



Abraham's Visitors

Lesson Aim: To know God can do anything He promises.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14

What He Has Done: God sent three men to say His promise would come true.

THE WAY - BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-11, 14-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To see how to live in peace with one another.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 21:12-20	God kept His promise when He rescued Hagar and Ishmael in the desert.	To know God watches over us.
34	Abraham's Visitors, Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14	God sent three men to say His promise would come true.	To know God can do anything He promises.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-46, 61-67	God helped Abraham's servant find Rebekah.	To show how to obey and pray.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11	God kept His promised plan for each brother.	To know we can forgive each other.
37	Life of Jacob: The Dream, Genesis 28:12-17	God told Jacob in a dream He would keep His promise.	To trust God to keep His promise to be with us wherever we go.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 10:1-18. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, God, for Your faithfulness. Help the children see You fulfill each promise according to Your perfect timing. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Children of this age are beginning to do many things on their own. Encourage their independence by giving them as many opportunities to do things for themselves as possible. This includes the crafts. Be sure to allow enough time for the children to do the craft themselves. They may end up placing eye stickers closer to where the mouth should be, but the craft is there so they can experience the Bible story in a different way.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 20	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a star or "glow in the dark" star
		Coloring Center: Abraham's Visitors	Coloring pages of Abraham looking at a starry sky, star stickers, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Stars in the Sky	Play-dough, star cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: Families	Baby doll in a basket, blanket, bottle, washcloth
		Activity Center: Father Abraham	Song: "Father Abraham"
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Am with You" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "Guide Me in Your Truth" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Will Listen to the Lord" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Song Suggestions: "Father Abraham" "My God Is So Big" by Mary Rice Hopkins
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit , Lesson 34
THE WORD	Up to 10	Abraham's Visitors, Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 18:14 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, picture of a night sky with too many stars to count
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Count the Stars	Standard-size dark blue sturdy paper, tan sturdy paper, shiny star stickers, two cotton balls, label, glue or glue stick, crayons
		Game: Is Anything Too Hard for God?	None
		Game: Star Toss	Large star cut from heavy cardboard, black or navy blue target (poster board, pillowcase, or any similar size piece of fabric), 12 inches of string or floor tape
		Snack: How Many Stars?	Star-shaped crackers or cookies
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 34
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14	None
	Up to 10	Game: Stand Up and Say It!	None
	Up to 10	Game: Wherever You Go	Chairs (optional)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God's promises or God's family

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of star or a "glow in the dark" star. **Let this star remind you how God told Abraham to count the stars.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: ABRAHAM'S VISITORS

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Abraham looking at a starry sky, star stickers, crayons

DO

Children color and add star stickers to their pictures while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

God told Abraham to look up and count the stars in the sky. Can you count the stars on the coloring page with me? Do you think there are even more stars in the sky? (Children respond.) **Let's add a few star stickers to our pictures to remind us of how many stars there are.** Give each child two or three star stickers.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: STARS IN THE SKY

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, star cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children create stars with the play-dough while discussing today's lesson aim.

TALK ABOUT

God promised Abraham he would have as many children and grandchildren as there are stars in the sky! How many stars can you make with the play-dough? (Children respond.) Work with the children to make several play-dough stars. **Next time you see stars at night, think about the promise God made to Abraham and all the promises He makes to us. We know God can do anything He promises.**

THE WELCOME *continued ...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: FAMILIES

SUPPLIES

Baby doll in a basket, blanket, bottle, washcloth

DO

Children take turns caring for the baby.

TALK ABOUT

Our Bible story today is about a promise God made to Abraham and his wife, Sarah. He promised they would have a very special baby. That baby's name was Isaac.

Ask the children about their own families. Do they have a baby brother or sister? If not, what would they name a baby brother or sister? How do we take care of babies? (Keep them warm, feed them, keep them clean, give them a safe place to sleep, hold them, etc.)

ACTIVITY CENTER: FATHER ABRAHAM

SUPPLIES

Song: "Father Abraham"

DO

Play and sing "Father Abraham" with the motions.

TALK ABOUT

God promised Abraham a big family. Everyone who believes in Jesus is part of that promise. Let's praise God for including us in this family.

Motions:

- As each arm is mentioned, swing it back and forth and continue through the end of the song.
- As each foot is mentioned, move them up and down and continue through the end of the song.)
- For chin up, nod your head.
- Add turn around to the other motions when mentioned.
- Lastly, sit down!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Once the service has begun, clean up and begin the planned activities.

Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away. Praise any child who helps.

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"I will
watch over you
wherever**

**You
go."**

Genesis 18:15

(I) Point to self.

(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.

Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.

Index finger points straight ahead.

Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



I'm so glad you came to church today. Before we begin our time of praise to God, let's talk with Him in prayer. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, You are amazing. Thank You for watching over us. Amen.**



God promised Abraham he would have as many children and grandchildren as there are stars in the sky. That's a lot of kids! But there's nothing God cannot do. Let's sing! Sing: "My God Is So Big" or substitute "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."

God didn't give Abraham and his wife Sarah children right away. They had to wait. Sometimes, God wants us to be still and trust Him to keep His promises. Sing: "Be Still and Know" while the offering is collected.



Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know today's story. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 34.



Who can tell me where we find God's promises to us? (In the Bible.) God made a special promise to us when He said, "I will watch over you wherever you go." Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice with the motions a few times.

**"I will
watch over you
wherever
You
go."
Genesis 18:15**

(I) Point to self.
(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
Index finger points straight ahead.
Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



God is always with us. Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song together. Sing: "I Am with You."



God made a big promise

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 18:14, picture of the Bible story, picture of a night sky with too many stars to count

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Would you all help me with something? Can you count the stars in this picture with me? Count ten stars or so. **Wow! That's only a few of the stars in this picture. I don't think we can count them all. God promised Abraham he would have as many children and grandchildren as there are stars in the sky. That's a lot of kids! Let's find out how God kept His promise.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 18:14.



WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 15:5-6; 18:1-14

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **God made a promise to Abraham,**
- **"Look up and count the stars, if you can.**
- **That's how big your family will be."**
- **He was special to the Lord, for he believed!**

- **He waited for years, but had no child.**
- **Then he saw three men who stood nearby.**
- **Abraham rushed to meet them.**
- **He bowed down and made sure to feed them.**

- **She heard them talking near the tent,**
- **"Sarah will have a baby," said the three men.**
- **Old Sarah laughed, "How can this be?"**
- **God asked her, "Is anything too hard for Me?"**

What did God tell Abraham to go outside and do? (Count the stars.) When God heard Sarah laughing, what did He ask her? ("Is anything too hard for Me?")



God can do anything He promises

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: COUNT THE STARS

Purpose: To help children internalize the Bible story of God's promise to Abraham.

Note: A craft template with instructions and a sample are available at ResourceWell.org or use the following instructions to design your own.

Supplies: Standard-size dark blue sturdy paper, tan sturdy paper, shiny star stickers, two cotton balls, label, glue or glue stick, crayons

Prepare: Cut a 5-inch circle cut from tan sturdy paper for Abraham's head. On a label, print:

"Count the stars."

Genesis 15:5

Directions:

1. Glue the tan circle (Abraham's head) to the lower right area of the dark blue paper.
2. Stretch two cotton balls and glue them to the bottom of the circle for Abraham's beard.
3. Draw Abraham's face with a crayon.
4. Place the label at the top of the dark blue paper.
5. Place several star stickers on the dark blue paper.

Craft Discussion:

- **Abraham's visitors told him God's promise would soon come true. What was God's promise?** (Abraham would have as many children as there were stars in the sky.)
- **God promised to give Abraham and Sarah as many children and grandchildren as there were stars in the sky. Sarah laughed at this promise because she knew they were too old to have children.**
- **God asked Sarah, "Is anything too hard for Me?" What is the answer to God's question?** (No, nothing is too hard for God.) **God can do anything He promises!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD?

Purpose: To act out the story of Abraham's Visitors.

Supplies: None

Let's act out our Bible story from today.

Directions:

1. Choose children to be the three visitors, Abraham, and Sarah. Have Abraham and Sarah start by sitting together at one end of the play area and place the three visitors at the other end of the play area.
2. Act out the story below in your own words.
 - **God made a promise to Abraham, "Look up and count the stars, if you can. That's how big your family will be."**
 - **Abraham and Sarah waited for years, but they had no child.**
 - **Then he saw three men who stood nearby.**
 - **Abraham rushed to meet them and bowed before them. He knew they were from God.**
 - **Abraham and the three men sat down to eat a meal.**
 - **Sarah stood nearby and heard them talking.**
 - **"Sarah will have a baby," said the three men.**
 - **Sarah laughed, "How can this be?"**
 - **God asked, "Is anything too hard for Me?"**
 - **Ask all the children: "Is anything too hard for God?" (No!)**
3. Play again, choosing different children for each role.

GAME: STAR TOSS

Purpose: To help children remember Abraham counted the stars.

Supplies: Large star cut from heavy cardboard, black or navy blue target (poster board, pillowcase, or any similar size piece of fabric), 12 inches of string or floor tape to mark a starting line

God told Abraham to count the stars, if he could. Let's count how many times we can land a star on the sky.

Directions:

1. Make a starting line with the string or floor tape. Place the sky target a few feet from the line.
2. Choose a child to go first. The child stands at the starting line and tosses the large star until it lands on the sky target.
3. **Lead everyone in cheering and saying, "One star in the sky."**
4. Play until each child takes a turn, raising the count each time ("Two stars in the sky," "Three stars in the sky.").

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: HOW MANY STARS?

Purpose: To remember the promise God made to Abraham.

Snack Suggestion: Star-shaped crackers or cookies

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father, once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **In the same way we are eating this snack made for us, the three visitors sat down and ate the food Abraham made for them. What did Sarah do when she heard the three visitors tell Abraham she would soon have a baby?** (She laughed.) **Why do you think Sarah laughed?** (She thought she was too old to have a baby. She thought it was impossible!) **Is anything impossible for God?** (No.)
 - **How many stars do you think there are in the sky?** (Children respond.) **What did God promise Abraham about the stars?** (His family would be as many as the stars!)
 - **Next time you see the stars, think about all of God's promises. Remember, nothing is too hard for the Lord. He can do anything He promises!**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

**"I will
watch over you
wherever
You
go."
Genesis 18:15**

(I) Point to self.
(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
Index finger points straight ahead.
Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: GENESIS 15:5-6; 18:1-14

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **God made a promise to Abraham,** (Point to heaven.)
- **“Look up and count the stars, if you can.** (Flick fingers for stars.)
- **That’s how big your family will be.”** (Spread arms wide.)
- **He was special to the Lord, for he believed!** (Put hands on heart.)

- **He waited for years, but had no child.** (Shake head no.)
- **Then he saw three men who stood nearby.** (Hold up three fingers.)
- **Abraham rushed to meet them.** (Run in place.)
- **He bowed down and made sure to feed them.** (Bow.)

- **She heard them talking near the tent,** (Cup hand around ear to listen.)
- **“Sarah will have a baby,” said the three men.** (Pretend to hold a baby.)
- **Old Sarah laughed, “How can this be?”** (Raise palms, as if wondering.)
- **God asked her, “Is anything too hard for Me?”** (Point to heaven.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“I will watch over you wherever you go.” Genesis 28:15

GAME: STAND UP AND SAY IT!

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us. We can remember that promise by saying it to one another. Practice saying the Bible Memory Verse together a few times.

Directions:

1. Say, **“If you are a girl, I want you to stand and say God’s promise together.”**
2. The girls stand and say, **“I will watch over you wherever you go.”**
3. Repeat steps 1-2 with various groups such as:
 - If you are a boy.
 - If you love God.
 - If you are wearing something blue.
 - If you have a brother or sister.
4. Play as often as you like, announcing different groups each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: WHEREVER YOU GO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Chairs (optional)

Prepare: In this game, the children will pretend to travel to various locations. You may choose to set up two rows of chairs next to each other as a pretend car or the children can sit in rows on the floor.

In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us wherever we go. What are some of the places we go? (e.g., Grandma's house, store, playground, doctor's office.)

Directions:

1. Children sit in the chairs or sit in rows on the floor.
2. **Let's pretend we're riding in a car.** Ask one of the children, **"Where should we go?"**
3. Have fun pretending to drive the car to that location. Pretend to stop for traffic or to take a wrong return. When you arrive, say, **"We're here!"**
4. You may choose to have the children get out of the car and act out an activity they might do at that location, such as hugging grandma, buying milk, or running in place for the playground.
5. Ask, **"Is God with us when we are at name of location?"**
6. Lead the children in saying, **"God says, 'Yes! I will watch over you wherever you go.'"**
7. If the children got out of the car, have them take their seats again. Play as often as you like or as long as children are interested. You may choose to change the vehicle into a bus, train, or airplane depending on the location to which you are traveling.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God's promises or God's family.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 34: Abraham's Visitors

PONDER! God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a baby (Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14). Can God do anything He promises?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for Your miracle in giving Abraham and Sarah a baby and for the miracles You have done in our family. Amen."

PLAY! Gather a hanger, ribbon, and one star-shaped piece of cardboard wrapped in aluminum foil for each person. Together, make a star mobile with each star standing for a family member. At night, go outside and count the members of Abraham's family. On a clear night, there are so many stars that no one can count them all!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"I will
watch over you
wherever
You
go."
Genesis 18:15**

(I) Point to self.
(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
Index finger points straight ahead.
Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.