



Lesson 4

By Faith We Receive

Large Group Lesson & Games

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Abraham Believes God</p> <p>Genesis 15</p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sheet of chart paper and a marker • A Bible
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.”</p> <p>Romans 4:16, <i>New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Receive God’s promises by faith.</p>	



Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

To begin, ask the children the following questions. If they are able to answer it correctly, they can remain standing. If they don't know the answer, they can sit down:

1. How many wheels are on a bike?
2. How many wheels are on a car?
3. How many sides are on a rectangle?
4. How many days are in a week?
5. How many weeks are in a year?
6. How many hours are in a day?
7. How many grains of sand are on a beach?
8. How many stars are in the sky?

Many years ago, the Lord made a GREAT promise to a man named Abram. The promise was so great that Abram couldn't even see it or imagine it. The Lord said that Abram would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky, and that number was too great for Abraham to count!

The Lord spoke to Abram, saying to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."

But Abram replied, "O Lord, what good are all your eternal, never-ending blessings and rewards when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, the blessings you have given me will be passed on to a servant in my household. You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will take on all that you've given me after I die."

Then the Lord said to him, "No, my blessing will not be passed on to your servant, but to your son." Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have! Through your descendants, the whole world will be blessed!"

And even though it was not yet so, Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because he trusted that the Lord would be faithful to do as he promised.

Then the Lord told him, "I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

But Abram replied, "O Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it, for there are others now living in this land?"

So the Lord gave Abram a sign that he would do what he promised. So Abram fell into a deep sleep.



Invite the children to lay down and pretend to sleep.

As he was sleeping, the Lord said to Abram, “You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) After four generations your descendants will return here to this land. I have given this land to your descendants, even though the land is currently occupied by many people.

Since Abram was asleep, the Lord himself made a covenant with Abram, and said, “You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) After four generations your descendants will return here to this land. I have given this land to your descendants, even though the land is currently occupied by many people.

So the Lord gave Abram a sign that even if Abram’s descendants faced slavery and great difficulty, the Lord would still accomplish what he promised.

Why do you think Abram was put to sleep when he was given a sign?

Take student responses.

The Lord was showing Abram that it wasn’t because of Abram that the promise would be fulfilled, but that God himself would see to it. Abram was going to die before God would accomplish what he promised.

Let’s review! What promises did God give Abraham?

On a sheet of chart paper, list the three parts of God’s promise to Abraham and draw a sketch for each.

God’s promises to Abraham:

1. He would have a son and many descendants.
2. God would make them his promised people a land.
3. Through his people, the whole world would be blessed.

Abraham was already an old man when God promised him he would have a son. He and his wife were both too old to have any children. Imagine how hard it must have been for Abraham to believe this promise, that he would have a son! God’s promises require his people to have faith, that we believe him and trust that he will keep his promise even when it seems confusing or hard to believe.



Let's look at some of God's promises in his Word. As we do, think about which of these promises is hardest to believe.

God promises:

- to send us the Holy Spirit.
- to be with us always.
- to strengthen and help us.
- to forgive us our sins.
- to give us a new heart.
- to set us free to obey God.

God's promises don't depend on us. In fact, God's promises are bigger than us, so that we can know that God is faithful and able to do all that he has promised.

We'll talk more about how we can receive these great promises from God in our small groups today. Before we do, what does today's story tell us about who God is and what he is like?

Take students' responses, then dismiss children to their small groups.



Large Group Games

(25 Minutes)

FOUR CORNERS/PROMISES

No materials needed.

Label the four corners “A Son,” “A Great Nation,” “Land,” and “Blessing.” Stand in the center of the area and close your eyes while counting down from ten. While you count, all the players should run to a corner of their choice. Without looking, call a corner at random. Then, open your eyes. All the players in the corner that you called out must come sit in the center. Anyone NOT in a corner is also out. Play until one player remains and is named the winner. Then select children to stand in the center as you play multiple rounds.

COUNT OFF

No materials needed.

Give each child a straw and two plastic cups (use the same cups from the large group object lesson). Have each child set their two cups on the ground in front of them. Come around with a pitcher of water and fill one of their plastic cups halfway with water.

Ask kids to stand in random spots around the room (not touching each other) and to close their eyes. Tell them that the goal is for them, as a group, to count aloud from one to ten. The kids will call out numbers—“one,” “two,” and so forth until someone says “ten.” They have to make it from one to ten without two kids calling out a number at the same time, or calling out the same number twice. If that happens, the group must start over.

