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# Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2026

## Class Curriculum - Back to the Bible

Age - Junior Campers

# Wednesday - The Old Testament

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## Summary

1. Subject: A summary of the Old Testament
2. Scripture: Genesis 15, Exodus 20
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Teach your class a brief summary of the events of the Old Testament. Help them understand the timeline, and teach them about the types of books in the OT.
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.

## Overview

This week's classes will focus on "Back to the Bible". This entails an overview of the Old and New Testaments, as well as the inspiration and inerrancy of scripture. By the end of the week, all campers should be confident that the Bible is the complete and perfect word of God: sufficient for everyone to have an everlasting relationship with God.

Today's lesson will focus on the Old Testament. Many young campers will already be familiar with key stories; however, they may struggle to put these events in order. This class will focus on the formation and timeline of God's covenant people throughout the Old Testament. This begins with His promise to Abraham, and is followed by the time of the patriarchs (Isaac and Jacob), after which their descendants became the Hebrew people. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt until Moses led them out of Egypt, and Joshua led them into the promised land, where they established the nation of Israel. Israel was first led by judges, then by kings, until it fell to Babylon and was later rebuilt by Ezra and Nehemiah.



## Story

10-15 minutes

### God's Promise to Abram

The story of God's promise to Abram is recorded in Genesis 15. In a small way, this story describes the overall timeline of the Old Testament. This takes place after Adam and Eve, and Noah and the Flood. At this time, God decides to create a group of people to form a bond with. He chooses Abram for his faith, and says his descendants will be God's covenant people. The rest of the Old Testament follows the descendants of Abraham. Consider using a picture book, a children's study Bible, a skit, or any other means to tell the story. A brief summary is below:

- Before this chapter, Abram had already talked with God and was told to leave his homeland and go where God commands (15:7)
- After some time, God talks to Abram again and gives him a promise: Abram will have a son, and his descendants will be greater than the number of stars in the sky (15:5)
- In addition to the promise of many descendants, God shows him the land around him and promises that it will belong to Abram's descendants. This is why it is called "the promised land" elsewhere in scripture (15:7)
- God tells Abram that his descendants will suffer as slaves for 400 years. This is the time of Egyptian slavery, before they are freed by God through Moses (15:13-14)
- After they are freed from Egypt, God promises that they will inherit the promised land (15:18)

This is the beginning of God's covenant people, and the rest of the Old Testament follows God's people. The rest of Genesis will follow the son, grandsons, and great-grandsons of Abraham, who turn into the Hebrew people. Exodus through Joshua follows the Hebrews as they leave Egypt, wander through the wilderness, and receive the land that was promised by God to Abraham. After they leave Egypt, God gives Moses another covenant, called The Law, built on the promise He made to Abraham. The book of Judges follows God's covenant people as they are led by judges. 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles records the transition to being led by kings, as well as another time of slavery, after which the nation of Israel rebuilds itself. This rebuilding is recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah.

The promise God made to Abraham is the beginning of the history of God's people. Understanding this and the order of events afterwards will be helpful to young campers so they can begin to know the context and order of the stories they are already familiar with.

## Lesson/Discussion

15 Minutes

**Guided Discussion:** The story of God's Promise to Abram is the beginning of God's covenant people, but it does not tell us much about the laws and practices during the Old Testament. For the religion of God's people, it is better to look to Moses and the 10 commandments. This is found in Exodus 20.

Ask, **"Can you name all 10 commandments?"** Depending on the age of your campers, they may be able to name all ten. Help them learn about each commandment in age-appropriate ways. For example, the first two commandments can be explained to younger children by saying, "God wants us to worship Him, and only Him". The seventh commandment, forbidding adultery, can be explained as, "God wants mothers and fathers to love each other". If your campers are older, feel free to be more precise.

**"The Old Testament was a long time ago, and we have new rules for us in the New Testament. Why should we still learn about the Old Testament?"** For the rules, help your campers understand that many of the Old Testament laws are still upheld in the New Testament. Some are changed, as they are made better by Jesus, but the underlying commandment has not changed. The parts of the law that have fallen away are largely about how God wanted His people to act as a nation. Now that God's people are the Church, we do not need governing laws; we need spiritual laws. For the stories, show your class that every story in the Old Testament teaches us something about God, or something we can learn from one of His people. Using our story of Abram, ask, **"What does the story of God's promise to Abram teach us today?"** Some examples might be that God keeps His promises, that God wants us to be faithful to Him, that He rewards our faith, etc.

**"What is your favorite story from the Old Testament?"** For each answer, help your campers learn about where the story fits into the overall timeline of the Old Testament and what the story can teach us today. Use this time to give your own example of a favorite Old Testament story. By going through multiple examples, your class will begin to see the bigger picture of the Old Testament.

End with a reminder that even though the Old Testament looks very different than the New Testament, God has never changed. Jesus is always the same (Hebrews 13:8) and was present from the very beginning (John 1). Following God looked different before Jesus died on the cross, but God has always been the same and has always wanted the same thing.



## Activity/Illustration

### Song - The Books of The Old Testament

A song that teaches about the Old Testament is the Books of the Old Testament Song. As you sing through this song, point out that there are many more books than were discussed in the timeline. Job through Song of Solomon are books of God's wisdom. Isaiah through Malachi are prophets, who all lived during and prophesied about the times recorded in the first 17 books.

### Song - Father Abraham

In line with our story for today, this song is about Abraham and his descendants. Pay special attention to the line, "I am one of them, and so are you". The Church is the final version of God's promise to Abraham (before we are all together in Heaven). Just as God kept His promises to Abraham, He will keep them to you.

*Father Abraham, had many sons*

*And many sons had Father Abraham*

*I am one of them, and so are you*

*So let's all praise the Lord!*

### Game - Act It Out

Split your class up into small groups. Assign each group a well-known Old Testament story (or let them pick their favorite). Give them time to read through their story and refresh their memory, and then they will act out the story in front of the rest of the class. Like in the lesson, make sure to include a discussion after each skit that explains when the event takes place relative to the whole Old Testament, and what lessons we should learn from it.

For a twist, this could be done by playing charades of well-known Old Testament stories.