

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. Our story ends as 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.

- Discuss God's presence in the midst of change.
- Name ways children can worship God in their daily lives.

SUPPLIES

interlocking blocks

dice

crayons

sticky notes

rocks

paint

paintbrushes

smocks

markers

scissors

tape

paper plates

straws

marbles

paper

*TV and DVD player or
streaming device*

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Keeps
God's Promises

Abraham's Journey
(Board Game)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 7–12
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

Build an Altar
(Art)

Wacky Block-Building
(Craft)

3D Journey Maze
(Science)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

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: In today's story, we will learn about God's promise to Abraham. God promised to build a whole nation through Abraham. But Abraham had never been to the new land. Abraham had to put his faith in God.

Faith Focus—God Keeps God's Promises

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19).

- Show children the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "God keeps God's promises." Abraham moved his family to a new place because God promised to take care of Abraham.

ASK: Have you ever had to do something new? What did it feel like? Who helped you feel safe? Who did you trust?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Abraham's Journey

Supplies: Activity Sheets, interlocking blocks, dice

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

- Have each child pick an interlocking block as a game piece.
- Have the children follow the directions to play the board game.

SAY: God made a promise to Abraham and Sarah to help them move to a new place. Abraham believed God and followed God's word.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle on the floor as all are able.
- Read Genesis 12:1-9 in a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: What did God promise Abraham? How did Abraham respond?

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.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

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

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13), Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19), and Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17), you haven't already.

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

SAY: God's promises prompt people to do new things. Noah built an ark. Abraham built an altar. When we meet God in new ways, we respond with joy and gratitude, and sometimes our own hard work.

ASK: Why do you think Abraham built an altar? What do you think you could build?

- Place the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

SAY: Each picture on our poster is a symbol of God's promises. Today, we will look at the symbol for Abraham's story, an altar made of stone.

- Have each child write on his or her sticky note one thing he or she is grateful for and place the notes on the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Build an Altar

Supplies: rocks, paint, paintbrushes, smocks

SAY: Abraham built an altar after God made promises to him. Today, we are going to work together to build our own altars.

- Give each child a rock.
- Invite the children to paint the rocks.
- Invite each child to share places in the church that she or he feels closest to God.
- Once the rocks dry, stack the rocks in a meaningful place in the church.

ASK: How can we remember God’s promises in our lives? What helps you remember God?

Wacky Block-Building

Supplies: crayons or markers, scissors, tape

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible “Wacky Block-Building” (Leader Guide—p. 52).

SAY: In today’s story, God told Abraham that he should move to a new place. Abraham had to leave behind all the people he knew. God promised to bless him and to give Abraham’s descendants a new home. Abraham marked his journey by building an altar. Today, we will build our own wacky altar tower to remember God’s promises to Abraham.

- Invite the children to color and cut out the cube from the “Wacky Block-Building” reproducible.
- Have the children tape the sides of each cube together. If your group is small, have each child make multiple cubes.
- Encourage the children to try to build an altar together using their wacky cubes. The cubes will not be perfectly level, so the cubes will be tricky to put together. See how high the group can build.

SAY: Sometimes, it can be a challenge to build something. But God loves that we honor God, even when we have trouble. Abraham’s story is full of ups and downs, but he believed God’s promises and he tried to honor God.

ASK: How do you think we can honor God in our lives? How can we remember God’s promises in our lives? What helps you remember God?

3D Journey Maze

Supplies: paper plates, straws, tape, scissors, crayons, marbles, paper

SAY: Abraham had to travel on new roads to a new place. Today, we are going to make our own marble maze to help us remember that Abraham wasn't sure where he was going.

- Give each child a paper plate, straws, tape, scissors, crayons, and a marble.
- Have the children mark a start and a finish on their plates.
- Invite the children to use the straws to make a winding road from the start to the finish line. They can cut the straws and tape the pieces in parallel lines to make a path for the marble. Children may want to plan a maze on a piece of paper first.
- Have each child try out his or her maze, then try mazes of others in the room.

SAY: We know that God had a plan for Abraham's journey. Abraham had faith that God would keep God's promises, so Abraham followed God's command.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, paper, crayons

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

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: Sometimes our faith leads us to follow God into new places or build new things. We know that God loves us. We have faith that God will keep God's promises. We follow God when we are kind to our friends. We follow God when we sit with someone new at school. We follow God when we take good care of our family. We follow God when we take good care of the earth. There are lots of ways we can follow God every day.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Invite each child to draw one way he or she can follow God this week. Then have the children share.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for helping us follow and honor you, even when it is hard. Thank you for giving us the Bible to teach us how to follow you. Amen.

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

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 7 Wacky Block-Building

Color, cut out, and tape together your cube. Work with your class to build the tallest tower you can.

