

LESSON 2 OPENING

A SIGN AND A PROMISE—GOD’S COVENANT WITH ABRAM

Hi! Thank you for joining us today. This is a special opportunity to hear more about God’s love and all that God has done for us.

How many of you have ever had your mom or dad or grandparent say, “I promise that we will do _____ after school today?” Or has a parent ever promised to do something special over the weekend? But then, either someone has gotten sick or something happens so you don’t get to do it? *Give the children time to share.*

How many of you have had a friend promise to keep a secret, but then they tell it to other people around you? Or how many of you have made a promise to someone that you didn’t keep?

We all make promises to other people. When we make them, we have full intentions of keeping them. We want to be true to our word and keep the promises we make. But then, sometimes, things happen that cause us to break the promise or to make someone break their promise to us.

How do you feel when you break a promise or when someone breaks a promise they made to you? Does it make you happy or sad? *Pause for reflection.* When a promise gets broken, it makes us sad. Sometimes we get really mad, and we want to do something to hurt the other person. This is because we live in a sinful world and we are sinful people.

God makes promises to us, and He keeps His promises. All of them. All the time.

When Adam and Eve first sinned, God promised that someday He would send a Savior to crush the devil. How did God keep that promise? *Let children respond.* Yes! He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again, defeating sin, death, and the devil.

In today’s lesson, we will hear how God gave a man named Abram faith to trust in His promises to save His people. God also gives us faith to trust in Him. In our sin, we doubt that God can do what He promises, and we do not trust Him. Thankfully, through God’s Word and Sacraments, He gives us faith and keeps our faith strong.

Because Jesus has made everything right between us and God, we have confidence when we pray to God. We can trust in God’s promises that we are His children and that He will take care of us. He took care of our biggest need when He kept His greatest promise—to save us from our sins.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for keeping Your promises. From the beginning of time, You have taken care of Your people, just as You promised to do. Forgive us when we don’t trust in You to take care of us and when we forget that You have taken care of our problem of sin. Help us share Your promises with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Genesis 15:1–6; 17:1–21

BIBLE TRUTH

God promises us a future.

FAITH FOCUS

The Third Petition

LAW & GOSPEL

I doubt God’s care for me and fail to trust His promises.

God chooses me in my Baptism and promises to be with me forever.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]. 2 Corinthians 1:20

VISUAL HELPS

None

Lesson 2

God's Covenant with Abram
Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-21

ACTIVITIES

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Action Rhyme

Do this rhyme: **Abraham and Sarah wanted a son.** (*Cradle baby in arms.*) **God told them He would give them one.** (*Point up.*) **Their children would number like stars in the sky.** (*Twinkle fingers.*) **“Go ahead and count them,” God said. “Just try.”** (*Pretend to count stars.*) **God gave Abraham faith to believe this was true.** (*Place hand on heart.*) **God gives us faith to trust His promises too.** (*Place other hand on heart.*) **He sent Jesus to be our Savior and Friend.** (*Make cross with fingers.*) **Jesus' love lasts forever; it's without end.** (*Hug self.*)



Night Sounds

Have children pretend it's night. Count the stars. Have them close their eyes as you talk about night sounds or play sounds from a digital device (e.g., an owl hooting, a car rumbling, a storm). Say, **Night sounds can seem scary when we can't see what's making the noise, but we don't have to be afraid because Jesus promises to be with us always.**



Star Snack

Serve Rice Krispies Treats stars or star sugar cookies. For Rice Krispies stars, follow a recipe to make Rice Krispies Treats. Sprinkle with blue and white sprinkles. Cut with star cookie cutters.



Prayer Booklet

Make copies of bedtime prayers for each child. Give children construction paper to decorate for a cover. Fold the page in half and glue the prayers to the inside. Give children star stickers and a picture of Jesus to glue on the front. Encourage them to use one of the prayers at home this week.



A SIGN AND A PROMISE—GOD’S COVENANT WITH ABRAM

Unit 4, Lesson 2

God’s Covenant with Abram

A covenant is a formal agreement between two or more people or groups that all parties are required to uphold. When God makes a covenant with someone, God always fulfills His side of the agreement.

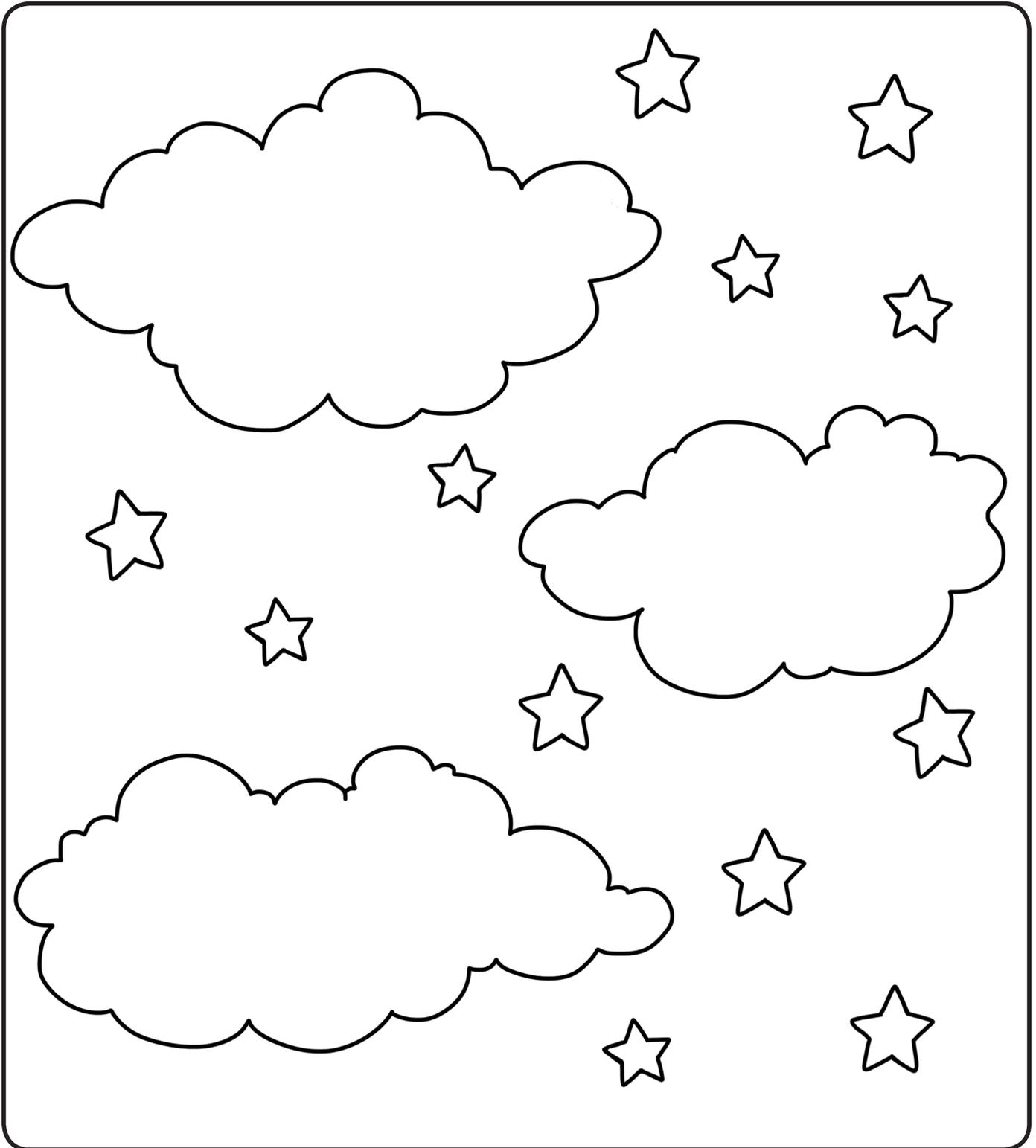
Directions: Reread Genesis 15:1–6 and 17:1–21 to complete the words on the scroll below to help you review the covenant God made with Abram and how He fulfilled His promise.

Abram had no **c** _____. (15:2). God told Abram, “Your very own **s** ____ shall be your **h** ____ (15:4). Look toward heaven, and number the **s** _____. So shall your **o** _____ be” (15:5). Abram **b** _____ the covenant God made with him (15:6).

When Abram was **n** _____-_____ years old (17:1), God reminded him of their covenant. God gave Abram a new name, **A** _____, which means “**f** _____ of many **n** _____” (17:5). God commanded Abraham and his offspring to keep the covenant He had made with them. God told Abraham that he and every **m** _____ were to be **c** _____ as a sign of their **a** _____ (17:10).

God then changed the name of Abraham’s **w** _____, Sarai, to **S** _____ (17:15). Even though they were old, God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son who they were to name **I** _____ (17:19).

A Sign and a Promise - God's Covenant with Abram



Count & Color

Count the stars in the picture. When Abraham was very old, he still had no children. God told Abraham to count the stars. Someday, Abraham would have that many children (offspring) in his family. I wonder . . . have you ever tried to count the stars at night?



[God said to Abraham,]
“Number the stars. . . . So shall
your offspring be.” **Genesis 15:5**