of mission would you like to be sent on?"**

GAME: WHAT'S MY JOB?

Purpose: Children will try to guess what type of job a player is acting out.

Supplies: Index cards or sturdy paper, marker, hat or container

Prepare: Write job titles (such as fireman, teacher, or lawyer) on index cards or pieces of sturdy paper. Write one job title per card. Place the cards in a hat or container.

Optional: Instead of acting, players can draw on a chalkboard, white board, or large paper.

Today, we learned to "O.P.G." when we have a job to do. God wants us to serve Him by obeying, praying, and giving ourselves away. Let's act out some jobs we could do.

Directions:

1. Choose a child to act out a job. Teacher Tip: If you have a large class, have teams of 2-3 children act together.
2. Child draws a card from the hat or container and acts out the job listed on the card.
3. The rest of the children are to guess what job the child is acting out.
4. After the children have correctly guessed the job title, ask them to think of one way a person in that job could obey, pray, or give themselves away to do a great job and to serve God.
5. Continue playing until each child has a turn acting out a job.

DISCUSSION: THE REST OF THE STORY

Purpose: For children to engage in a deeper discussion of the day's lesson.

Supplies: Bible

We just discovered how the servant found Rebekah, but what happened next? Let's find out. Read Genesis 24:57-67. **When Rebekah was asked if she would go with the servant, what did she say?** (She would go.) **How do you think Rebekah felt about leaving her family and traveling with a stranger to marry a man she had never met?** (Afraid, worried, excited.) **Rebekah must have really trusted God to help her do what was right. After marrying Isaac, what did Rebekah do to help him?** (She comforted him after his mother's death.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: WATERCOLOR MESSAGES

Purpose: Children create a well to remind them to obey, pray, and give away.

Supplies: White cardstock, white crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups of water, newspaper

Preparation: Protect the work area with newspapers. Set out several cups of water.

Optional: Begin the I CAN O.P.G. discussion while working on the craft.

Today, we learned how to do good work from Abraham's servant. What three things should we do when we're given a job to do? (Obey, pray, and give away.) Great! When we obey instructions, ask God to help us, thank Him for helping us, and then give our best effort, we know we have done the right thing! It is our special mission to do a great job. Let's make a secret message poster to help us remember to "O.P.G.!"

Directions:

1. Give a piece of cardstock and a white crayon to each child.
2. Ask them to write "Obey, Pray, Give Away" on their cardstock using the white crayons. Be sure children press hard while writing.
3. Show the children how to paint over the crayon markings with the watercolors. Children can paint pictures or designs over and around the markings. The oil-based wax in the crayons will not mix with the watercolors and the "hidden" crayon message will show through.

DISCUSSION: I CAN O.P.G.

Purpose: To help children apply what they learned from the servant's choices to their own situations.

Supplies: None

Optional: If your group is mostly older children, divide them into three groups and give each group a job situation to discuss. Have each group report their ideas back to the rest of the class.

What do the letters O.P.G. stand for? (Obey, pray, give away.) Each day, God gives us the choice to obey, pray, and give ourselves away. Let's talk about a few different situations and find the O.P.G. choices we have in those situations. Read and discuss the following situations. For each situation, discuss how to obey, what to pray about, and what children could "give away" to make the job go well. A few ideas are given with each situation as a guide for you as you lead discussion. If you have time, encourage the children to suggest their own situations.

Situations:

1. **How can you O.P.G. when your parent asks you to clean your room?** (Obey by cleaning my room, pray and ask God to help me have a good attitude, give my time to do a good job.)
2. **How can you O.P.G. when your teacher asks you to help a classmate with a math assignment?** (Obey by helping the classmate, pray and ask God for help explaining the lesson so my classmate understands, give away what I know.)
3. **Your neighbor has asked you to help clean her yard. How can you O.P.G.?** (Obey by helping clean up, pray and ask God to show me ways to help, give away my best effort.)
4. **Jesus has told us to show His love to others through our actions. How can we O.P.G.?** (Obey by looking for ways to show His love every day, pray and ask God to show me ways to show His love, give away His love by doing things for others without gaining anything myself.)

Don't forget to thank God for helping you do the best job possible!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) What did God do for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert? (He watched over them and gave them water.) What promise did the angel make to Hagar? (God would make Ishmael into a great nation.)

Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) How did God test Abraham? (God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.) Who did God send to stop Abraham before he sacrificed Isaac? (An angel.) What did God promise Abraham? (He would have more family than stars in the sky.)

Isaac and Rebekah Who did Abraham send to find the future wife for Isaac? (His chief servant.) What happened when the servant arrived at the well? (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave water to him and the camels.) What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac? (Rebekah.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)



Jacob and Esau

Lesson Aim: To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36

What He has done: God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.

Key Verse: Genesis 27:23

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 1 Timothy 1:15-16

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how to be a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.
37	Life of Jacob: The Blessing, Genesis 32:24-30; 33:4, 8-10; 35:1, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To inspire spiritual growth in pursuing God's blessings and in mending relationships.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You Lord for choosing us. Inspire the children to pursue repairing and building family relationships that honor You and each other. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Family Fray	Three sets of cloth strips or flags, each a different color (one flag per team member)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am With You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing On the Promises" "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 32:1-2	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 36 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	Map—Haran (in modern day Southeast Asian Turkey), Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: 1 Timothy 1:15-16	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Lentil bean, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Fruit Stew	Applesauce, fresh or canned fruit chunks (such as apples, pears, and grapes)
	Up to 10	Game: Family Support	Dice, paper, pen (or something on which to keep score)
	Up to 10	Craft: Chosen and Forgiven	Two large craft sticks, ribbon or string, scissors, glue, double-sided tape, markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the best trick you have ever seen?

GAME: FAMILY FRAY

Purpose: Children will form teams of family members and attempt to collect the most flags from other family member teams.

Supplies: Three sets of cloth strips or flags, each a different color (one flag per team member)

Who has brothers and sisters? Children raise hands. **Do you sometimes argue with each other?** (Children respond.) **Let's play a game with three family teams: the Brothers, the Sisters, and the Parents. Work with your team to try to take the most flags from the other teams.**

Directions:

1. Form three teams (*Brothers, Sisters, and Parents) of an equal number of players. Assign a corner of the play area and give a set of flags (cloth strips) to each team. (Example: Brothers get white flags, Sisters get red flags, and Parents get green flags.) Each player should tuck the end of a flag into his or her waistband.
2. On your signal, the players are to grab the flags of the other teams and pile them in their own team corners. Players cannot hold onto their own flags or attempt to retake them. Children are not allowed to touch, tackle, or trip each other. If you are playing indoors, remind the players to not run.
3. The game is over when all the flags have been taken. The goal is to be the team with the most flags taken from the other teams.

Sometimes, brothers and sisters steal each other's toys or play mean tricks on each other. It is important to show our love for family members by treating them with respect. Today, we are going to learn about two brothers who did not get along at all.

* Note that the boys will most likely want to be on the Brothers team and girls on the Sisters team. Genders can be combined for the Parents team. If your group of children is all one gender, create sibling teams using proper names, such as Brother Andrew's team or Brother Sam's team.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promises. In today's story, we will discover Jacob lied to his father and cheated his brother out of his inheritance and his blessing. When we see the sins of Jacob, we are reminded we are all sinners, yet God chooses to bless us and use us in His perfect plan. Let's take time now to confess our own sins to the Lord, and ask Him to bless us with His forgiveness.



Read Psalm 32:1-2.



As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to forgive our sins when we confess them. Sing: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God watching over us.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 36.



Jacob takes Esau's birthright and blessing

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we discovered Abraham's servant found a wife for Isaac. What happened when the servant arrived at the well? (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave water to him and his camels.) What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac? (Rebekah.)

Soon, Rebekah and Isaac were married. They had twin boys named Jacob and Esau. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Esau, being the firstborn, would receive a double inheritance, which was his "birthright." This meant the oldest son was given most of what his father owned after his father's death.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 27:23.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Listen to what happened when Jacob and Esau grew up. Read Genesis 25:29-33. **When Isaac was very old and blind, he asked Esau to go hunting and prepare his favorite food for him. Isaac was going to give Esau the family's special blessing saved for the oldest son. In the meantime, Rebekah chose to help Jacob trick his father into giving him the blessing. She gave him Esau's clothes and covered his hands and neck with goatskins so he would be hairy like Esau. Then Jacob brought Isaac's favorite food to him.** Read Genesis 27:19-23. **Isaac gave the special blessing to Jacob. When Esau returned, he asked for the blessing, but it was too late. Let's read what happened next.** Read Genesis 27:32-36. **Esau was very angry, so Jacob was afraid and ran away to Haran.** If a map is available, point to Haran in modern day Southeast Asian Turkey.



God chooses us for His plan

THE WAY

When Esau asked for some stew, what did Jacob do? (He would not give it to him unless Esau sold him his birthright, his inheritance.) **Jacob tricked Esau into giving him his special inheritance for a bowl of stew. How do you think Esau felt?** (Angry, cheated.)

When Isaac was old, what did Rebekah and Jacob decide to do? (Tricked Isaac into giving Jacob the family's special blessing.) **What happened?** (They dressed Jacob like Esau and Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob instead of Esau.) **Jacob tricked his father and brother. He received both the birthright and the family blessing reserved for the oldest son. What did Esau do when he found out?** (He begged his father to give him a blessing. He was very angry with Jacob.) **Jacob suffered the consequences of his sin—he had to run away because Esau threatened to kill him for what he had done.**

Do you think God knew Jacob had sinned? (Yes. He sees everything.) **Do you think Jacob deserved to keep the blessing after stealing from his brother?** (Children respond.) **Since God hates sin, it is very hard to understand why He would allow Jacob's sin to move His perfect plan forward. In Isaiah 55:8, God tells us His thoughts are not our thoughts, and our ways are not His ways. God chose to show mercy to Jacob. To show mercy is to forgive and show undeserved kindness.**

Even though Jacob had lied to his father and cheated his brother, God did not reject him. Seeing Jacob's sins reminds us that God is full of mercy toward us. He uses us in His plans, even though we do not deserve it.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Almost 2000 years after we see Jacob's sinfulness, Paul explains one reason God shows us His mercy. Before believing in Jesus, Paul (then called Saul) was a violent man determined to hurt those who followed Jesus. Check out what Paul said about the fact that God chose Him and used Him in His plan even though he was a sinner.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 Timothy 1:15-16. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16.

This statement from Paul is true for all of us because we all sin (do wrong in God's eyes). God chose to forgive and use sinners like Jacob and Paul to build His kingdom. God will use us to build His kingdom, too.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a lentil bean. Beans like this were in the tasty lentil stew Jacob used in tricking his brother Esau. Let it remind you that even though we do wrong, God chooses to build His kingdom with imperfect people like Jacob and each of us!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 36 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jacob receiving the blessing from his father. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: FRUIT STEW

Purpose: To enjoy a snack symbolizing the stew Jacob gave to Esau.

Snack Suggestion: Applesauce, fresh or canned fruit chunks (such as apples, pears, and grapes)

Let's have some fruit stew for our snack! In today's story, Jacob used stew to trick his brother, Esau. We will not have any mean tricks with our stew, but I would like to hear about some of the things that cause you to argue with your brothers, sisters, or cousins.

Directions:

1. Scoop some of the applesauce and fruit chunks into a bowl for each child. Encourage them to mix up their "stew." Serve drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, ask the children to share things that cause arguments with their siblings or cousins.

GAME: FAMILY SUPPORT

Purpose: Children will form teams ("families") in which members help each other answer the questions.

Supplies: Dice, paper, pen (or something on which to keep score)

In this game, you will be divided into "families" and you will each take turns as the family captain. To get points for your family team, your whole family must help the family captain answer the question.

Directions:

1. Form teams of six players per "family." Ask each team to choose a name for their family. They can also decide if they want to choose who will be the mother, father, brother, sister, and/or grandparents. Assign a number, one through six, to each person in the family.
2. Roll one die. The player from each family that is assigned that number will be the family captain for the first question.
3. Ask the first question from the list below. Provide a minute for each captain to confer with the rest of the family before answering. After that minute passes, say, "go." The captains must jump up and yell out the answer. If the family worked together on the answer, they get five points.
4. Repeat steps two and three for each question. Remind families they will get five points just for working together on an answer. Ideally, all the families will get five points every round, but it may take a few rounds for some families to understand this idea.

Questions:

1. What is one of the things God filled the heavens and earth with on the second day of Creation? (Plants, trees, sun, moon, stars.)
2. What are the names of the first man and woman God created? (Adam and Eve.)
3. What did God do on the seventh day of Creation? (He rested.)
4. From what did God save Noah, his family, and the animals? (The flood.)
5. Name one thing God promised to Abraham. (God promised to bless him, give him a great name (fame), a family that would become a nation, a baby.)
6. What was the name of the son God gave to Abraham and Sarah? (Isaac.)
7. What was the name of the girl Isaac married? (Rebekah.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CHOSEN AND FORGIVEN

Purpose: For children to create a cross to help them remember God chose them and forgave them, even though their behavior is not always pleasing to Him.

Supplies: Two large craft sticks, ribbon or string, scissors, glue, double-sided tape, markers

Today's story shows us Jacob did wrong in God's eyes. Just like Jacob, we all have sinned. The good news is God has chosen us and uses us in His plan, even though we are sinners. All who believe in Jesus are chosen by God and forgiven by His Son. Today, we will make a cross to remind us we are both chosen and forgiven.

Directions:

1. Tape (or glue) the two craft sticks together to form a cross.
2. Have the children write the word "CHOSEN" across the horizontal craft stick so that the "O" in "CHOSEN" is at the point where the two craft sticks meet.
3. Have the children write the word "FORGIVEN" down the vertical craft stick using the "O" already written in from the word "CHOSEN."
4. Cut a 6 inch piece of ribbon or string. Make a loop and glue it to the back of the top of the cross so it can be hung on the wall.
5. Children may use the markers to decorate their crosses.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) How did God test Abraham? (God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.) **Who did God send to stop Abraham before he sacrificed Isaac?** (An angel.) **What did God promise Abraham?** (He would have more family than stars in the sky.)

Isaac and Rebekah Who did Abraham send to find the future wife for Isaac? (His chief servant.) **What happened when the servant arrived at the well?** (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave him and his camels water.) **What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac?** (Rebekah.)

Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) What did Jacob do to Esau? (He tricked him out of his birthright; He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)



Life of Jacob: The Family

Lesson Aim: To encourage overcoming obstacles and perseverance in relationships with God and family.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12

What He has done: God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.

Key Verse: Genesis 32:28

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Romans 5:3-5

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.'" Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18; 14:13-16	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how trust and the desire to please God are the keys to being a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith by offering their lives as a living sacrifice.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To see God is fully present in the jobs we are given. He calls us to obey, pray, and give ourselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:22-34; 27:41	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To consider the importance and long term consequences of our choices.
37	Life of Jacob: The Family, Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To encourage overcoming obstacles and perseverance in relationships with God and family.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 5:1-5. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, God, for the way You always watch over us and keep Your promises. Help the children understand the depth of Your faithfulness. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Family Olympics	Hula hoops, chairs, tables, tape, stopwatch or clock
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 135:3-4	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 37 High Sea Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12	Map—Ancient Palestine (Haran, Jabbok river near Succoth), Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Romans 5:3-5	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Small stone, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Promise Pudding	Vanilla or chocolate pudding, chocolate chips
	Up to 10	Game: Jacob's Family Find	Paper, marker, tape, optional: poster board
	Up to 10	Craft: Promise Balloons	Large balloons, paper, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Discussion: Jacob's Tithe	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the best dream you have ever had?

GAME: FAMILY OLYMPICS

Purpose: Players will race through an obstacle course while linking arms with their "family" teammates.

Supplies: Hula hoops, chairs, tables, tape, stopwatch or clock.

Prepare: Set up the following events or create your own events. If you have room and enough supplies, set up parallel events so teams can run the course at the same time.

- Bobsled: A table.
- Balance Beam: Tape stretched into a straight line on the floor.
- Ski Jumping: A hula-hoop.
- Figure Skating: 4 chairs in a line with space to walk between them.

How many people are in your family? Allow several children to share. **Today, we are going to discover how God kept His promise to a father, his son, and his grandson by giving them a big family that became a whole nation of people. That means they have millions and millions of children and grandchildren. That's a really big promise! Let's form pretend families and have a Family Olympics.**

Directions:

1. Demonstrate how each event is completed using the instructions below.
2. Form "families" of six players each.
3. Ask the members within each family to stand shoulder to shoulder and link arms at the elbow. Families (teams) must keep their arms linked at all times.
4. On your signal, the first family moves quickly through each event until they have completed the course. Use your stopwatch or clock to record the time it takes for them to complete the course. Encourage everyone to cheer for the family who is on the course.
5. Repeat steps 3-4 for each family.
6. The goal is to be the family who completes the course in the shortest time.

Event Instructions:

- Bobsled: Families sit on the floor and scoot in the sitting position under the table from one side to the other.
- Balance Beam: Families slide their feet down the length of the tape without stepping off.
- Ski Jumping: A teacher or helper holds the hula hoop in the vertical position as all the family members step through the hoop.
- Figure Skating: Families weave between the chairs.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promises. He promised Jacob in a dream that He would be with him. God kept that promise.



As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to always be with us. He is with us now through His Holy Spirit, who lives in the hearts of all who believe.

Sing: "I Am with You" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God being with us.



Read Psalm 135:3-4.



Perform High Sea Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 37.



Jacob overcomes in his relationships

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we learned Jacob tricked his brother and his father. What did Esau trade his birthright for?** (A bowl of stew.) **What did Jacob steal from Esau by tricking their father, Isaac?** (The blessing meant for Esau as the oldest son.) **Today, we will look at the next twenty years of Jacob's life. During this time, Jacob overcame many obstacles. He never gave up building his relationships with his family and with God.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12. **Let's see who can Find Genesis 32:28. First! Ready? Set? Go!** Children race through the pages to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 32:28.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Jacob ran away to Haran to work for his Uncle Laban. There, he fell in love with Laban's younger daughter, a shepherdess named Rachel. For permission to marry her, Jacob agreed to work seven years for Laban. But after the seven years, Laban tricked Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah. Check out what happened after the wedding night. Read Genesis 29:25-27. (Note: In Bible times, it was common for men to have more than one wife.)

Jacob worked seven more years so he could marry Rachel. He had twelve sons and one daughter. His favorite son was Joseph who was his first child with his favorite wife, Rachel. Later, Jacob ran away with his family and servants. Laban chased and caught up with them. Read what Jacob told Laban about his past twenty years of hard work. Read Genesis 31:40-42.

Jacob sent a message to Esau because he was sorry for what he had done. He was afraid Esau would still be angry, so he sent many gifts ahead for him. Then, he sent his wives and children to safety across the Jabbok River and he stayed behind. If a map of Ancient Palestine is available, point to Haran, then to the Jabbok River near Succoth. **Let's read what happened near the Jabbok River shore.** Read Genesis 32:24-30.

The next day, to Jacob's surprise, Esau hugged and kissed him; all was forgiven. Then, God sent Jacob to the place where 20 years earlier he had dreamed of a ladder to heaven. In the dream, God promised to be with Jacob. Read Genesis 35:1-3, 10-12.



Relationships with God and with our family

THE WAY

To gain his father's blessing, Jacob tricked Isaac into believing he was Esau. Seven years later, Laban tricked Jacob into believing Leah was Rachel. How do you think Jacob felt to be tricked? (Children respond.) Jacob did not give up. He chose to work another seven years to marry Rachel. What negative choices could he have made instead? (To quit, seek revenge, etc.) Have you ever faced an unfair or discouraging time when you wanted to give up? (Children respond.) If so, how does this story encourage you? (Children respond.)

When Jacob sinned against Esau, he broke their relationship. Esau chose to hold a grudge against him. Twenty years later, what did Jacob do even though he was afraid of Esau? (He sent him a message and gifts to show he was sorry.) Have you ever needed courage to ask someone for forgiveness? (Children respond.) Esau hugged, kissed, and forgave Jacob. How does Esau's choice to forgive remind you of God? (Children respond.) What negative choices could Esau have made instead? (To refuse to come, to seek revenge, etc.) Is there a broken relationship in your life? If so, what obstacles do you face in mending that relationship? (Fear, guilt, revenge, etc.)

Just as Jacob never gave up on building a relationship with Rachel and then with Esau, he never gave up on seeking God's presence and His blessing. When Esau hugged him, Jacob said it was like seeing God's face. What other time did he feel that way? (When he wrestled with the stranger God sent in the night.) In the same way Jacob wrestled physically for God's blessing, we sometimes wrestle with God through our prayers. Who did Jacob say he saw face-to-face as he wrestled? (God.) Jacob would not let go until God blessed him. Have you been waiting for God to bless you in some way? (Children respond.)

What was Jacob promised in God's blessing? (A nation and community of nations would come from him, kings would come from him, the land promised to Abraham and Isaac.) What new name was given to Jacob? (Israel.) What was the reason given for changing Jacob's name? (Because he struggled with God and with men and had overcome.) Jacob's struggles brought him closer to God and his family.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

1900 years after Jacob overcame so many obstacles in his relationship with God and his family, Paul wrote about the good things God builds in us during hard times.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 5:3-5. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Romans 5:3-5.

What examples can you find in Jacob's story to show his suffering led to perseverance (never giving up), character (making right choices), and hope? (Children respond.) Jacob suffered when tricked by Laban, but he persevered in his work for twenty years which built his character enough for him to approach Esau and to wrestle for God's blessing. When have your struggles built your perseverance, character, or hope? (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a stone. Jacob built an altar of stone to worship and thank God for keeping His promises to be with him. Let's each take home a stone to help us remember to thank God for keeping His promises to us.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #37. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Esau running to meet Jacob. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: PROMISE PUDDING

Purpose: To enjoy a snack and build relationships by discussing promises.

Snack Suggestion: Vanilla or chocolate pudding, chocolate chips

Let's have some Promise Pudding for our snack! In today's story, we heard how God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As we enjoy our Promise Pudding, I would like to hear about a promise someone gave to you and kept. What was the promise and how did you feel when they kept it?

Directions:

1. Scoop some of the pudding into each child's bowl. Sprinkle a few chocolate chips on top of the pudding. Serve the drinks.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, discuss the questions above. Start the discussion by sharing your own answers.

GAME: JACOB'S FAMILY FIND

Purpose: Children learn the names of Jacob's twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel.

Supplies: Paper, marker, tape, optional: poster board

Prepare: Print one of the following names each on a separate slip of paper: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher. Before class, hide the slips of paper around the room. Designate a wall, white board, or hang a piece of poster board where children can tape the names they find.

God made a promise to Abraham, his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob. He promised He would give them land and a big family that would become an entire nation. God always keeps His promises. Jacob had many sons who became the first people in the nation of Israel, just like God promised! There were twelve sons and each of them had children. Let's play a game to find out the names of those sons.

Directions:

1. Divide group into teams of two or three. Each team links arms for the duration of the game.
2. On your signal, teams search the room for the slips of paper.
3. When a team finds a slip of paper, they should shout out the name on the slip of paper and then move to the designated area to tape the name they find.
4. When all twelve names are found, the game is over.

Teacher Tip: You may choose to limit the number of papers each team finds. For example, if there are four teams, each team sits down after finding three names.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PROMISE BALLOONS

Purpose: For children to decorate memory verse papers for their family members and insert them into a balloon to use for family discussion.

Supplies: Large balloons, paper, crayons or markers

Prepare: Print a copy of the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse for each child on paper. Make sure the top to bottom length of the paper is less than the length of the deflated balloon. If you have time in class, you can have the children copy the verse themselves.

We can always trust God to keep His promises. Some of His promises are found in our Bible Memory Verse, Jeremiah 29:11-13. Let's each make a Promise Balloon to take home to our families. At home, pop the balloon with your family, and read the Bible Memory Verse together. Work together to find the promises God gives us in these verses.

Directions:

1. Decorate a Bible Memory Verse paper.
2. Roll the paper into a tight stick.
3. Carefully insert the stick into the open end of the deflated balloon until it disappears inside.
4. Blow up the balloon and knot the end. (Teacher Tip: If you underinflate the balloons, they will be less likely to pop accidentally.)
5. As you work, talk about the promises found in Jeremiah 29:11-13.
6. Instruct children to take the balloon home, pop it, and read God's promises with their families.

Optional: Invite the children's families into your classroom when they arrive for pick-up. Lead the families through popping their balloons and reading the verse together. Encourage the families to discuss God's promises during the car ride home.

DISCUSSION: JACOB'S TITHE

Purpose: To help children see Jacob promised to tithe ten percent back to God.

Supplies: None

After Jacob woke up from his dream, he made a promise back to God. Let's read Jacob's promise. Read Genesis 28:20-22. **What did Jacob promise to give God?** (He promised to give back one tenth of everything God gave him.) **Giving back one tenth to God is called tithing. Jacob was one of the first people in the Bible to promise to give his tithe to God.**

God has given us everything we have. We can show our love and worship Him by giving back one tenth of our money to Him. If I have ten coins, how much would I give back to God? (One coin.) If you need help figuring out how much ten percent is, be sure to ask a parent or teacher for help.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) How did God test Abraham? (God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.) **Who did God send to stop Abraham before he sacrificed Isaac?** (An angel.) **What did God promise Abraham?** (He would have more family than stars in the sky.)

Isaac and Rebekah Who did Abraham send to find the future wife for Isaac? (His chief servant.) **What happened when the servant arrived at the well?** (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave him and his camels water.) **What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac?** (Rebekah.)

Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) What did Jacob do to Esau? (He tricked him out of his birthright; He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.) **What did Jacob dream about when he ran away from Esau?** (Angels on a ladder going to heaven.) **What did Jacob do the whole night before he reunited with Esau?** (He wrestled with a mysterious man until God gave him a blessing.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)