

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. **What do you notice about the way Abram talks to God?** Allow kids to respond. **Abram talks to God as a friend or family member, asking God lots of questions. Let's count how many questions Abram asks God.** Open a Whirl Story Bible to "A Forever Promise" on page 14. Show kids what a question mark looks like if they do not already know, then count together.
2. **Abram asks God lots of questions. What are Abram's questions about?** (The covenant.) **I wonder how Abram felt inside when he asked God so many questions. What do you think?** Talk with kids about Abram's possible emotions, such as worry, frustration, curiosity, or fear.
3. Show kids the faces on the leaflet square. **Circle the faces on your square that match the emotions you think Abram is feeling in our story. There's a blank space for you to fill in if you can't find an emotion.**
4. **We are a part of God's big family. If you could ask God a question, what would you ask?** Allow kids to respond. **Write or draw your question between the question marks at the top of your leaflet.**
5. **How does God answer Abram's questions?** Read the answers on the borders of the leaflet square. **Abram had lots of questions. Sometimes we have questions too. Like Abram, we are part of God's family—we can ask God questions and know that God keeps promises.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Grab a Whirl Story Bible and invite kids to retell today's story in their own words by describing what they see in each picture. **Abram and Sarai trusted God's promise. God showed Abram how big his family would be by showing him the stars. We are part of God's big family too. Which star do you think you are?**

Pass out leaflet panels and markers.

Abram prays when he can't sleep. You can too! Let's read the words and look at the picture clues to discover a prayer for sleepless nights. Help kids solve the rebus word-puzzles to reveal the prayer:

God of (light), **on this** (starry) **night, I wait for** (sleep), **knowing your love is** (deep). **And your promises? They are** (forever). **Amen.**

Send kids out.

Now it's time to share your handshakes about stars and promises! Give each pair a chance to show their idea.

Pray together: **We praise you, God, for all our stars. May all our stars shine in your light. Amen.**

Thank kids for being a part of God's great big family. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.

Abraham and Sarah

COVENANT

Grades
1-2

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18; 17:1-7, 15-16; 18:1-5; 21:1-7

What's happening in this story?

Abram and Sarai (later called Abraham and Sarah) have been through a pretty incredible journey already, and the saga continues with this story of God's covenant with them. Abram has been faithful to God through so much, and in this passage he must again step out in faith in God's promise. Despite the couple's old age, God promises Abram an heir, and further promises that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars.

What does this story mean for kids?

Kids have trouble waiting for things, especially celebrations like birthdays and Christmas. Thinking of these experiences can help kids empathize with Abram. Abram trusted God, but that didn't make waiting easier. Kids can also explore the concept of covenant by thinking of things that seem impossible. Many of kids' impossible goals are within their vision but just out of reach. Thinking with kids about these "impossible" tasks helps them get an idea of how Abram must have felt about God's covenantal promise of an heir.

Why this story?

The story of Abram and Sarai (later renamed Abraham and Sarah) begins to tell us the story of God's chosen people. Abraham and Sarah are our ancestors of faith and play a huge role in the unfolding story of God's people.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Today kids will learn about Abraham, whose faith in God is based on trust. Help kids build trust in your learning environment by keeping your word, remaining calm, and being supportive throughout the lesson. Encourage kids to keep the same practices too!



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Mural paper
- Masking tape
- Whiteboard and markers

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Stickers (small stars)

WHIRL SUPPLIES

• WHIRL KIDS STORY BIBLE SAMPLERS

• DVD

• LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Roll out mural paper, and tape down if needed. Scatter markers around. Ask kids to draw stars, decorate them, and label them with their names. Invite kids to draw additional stars for their family members. Label the paper “God’s Great Big Family” and hang it in your learning space.

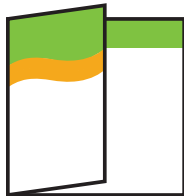
Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Today we will learn about God’s promise to a man named Abraham. Abraham’s story has a sky full of stars in it. Let’s pair up and make up a handshake that helps us remember stars and promises. Give kids time to pair up and invent their handshakes together. Practice together a few times. Then we’ll share your handshakes at the end of our time together.

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Read together the leaflet words “COVENANT = PROMISE.” Covenant is a big word and may be new to some of us. Covenant means “promise.” God makes promises to us because we are God’s family. Let’s discover something about God’s promises by using the letters in the stars to finish the final word in our sentence: “God’s promises are. . . .” Invite kids

to complete the sentence by matching letters in the stars to the boxes of corresponding colors at the bottom of the leaflet page. God’s promises are FOREVER! Collect their leaflets until Respond.



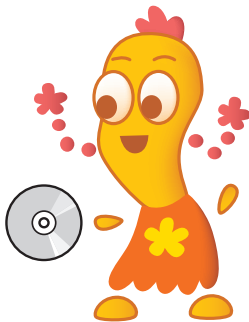
Gather kids around the screen where you’ll watch the video.

The video kids have a substitute teacher today. How do you behave when you have a substitute teacher?

View the episode titled “Relative Chaos” on the Whirl Classroom DVD Sampler.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- What is Victor so excited about?
- Who is the substitute? Have you ever had someone you know as your substitute teacher? What was it like?
- How can Abraham and Sarah’s family be so ginormous?
- Why don’t we need to be related to be family?
- How did people become a part of your family?



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let’s find our story today! Help kids find the stories about Abraham and Sarah in their Whirl Kids Story Bible Samplers. Before you read, invite kids to look for two lamps and a moon.

Read the story and Ada and Otto’s questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Who made a promise to Abram and Sarai? What was the promise?
- Why did Abram think God could not fulfill the promise?
- Why did God change Abram and Sarai’s names to Abraham and Sarah?
- How do you remember God’s promises?
- Have you ever broken a promise? What did you do about it?

Explore the Wall Chart.

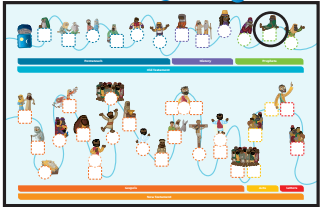
Gather near the Wall Chart and ask kids to find the image for the day’s story. Point out the Testament (Old) and the colored section that tells how we are in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. Today’s story is all about the promise God made that Abraham and Sarah would have as many descendants as stars in the sky! Place the sticker in the spot near Abraham and Sarah.

Play together!

Let’s play The Waiting Game! Your first challenge is to stand on your left leg and wait for fifteen whole seconds to pass. Ready? Go! Count fifteen seconds aloud as kids stand on their left legs. Then give kids another challenge. Now, your challenge is to stand on your right leg, but the number of seconds is a secret. As kids stand on one leg, silently count to thirty, then shout, “Stop!” Is it easier to wait when you know when the wait will be over or when you don’t know? Abram and Sarai waited.



The Whirl Classroom curriculum includes a Wall Chart that is not included in this Sampler. Shaded content shows how this is used in the lesson.



BIBLE BIT

God makes covenant agreements throughout the Bible. Check out Genesis 9:8-17 to learn about a covenant that God made with Noah!

WATCH IT AGAIN

Victor seems to have an endless supply of art materials. Watch the video again and invite kids to list all the different supplies Victor uses.

OUR CHURCH

Have kids write their names on construction paper stars. Then create an art installation by hanging the stars from the ceiling in the church’s gathering area.