

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2024

Class Curriculum - The Book of Genesis

Age - Senior Campers

Wednesday - Abraham

Summary

1. Subject: Abraham
2. Scripture: Genesis 12:1-19, 15:1-6, 17:1-9, 21:1-6, Galatians 3:7-18
3. Grade/Level: Senior 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.

Lesson

Overview: This week's classes will study the book of Genesis. Each lesson will focus on one person and their life. Each lesson will also examine a different aspect of God's character, and provide valuable application to New Testament teachings and the Church.

Today's lesson will focus on Abraham. God will be examined as a maker and keeper of promises. The application will be trusting in God's promises, and being patient according to His timing.

The full account of Abraham's life is long. Please read it entirely yourself as you prepare for this class, as only certain portions will be read together.



Read: 25 Minutes

The following section provides a brief commentary of the passage, as well as some reading comprehension questions.

Genesis 12, 15, 17, & 21

Genesis 12:1-9

This passage is the beginning of the life and account of Abraham, who is first called “Abram”. He is selected by God to become a traveler, or sojourner, and to be the father of God’s eventual nation of Israel. While not revealed in this passage, it is revealed in the New Testament that Abram was selected because of his faith in God. Note God’s promises: He will make Abram into a great nation, He will bless Abram, and repay all who encounter Abram according to their actions.

Genesis 17:1-9

This passage again continues the promise that God gives to Abram. Here, God expands on the promise. He has already guaranteed Abram a son and an eventual nation. Now, God gives a covenant to Abram. He renames Abram to “Abraham”, and says that Abraham and all his descendants will keep this covenant from God, which will be marked by circumcision. This is more than a promise; it is a pledge to have a lasting relationship.

Genesis 15:1-6

In this passage, we see another great promise made to Abram by God. Between chapters 12 and 15, Abram has made one significant error by lying to the Pharaoh of Egypt, but otherwise has been obediently following the will of God and traveling the lands. The promise in this passage is a continuation of the one in chapter 12. God promises to give Abram a son as his heir, and that the nation of his descendants will outnumber the stars. This seems unbelievable due to Abram’s age.

Genesis 21:1-6

In this final reading of Abraham’s life, we see God fulfill His promise. At this point, Abraham has misstepped several times. His lie to Pharaoh, his lie to Abimelech, fathering Ishmael, and Sarah’s skepticism of God’s promise. God is faithful despite these things, and in this chapter we see the fulfillment of His promise in the birth of Isaac. God’s timing was slower than Abraham and Sarah expected, but the promise was fulfilled.

Reading Comprehension:

- What would have been some of the difficulties Abram faced in moving from his established home in Ur to become a sojourner?
- Two times Abraham lies for his and his family's safety. How can we respond to difficult situations like this and maintain our integrity?
- Do you think Abraham was patient in seeing God's promise fulfilled? Why or why not?
- What does this account tell us about God?

Galatians 3:7-18

Galatians 3:7-13

In Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia, he talks at length about Abraham. In these verses we see that God selected Abraham to be the father of His people because of Abraham's faith. We know that we too are "sons of Abraham" because of our faith in God and Christ, even though modern Christians are not Israelites.

Galatians 3:15-18

These verses give us an important insight into the promise that God made to Abraham. Yes, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham in the birth of his son Isaac, but this promise had another fulfillment. Paul reveals to us that God's promise also meant the coming birth of Jesus Christ. Through Abraham there would be one offspring, Christ, that would lead to the great nation promised by God. This great nation is the Church.

DISCUSSION

Remaining Time

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 have fun for a while. Sometimes we make promises that we cannot keep, or don't intend to keep. Either way, when we make promises there is usually an understood timeframe around them. We don't like it when someone is slow to make good on a promise.

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. Without taking oaths, we see countless examples of promises that God makes to His people 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. This is how God promises.

Ask, **“Have you ever broken a promise?”** or, **“Has anyone ever broken their promise to you?”**.

Broken promises can ruin trust, and is it often very difficult to continue in a close relationship when a promise is broken. We should always be committed to keeping our word in order to maintain the relationships we are in, and more closely mirror God.

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. **2 Peter 3:8-10** speaks of the second coming, and makes a poignant statement: “The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you”. God's timing is not always our own. Like with Abraham, we should have faith that God will keep all His promises, even when we feel impatient or discouraged toward them.

God is faithful to His own words. We should learn to patiently 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 that God pledged 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).