

GOD PROMISES HIS BLESSING

Scripture: Genesis 12-50

Materials Needed:

- Brochure with promo/lotto ticket
- Stop signs
- Visuals for story
- Worksheets w stars and envelopes
- Promise cards written out

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—Although the nations tried to make a great name for themselves at Babel, God said that HE would make a great nation and a great name for Abraham that would bless all the families of the earth if Abraham would leave his country and family and go to the land God would show him. When Abraham went, God renewed His promise and Abraham continued to make choices to trust despite all the impossible obstacles.

To Realize—God rejects man’s self-effort and greatness and instead accepts one who puts their full confidence in what HE will do and provide for them, demonstrating it through the choices they make.

To Respond by—turning from self-effort and putting full confidence in what God does and provides for them, demonstrating it through their life choices.

Setting up the Story:

Bring lottery ticket. How much would you be willing to pay for a lottery ticket? I have friends who regularly buy tickets in the chance that they might be the ones who will win the lottery. Why do people continue to buy these tickets in the chance of winning? The investment on the front end (cost of the ticket) seems so small compared to what the person MIGHT get on the back end (amount of the lottery). Have you ever known someone to sell their car, house, and everything in it, in order to buy one lottery ticket? Why not? (That’s a huge risk, with no guarantee of winning.) Today we are going to look at a man who took a huge risk, and he had no visible proof that he was going to win from his gamble.

Last week, we left off in the story with the nations. No one was seeking God. In fact, why did they decide to build a tower?

Scripture
Gen. 11

Telling the story:

- I. The Nations Make a Name for Themselves
 - A. Babel
 - B. Scattered

As you tell the story:

Self-exaltation. Self-effort.

<p>II. God Promises to Make a Great Nation</p> <p>A. Through Abraham</p> <p>B. If he would leave</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family 2. Country 3. Go to a new land 4. God would show him 	<p>Describe Ur; seat of culture; worshiped moon god; 2-story houses and indoor plumbing. Position in community.</p> <p>Did God say, "You will become great?" Did God say, "Become great for Me?" No....what did God say?</p> <p>"I WILL make you great!" God was going to do something for Abraham that Abraham could not do for himself because Abraham wasn't going to live long enough for what God was going to do!</p>
<p>III. Abraham Leaves Ur for Canaan</p> <p>A. Canaanites in land</p> <p>B. Famine</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Severe 2. Goes to Egypt 3. Goes back to Bethel 4. Builds altar <p>C. Lot Picks the Best Land</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarrels 2. "is not the whole land before you?" 3. Well-watered valley 4. Evil kings 5. God promises all the land 	<p>Read 12:4—so Abraham went forth as the Lord had spoken to him: 75 years old.</p> <p>What do you think Abraham could have been thinking when he saw the Canaanites in the land? Woa! Is this what I have given up UR for?!</p> <p>Then not long after he arrives, there is a famine. What could he have been thinking when this famine came? "I left all that..." BUT he doesn't think that! He goes to Egypt. There's food down there; nice place. But then he goes back to this other land: back to Bethel. Why? What was he hanging on to? Promise cards!</p> <p>Read 13:4</p> <p>Storytell events.</p> <p>If Abraham were trying to assert his rights and make himself great, what would he have done? "God said I'M going to be a great nation. God said the land was for ME, Lot." So why does he let it go? Not just because he is a nice person.</p>

D. King of Sodom Offers Greatness

1. Abraham rescues Lot and kings
2. Gives 1/10 to Melchizedek
3. King of Sodom offers wealth
4. Abraham refuses
5. God promises a great reward

E. Abraham is childless

1. Land is promised to descendants
 - a. What will you give me
 - b. Count stars
 - c. Abr. Believes God

What is he hanging onto? God's promise. "I'm not going to make a great nation for myself. God said he would do something for me." All Abraham has is this promise—and he gives Lot first choice.

His actions showed he believed God's promise.

Look what God's response is afterwards: 13:5—God promises all the land.

Storytell king of Sodom.

If Abraham were trying to make a great name for himself, what would he have done? "Now I'll have the respect of all these kings. Now they will know I am someone to reckon with!" So why does he turn it down? Not just being a "nice person". What is he hanging on to? God's promise. "God said he would do something for me." All Abraham has is this promise, and he turns down all that money.

"Not one thread."

His actions showed he believed God's promise.

Look what God says in 15:1—"your reward is Very Great!/I will be your shield."

Read 15:4 "One shall come forth from your own body."

What proof is there to say that this is true? What evidence?

Only ONE thing: God's promise. "God said."

Can Abraham make this happen? Can he make himself great? No! Because God's plan is so much bigger, so much greater: it will take so much longer than Abraham's lifetime.

d. Counted as right.	Abraham, with only God's promise to go on, says, "Yes. This is true. I believe you."
	15:6 given righteousness
	15:7 to you I give this land to possess it.
	Explain about agreement; covenant. "may God do so to me and worse if I do not carry out this agreement."
	15:13 "know for certain"
2. God walks through the pieces	Flaming torch. Why didn't Abraham walk through the pieces? God makes a covenant with Himself! He can't swear by anyone greater. Who is going to keep this covenant? God Himself!
	15:18—"to your descendants."
F. Sarah is Barren	
1. Ishmael is born	Sarah says, "The Lord has prevented me..."
	Is Abraham making God's promise happen or is God? There is something Abraham did.
	13 years later
	17:1 how? Law of love
	What? Multitude of nations
	Where? Land of Canaan
	Who? I will be their God and they will be my people.
2. Isaac is born	17:15 "I will give you a son by Sarah."
	Why had God prevented Sarah?
	Let her get to 89 years old?
	WHO was going to make Abraham great? He was doing something only HE could do.
	17:9 Do you see why God was going to make this agreement with Isaac? Because only HE could make it happen. Does God have anything against Ishmael? No! He promises to

- G. God asks for Isaac
 - 1. Immediately he goes
 - 2. Place where God shows him

make him a great nation, too.
17:20 and so Isaac is born...the "impossible" son.

Then one day, God gives Abraham the ultimate test—
22:1

How can Abraham do this? Is he just being "a nice person"?

What is Abraham hanging on to? The promise of God. As he is going to Mt. Moriah, what does he know with absolute certainty? EVEN IF he actually kills Isaac, what would God do? (raise him back to life)

22:5 "we will return"

22:8 "GOD will provide for himself the lamb for the burn offering."

His actions showed he believed God's promise.

IV. God Brings Israel into Existence

- A. Isaac's life is spared
- B. Jacob is named Israel
- C. 12 Sons

God spares Isaac. Gives him twins: Esau and Jacob. Jacob is renamed "Israel" and he has 12 sons: they are known as "Israelites."

At the end of Genesis, they go to Egypt because of famine.

One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, saves their lives because he is like the prime minister of Egypt at the time.

- D. Joseph tells them to take his bones back to the land of Canaan

50:25 How did Joseph know they would go back to Canaan?

What does he have to go on?

The promises! He was about to die, he had no control. Joseph's final actions showed he believed the promises of God.

Concluding the Story:

At this point in history, how are the nations trying to get to God? Self-effort. Not just the Tower of Babel, but through their own religions; worshipping many gods.

How is Abraham different? God comes to him.

God does something only HE can do.

God provides something only HE can provide.

Abraham says “yes” and by his actions shows he believes.

When you come to God, do you come with your own efforts? Will you tell God that only HE can do for you what you need? Only HE can provide for himself the lamb? How does your life demonstrate that you are holding on to God’s promises?