

Unit 2: Promise Builder

Faith Focus: God keeps God's promises.

The LORD carried out just what he had promised. (Genesis 21:1)

SESSION 7

GROW IN FAITH

God's Promise to Abraham—Genesis 12:1-9

The story of Abraham is another example of the faithful followers before us. God appears to Abraham and tells him to pack up his family and belongings and travel to a new land. However, this is not Abraham's first move. Earlier in Genesis readers learn that Abraham and his family had attempted to journey to Canaan, but they had not made it and settled in Haran (Genesis 11:31). Now God calls Abraham to finally finish the journey and to settle in Canaan. God's call requires a lot of trust. God asks Abraham to leave his life and his home. In return, God makes big promises to Abraham. Abraham is 75 years old when he moves. This is a big change for him, but Abraham and his family agree to God's call and trust in God's promises. We do not yet know what will come of this journey. But right before they set out to a new land, Abraham stops to worship God. This story continues to build up the importance of God's faithfulness and our faithfulness to God.

- Use tangible examples through movement (as appropriate) to understand transitions.
- Explore worship through calmness and pauses.
- Name the promises God makes to Abraham.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn
Faith Focus—God Keeps
God's Promises
Abraham's Travels
(Maze)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story
Big Faith Video
Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 3–6
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

A Tall, Tall Tower
(Creative Play)
Caterpillar Train
(Movement/Game)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

SUPPLIES

crayons
markers
scissors
pencils
tape
sticky notes
different types of blocks
ruler
TV and DVD player or
streaming device

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Fall Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the altar sticker on the Session 7 space.

SAY: We are learning how God keeps God's promises. God made promises to many people in the Bible. Today we will learn about what God promised to a man named Abraham.

Faith Focus—God Keeps God's Promises

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, scissors, tape

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19). Photocopy "Building Stone" (Leader Guide—p. 52) for each child.

- Show children the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "God keeps God's promises." Even if what we are hoping for doesn't happen right away, we can trust God and follow God.

SAY: God told a man named Abraham that he should leave his home and go to a new place. Abraham trusted God, and so he and his family moved. Wherever they went, they knew God was with them. They used stones to build an altar to remember how God promised to be with them.

- Give each child a copy of "Building Stone." Help children cut out the shape, fold on the dotted lines to make a cube, and use tape to hold the sides together.
- Invite all the children to work together to build with the cubes.

ASK: When have you trusted God? What happened?

Abraham's Travels

Supplies: Activity Sheets, CEB Kid's Bible or CEB Bible, pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Abraham's Travels" (Session 7 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: Abraham trusted God to guide him and his family wherever they went. As they traveled and moved from place to place, Abraham knew that God was always with him, just like God promised.

- Give each child a copy of “Abraham’s Travels” and a pencil or marker.
- Read Genesis 12:1-9 from a CEB Bible slowly. Have the children trace the path that Abraham travels on his journey to follow God’s promises.

ASK: What would you take with you on such a long journey?

- Encourage children to draw or write their responses on the back side of the page.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Abraham from Genesis 12:1-9 in your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

SAY: Abraham and Sarah traveled from their home in Ur to a new land called Canaan, and they stayed many places in between. God was with them all along the way. Abraham and Sarah remembered that God kept promises.

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 7 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: How did Abraham and Sarah feel as they moved to a new place? How do you think they were able to trust that God would keep God’s promises?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, markers

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) and Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) if you haven’t already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Our story today told us how Abraham and Sarah moved from place to place as they tried to find a new home. God was with them the whole time and promised to bless them. God kept God’s promises to Abraham and Sarah.

ASK: When have you trusted someone to keep their promises to you?

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Invite children to take a sticky note and draw or write the name of someone they trust.
- Have children place their sticky notes near the rocks on the Faith Response Poster.

Tip: Depending on the size of your group, you may choose to keep or remove the sticky notes from the previous session.

FUN WITH FAITH

A Tall, Tall Tower

Supplies: different types of blocks, ruler

SAY: While Abraham and Sarah were traveling to their new home, they stopped several times along the way. They knew God was with them wherever they went, so they built altars to praise God. Usually they built them out of rocks, so that anyone who traveled that way would know someone had praised God there.

ASK: What is the tallest tower you've seen? What is the best way to build a tower?

- Divide the children into pairs. Have each pair choose ten blocks.
- Set a timer for twenty seconds. See which pair can build the tallest tower using their rocks. Use a ruler to measure the height of the towers.
- If you have time, experiment with different time limits or building materials.

ASK: What was it like trying to build a tall tower? What was it like trying to build quickly?

Caterpillar Train

SAY: As Abraham and Sarah traveled, they probably met lots of people and saw lots of different places. They might have tried new foods or picked up new things along the way. Wherever we go, we know that God will be with us, keeping God's promise to stay with us.

- Choose one child to be the leader of a train. Have the leader close their eyes for five seconds, while the other children spread out in the room.
- After opening their eyes, the leader has the task of creating a train of people while taking only thirty steps. Count the steps aloud as the train leader tries to gather the whole group in a train using no more than thirty total steps to get to everyone. When the train leader reaches a new person, that person links arms with the last person in line until a long caterpillar train has been made.
- As the train gets longer, it may get harder to navigate your space!

ASK: Was it easy or challenging to create a caterpillar train with so many people? What could have made the caterpillar train easier? If you were not the leader, was it easy or challenging to stay with the leader?

Tip: Play one round with you as the leader so the children understand how to play the game.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Make copies of the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 93–94) if needed.

SAY: It is not always easy, but we can trust God to show up and love us no matter what. We can share what we know about God with others.

ASK: Have you ever told someone about God? What did you say? Has anyone ever told you about God?

- Have children close their eyes and think of someone they want to tell about God.
- Say an encouraging blessing to each child.

SAY: *(Child's name)*, you can share God's love.

PRAY: Repeat after me: "Holy God, thank you for keeping your promises. Thank you for being with us wherever we go and making sure we always know you care for us. Amen."

- Send the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who hasn't received them.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 7 Building Stone

Cut out the shape. Then fold on the dotted lines to make a cube. Use tape to hold the sides together. Work together with the whole group to build with the cubes.

