

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2024

Class Curriculum - The Book of Genesis

Age - Junior Campers

Wednesday - Abraham

Summary

1. Subject: The life of Abraham
2. Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9, Genesis 15:1-6
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Learn the story of Abraham, with an emphasis that God makes and keeps promises
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Story

10-15 minutes

Abraham

The story of Abraham is central to the book of Genesis, and important in understanding the history of God and His people. A brief summary is listed below: please read the full account yourself and teach the story at an age-appropriate level to your class.

- Abraham is originally called "Abram". He lives in a large city and is likely very wealthy and comfortable. God calls him to leave his comfort zone and begin traveling
- God promises that he will make Abraham into a great nation with greater blessings than he has ever known
- Abraham takes his family and obeys God. They leave their home and begin travelling where God tells them

- God gives Abraham a promise that he will have a son. This was very unlikely because Abraham and his wife were both very old, but God guarantees a son and that Abraham's descendants will outnumber the stars in the sky
- Eventually, Abraham and Sarah have a son: Isaac. Isaac is the answer of God's promise. Abraham's descents become the nation of Israel

The full story of Abraham is long and full of many wonderful details. For this class, focus on the amount of time it took for God to answer His promise to Abraham. It took many years, and Abraham was often doubtful, but God was patient. God reassured Abraham many times and reminded him of His promise until the day it was finally fulfilled. Parts of God's promise, like the nation of Abraham's descendants, weren't fulfilled in Abraham's lifetime.

Lesson

Discussion: Promises

10-15 Minutes


Guided Discussion: Ask the question, "What is a promise someone made to you?" or "What is a promise that you have made to someone?" We are quick to make promises for many different reasons. Maybe your parents promise to let you watch a movie after you finish your homework. Maybe you promise to clean your room after you play for a while.

In Matthew 5, Jesus tells us not to make oaths, but to be so honest and truthful with all our words that we don't need anything else to make them meaningful. However, we see countless examples of promises that God makes to us in scripture, like the promises he gave to Abraham.

Ask, "What are some of God's promises to us in the Bible?". Some answers may be:

- God promises that He will forgive Christians
- God promises wisdom to those who ask (James 1:6)
- God promises that He will judge everyone
- God has promised that He loves us
- God has promised that if we pray, He will listen

Saying, "I Promise" shouldn't be the magic words to get your way, or to make someone believe you. Telling someone you will do something should be a promise in itself. If you are honest and consistent in your life, then all your words will be a promise.



Ask, “Have you ever broken a promise?” or, “Has anyone ever broken their promise to you?”. It is very hurtful when someone breaks a promise. It hurts trust, and makes it hard to believe that person in the future.

God has never broken His promises. Sometimes, people think God has broken promises because there are promises that aren’t answered yet. But we see in the life of Abraham that God answers His promises in His own time.

God is faithful to His own words. We should learn to trust in His promises, and be like God in keeping our own words.

Genesis and the Church

Every part of the Old Testament foreshadows the coming of the Church and God’s redemptive plan, including the Book of Genesis. Use this lesson and story to help your class understand the nature of God’s Church and His plan for it. The life of Abraham is the first highly detailed covenant God gives to mankind. The Church is the new and better covenant that God has given to mankind. Abraham was given the promise of a great future if he followed God’s commandments; the Church is given the promise of a great future (eternal life) if we follow God’s commandments. Abraham was told he would be the father to a great nation. Israel was the first fulfillment of that promise, and the Church is the second fulfillment of the same promise: we are now the great nation God promised to Abraham. Abraham was called to leave his old life behind, including his name, and to follow God into a new life. Today, we do the same. When we are baptized, we take on a new name: Christian. We leave behind our old lives of sin, and become a “new self” to walk in newness of life (see Colossians 3).

Scripture

- a. 2 Peter 3:8-9
 - a. These verses are key in understanding the nature of God’s promises. He answers His promises on His own timeline, according to what is best. Sometimes those promises are quick. Other times, like Abraham, they may be slower than we want.
- b. Numbers 23:19
 - a. This verse, along with many others, highlights the faithfulness of God. It is in His very nature to answer His promises, and He will never change His mind or break His word.



Activity/Illustration

Remaining Time

“Father Abraham”

Sing the song, “Father Abraham” with your class. Make sure they understand the meaning of the song: Abraham is the father of God’s people. In the Old Testament, this became the nation of Israel. Now, God has expanded His people to include anyone who decides to become a Christian.

Father Abraham had many sons

Many sons had Father Abraham

I am one of them and so are you

So let's all praise the Lord

“Leading the Blind”

This activity can be done with no materials, or you could use blindfolds. Have your class get into pairs. One student will close their eyes (or put on a blindfold) and their partner will need to guide them to another location at Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp. Have one destination for the class in another room or another building (or all the way across the campground!) and begin to journey all together. The first team to reach the destination wins. Once you get to the destination, have the partners switch roles and return to the original location of your class.

For added fun: instead of journeying across the camp, set up an obstacle course for your blindfolded students to work through while their partner guides them.

Application: This game puts us in Abraham’s shoes. Abraham did not know where God was sending him; he had to trust in God and listen to His directions. It can be scary to go on a journey and not know where you’re going, but if you have a good guide it is possible.