



# UNIT 1: GOD OF PROMISES

## LESSON 1: GENESIS



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God keeps His promises.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that God made a covenant with Abraham, promising to make him the father of many nations. We get to be a part of that promise and part of God's plan.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 17:1-9; 15-19; God Makes a Covenant with Abraham.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." Joshua 1:8 (NirV)*

**SUMMARY:**

God wanted to create a nation of people who would be His chosen people. He chose to make a covenant with Abraham even though it seemed unlikely. Abraham and his wife Sarah were old and had no children, but God kept His promise and began this great nation with the son they would have.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for keeping Your promises to us, just like you did with Abraham. Help us to know and trust that Your Word is true.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God keeps His promises.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that God made a covenant with Abraham, promising to make him the father of many nations. We get to be a part of that promise and part of God's plan.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 17:1-9; 15-19; God Makes a Covenant with Abraham

**INTRO:**

What are some of your favorite books? Take responses from kids and share one of your own. The most important book that we have as Christians is the Bible. It's like a history book that tells one big God story. It's made up of 66 smaller books.

Who can tell me what the very first book of the Bible is? That's right, it's Genesis. There is so much packed into that book. It starts with how God created everything, including people. From the very beginning, God has wanted the best for His creation. Even though God set out good plans for people, they often wanted to choose their own way.

In Genesis 17, we can read about how God chose to make a covenant with a man named Abraham.

**READ Genesis 17:1-9; 15-19****MAIN POINT:**

Abraham was not a young guy. Verse 1 says that he was 99 years old when the Lord appeared to him! God came to him because He wanted to make a covenant with him. A covenant is like a promise. It's something that God made with people several times in the Bible. This covenant would make Abraham the father of many nations. And it would be a mighty nation. God even changed his name from Abram to Abraham, meaning father of many.

He promised that Abraham and his wife Sarah would be fruitful – that means many children would come from them. This seemed a bit crazy since Abraham was already 99 years old.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Verse 17 says that Abraham questioned that they could become parents in their old age. But God confirmed that this would for sure happen. What seems impossible to us, is not impossible for God.

God told Abraham that even kings would come from this nation. He also promised to give them the land of Canaan as their own.

A covenant or promise usually has two sides. So God promised these things to Abraham, and in return, Abraham and his descendants would need to follow and obey God.

## **DRIVE IT HOME:**

God made this amazing covenant with Abraham. How do you think Abraham felt after that? Maybe he was overjoyed to be chosen by God. Maybe he was overwhelmed to think that he was the beginning of a great nation, God's chosen people. Just as God promised, He gave Abraham and Sarah a son named Isaac.

As we read more in the Bible, we can see how Abraham's family tree expanded. As we continue to learn more about the big story the Bible tells, we will see how there were many generations of people after Abraham. These generations led to kings and prophets. They also led eventually to Jesus! It's super cool to think that all of those generations led down to our families and us. We are part of God's promise and plan. In the coming weeks, we'll read about many people who didn't follow God's plan perfectly, and neither will we, but can still trust that God keeps His promises and has a plan for us.

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for making us a part of your amazing plan. We love that You keep Your promises.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

## ICEBREAKER:

What is a promise that someone made to you that they kept? What about a promise someone made to you that they broke?

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Divide the kids into two groups. Groups will take turns reading each sentence of the verse, as follows:**

*Group 1: Never stop reading this Book of the Law.*

*Group 2: Day and night you must think about what it says.*

*Group 1: Make sure you do everything written in it.*

*Group 2: Then things will go well with you.*

*Both Groups: And you will have great success. Joshua 1:8*

## SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Write the following names on notecards (one name per card): God, Abraham, and Isaac. Briefly discuss the correct order of who came first beginning with God. This will help kids to remember some order of specific patriarchs in Genesis. Flip the cards over and mix them up. See if the group can remember the correct order.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is the first book of the Bible? (Genesis)
- Did God promise to make Abraham's family smaller or bigger? (Genesis 17:2)
- What did God change about Abraham? (Genesis 17:5)
- What land would belong to Abraham and his family? (Genesis 17:8)
- Why do you think Abraham laughed when God told him Sarah would have a baby? (Genesis 17:17)
- What would Abraham and Sarah name their son? (Genesis 17:19)

## SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for making us a part of your amazing plan. We love that You keep Your promises.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

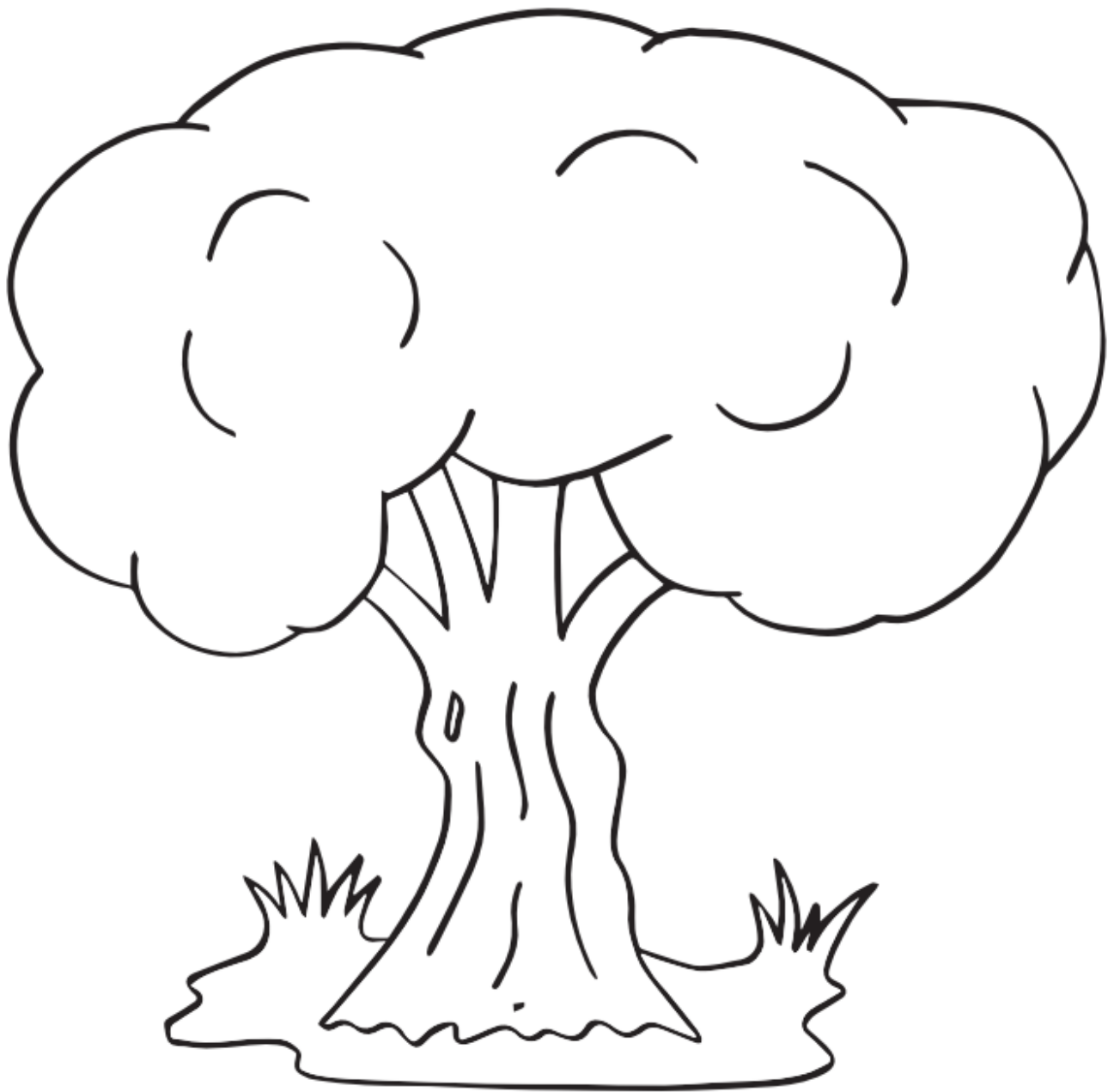


# CRAFT ACTIVITY

**Items needed:**

Family tree picture with Genesis 17:7 listed at the bottom

Read Genesis 17:7 together. Explain what a family tree is to kids. Give your own example from your family by listing some family names like parent, grandparent or your own kids. Tell them they will use this family tree picture as a reminder that God made a covenant with one person but it affected all generations, even ours. Have them write God on the tree trunk and then list family members on the tree branches.



"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."  
- GENESIS 17:7 (NIV)



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## The Year Long Bible Journey Genesis

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: GENESIS



**IN THE CAR:** Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home: This week we talked about how God wanted to create a nation of people who would be His chosen people. He chose to make a covenant with Abraham even though it seemed unlikely. Abraham and his wife Sarah were old and had no children, but God kept His promise and began this great nation with the son they would have. Genesis 17:1-9; 15-19; God Makes a Covenant with Abraham.



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids when has someone made a promise to you, but didn't keep it?



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who did God choose to make a covenant with? What was that promise?
- When have you had a hard time keeping a promise?
- What are some promises our family has or could have with each other?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." Joshua 1:8 (NIV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

What you need to know: Even at the young elementary age, kids have had people break promises they made to them. It could be a friend or family member. This is a great week to remind your kids that people make mistakes and break promises, even when they don't mean to, but God never breaks His promises. God kept His covenant with Abraham, and we are part of that plan.



# GENESIS

## Supplemental Week 1 Readings: Book of Genesis

**SUNDAY** Creation Ch 1-2

**MONDAY** Adam and Eve Ch 3-6

*God promises to send a savior!*

**TUESDAY** Noah, the Flood Ch 7-9

*God promises never to destroy*

*His creation by flood again!*

**WEDNESDAY** Abraham Ch 12-25

*God promises to make Abraham*

*the father of a great people, his*

*descendants would number the stars!*

**THURSDAY** Isaac Ch 26

**FRIDAY** Jacob Ch 27-36

**SATURDAY** Joseph Ch 37-50

