



# 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

**Whisper Verse:** "Count the stars."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you and 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 throughout every task we are given.
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."



# THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a star or "glow in the dark" star
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Count the stars."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "I Am with You" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "Father Abraham" "Trust and Obey"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 34
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 18:14 Visual: Tent or photograph of a starry sky
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Count the Stars	Standard-size dark blue sturdy paper, tan sturdy paper, shiny star stickers, two cotton balls, label, glue or glue stick, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> 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
		<b>Game:</b> Name That Star	Black or navy blue poster board, white chalk, optional: substitute glitter glue or star stickers
		<b>Snack:</b> How Many Stars?	Star-shaped crackers or cookies
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 34 Color This Story: "Abraham's Visitors"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14	None
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Star Mobile	Plastic or wire hanger, white cardboard or heavy stock paper, white sequins and glue or glitter glue, fishing line or string
	Up to 10	<b>Song:</b> Father Abraham	None, optional: recording of "Father Abraham"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Stand Up and Say It!	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Wherever You Go	Chairs (optional)
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about God's promises or God's family

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Count the stars

## THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm 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 a star or a "glow in the dark" star. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a star remind you how God told Abraham to count the stars. Today's Whisper Verse is, "Count the stars."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

**SIGN LANGUAGE: "Count the stars."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>"Count"</b>        | The hand signal for 'OK' (F hand shape) moves up the palm, as if counting something.  |
| <b>"(the) stars."</b> | The index fingers rub against each other as the hands are held up pointing to the sky. The movement of the index fingers represent stars twinkling. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "Count the stars," Genesis 15:5. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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

**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who keeps His promises. He promised Abraham would have as many grandchildren and great grandchildren as there were stars to count in the sky. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, "Count the stars." Let's say it together.** Review the Whisper Verse together: "Count the stars." Include sign language.



**God kept His promise and Abraham did have a great big family because he was part of the family of God. It started with the baby God promised to give Sarah and Abraham. Now, all who believe in Jesus are part of God's family, too! That means you and I can also be called children of Abraham. Let's sing a fun song to celebrate the many sons and grandchildren Abraham was given when God kept His promise. Sing: "Father Abraham" or substitute "The Lord Is Faithful."**

**Sarah laughed because she thought it was impossible for someone as old as she was to have a baby, but God was with her. He said there was nothing He could not do! God can do anything He promises! As we give our offering, let's thank Him for the amazing things He will do for others with the money we give to Him today. Sing: "I Am with You" while the offering is collected.**



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



**God promised Sarah and Abraham would have a baby. Do you think they ever had that baby? (Yes!) That's right. God kept His promise and everyone saw how mighty He is. Let's celebrate by giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness in keeping all His promises. Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord."**



God made a big promise

## THE WORD

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

**With my eyes on my teacher;**

**My mouth quiet as can be,**

**I will listen to hear,**

**How God loves you and me.**

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God kept His promise to watch over Ishmael and his mother, Hagar. Today, we will see how three visitors told Abraham how God would keep His promise to give a baby to him and Sarah. Let's open our Bible to the first book of the Bible, Genesis. 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 points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display tent or a photograph of a starry sky. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **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?"**

When God promised to give Abraham many children, what did He tell Abraham to go outside and do? The answer is in our Whisper Verse! Let's say our Whisper Verse together, "Count the stars." Include sign language or hand motions.



**When God heard Sarah laughing, what did He ask her? ("Is anything too hard for Me?") Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Genesis 18:14 from the teacher's Bible.



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.

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

**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. Using crayons or markers, draw Abraham's face.
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: 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!").

## **GAME: NAME THAT STAR**

**Purpose:** Naming the stars illustrates how we are all descendants of Abraham.

**Supplies:** Black or navy blue poster board, white chalk, optional: substitute glitter glue or star stickers

**One night, the Lord took Abraham outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then He said to him, "That is how many children you will have." Each star stood for someone in Abraham's family. Did you know everyone who belongs to Jesus is a part of God's big family? Abraham is part of that family, too! Let's add our names as some of the stars Abraham counted that night.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children take turns drawing a star on the sky poster. Note: Children can simplify the star shape by making a dot or a small x.
2. After drawing, each child give his or her star a name. It can be the child's name, the name of a child's friend, or a family member.
3. Play until each child has a turn.
4. If time allows, continue playing until the poster is filled with stars named after the children, their friends, and their family members.

# 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 the "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.)
  - **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("Count the stars.") **Let's say it together. 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!**



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Count the Stars" craft. Tell everyone how God kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a baby.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God can do anything He promises.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Abraham's Visitors." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Am with You," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions, then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **God made a promise to Abraham,** (Point to heaven.)
- **"Look up and count the stars, if you can.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **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.)

### **CRAFT: STAR MOBILE**

**Purpose:** Children will identify themselves as stars connected to Abraham's family.

**Supplies:** Plastic or wire hanger, white cardboard or heavy stock paper, white sequins and glue or glitter glue, fishing line or string

**Prepare:** From white cardboard or heavy stock paper, draw and cut out a star for each child. Punch a small hole at the top of each star, and attach (tie) thin string or fishing line varying 8-12 inches in length.

**God promised Abraham would have more family members than there are stars in the sky. Everyone who belongs to Jesus is a part of God's big family. Abraham is part of that family, too! Let's make a star mobile to show we are part of God's big family.**

**Directions:**

1. Each child writes his or her name on the back of a star.
2. Children decorate their stars with glitter glue or white sequins.
3. Teacher ties each star to the hanger, calling each star by the name of the child who decorated it.
4. Display the star mobile in your classroom or present it as a class gift to your church leader.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **SONG: FATHER ABRAHAM**

**Purpose:** Children will identify themselves as stars connected to Abraham's family.

**Supplies:** None, optional: recording of "Father Abraham"

Abraham had baby Isaac. Moses, David, Jonah and Jesus all belong to Abraham's family. All who believe in Jesus are part of the family too! That means you and I can also be called children of Abraham. Let's praise God for including us in this family. We will sing (or chant) "Father Abraham" and raise each body part as we say it.

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham.  
I am one of them and so are you. So let's all praise the Lord.  
Right arm!

Repeat the first two lines with the following actions:

Right arm, left arm!

Right arm, left arm, right foot!

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up!

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around!

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around, sit down!



## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"I am with you and 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 am with you and 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 turn. 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!** Read Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14 with your family. What was the promise about the stars? Sarah laughed about the promise because she was too old to have a baby. God asked her, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" What is your answer to that question?

**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!

**Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse:** Genesis 28:15

"I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go."