

## UNIT 2#3

NEW BEGINNINGS:  
A World Remade And A Nation Born2<sup>ND</sup>/3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## LET'S MAKE A DEAL

## CONCEPT

God is faithful and always keeps His promises.

## GOAL

**Christian** students will learn that God will accomplish His plan through the people who are willing to trust and follow Him.

**Non-Christian** students will learn that Jesus is the blessing that God promised He would give to the whole world through Abraham.

**PASSAGE:** GENESIS 12:1-8, 13:14-18, 15:1-7, 17:1-8

**Key Verse:** "Look at the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. Your descendants also will be too many to count." Genesis 15:5 (NCV)

## PLANNING AHEAD\*

Lesson Supplies

## Introduction:

- *Mighty Acts of God*, Starr Meade

## Lesson:

- 1 bed sheet
- World map
- Starburst candy, 1/student
- 3 tunics
- 10 head coverings & elastic bands

Craft Supplies

## Activity Stations:

- Covenant handout, 1/student
- *Adventure Bible Handbook*
- *Children's Encyclopedia of Bible Times*
- "Abraham's Journey of Faith" map, 1/student
- 7' black mural paper, 1/class
- Key verse printed in large letters, 1/class
- 8-pack Crayola Gel FX washable markers, 2/room

\* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk\* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS**

The Bible is full of references to Abraham, both in the Old and New Testaments. God has even linked His own name with that of Abraham, referring to Himself as "the God of Abraham" and, in turn, calling Abraham "the friend of God." Why has Abraham earned such high standing in the eyes of God? Was it his success in real estate or farming or his contribution to the gene pool? Consistently throughout Scripture the quality of faith in Abraham's life is cited as exemplary.

Biblical faith is demonstrated by obedience to God and motivated by trust in His goodness and ability to deliver on His promises. Biblical faith by its very nature is a growing faith. Romans 4 says that Abraham "did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. This is why it was credited to him as righteousness."<sup>1</sup>

The faith of Abraham was strengthened as he acted on God's promises and saw that God could be trusted. God called and Abraham responded. God promised to show Abraham the land. Abraham went and looked. God promised to give the land to Abraham's offspring and Abraham built an altar to God. God promised him the land for his descendants who would be as numerous as the stars in the sky—a promise made to an old man with an old, barren wife. Abraham believed God, who in turn, credited him with righteousness.

Abraham's faith earned him right standing before God and enabled him to be strategically used by God in carrying out His plan for the redemption of the world. And so it is with believers today. Romans 4 continues in its description of the faith of Abraham, "The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone, but also for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."<sup>2</sup> Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises to Abraham and is the object of our trust. God will use us powerfully in this world if we fully place our faith in Christ and act on the promises God has given us.

This lesson is intended to help our children understand the dynamics of faith and to whet their appetite for the kind of life that Abraham led—a great adventure of faith.

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<sup>1</sup> Romans 4:20-22 NIV study note.

<sup>2</sup> Romans 4:23-25 NIV study note.

## LESSON PLAN

<b>SET UP</b>	Set up four stations for LESSON: #1, tent out of provided sheet; #2, world map; #3, Starburst candy to be used with covenant.
<b>INCORPORATION</b> <b>15-20 MIN</b>	<p><b>Activity Stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mural – Stars in the Night Sky</b>  <b>Instructions:</b> On the large mural paper, with gel pens have students draw stars—five-pointed stars, six-pointed stars, dots—along with any other astronomical phenomena that interests them, such as planets, comets, nova, galaxies and black holes.  After they are finished, glue the key verse at the bottom of the mural and hang the mural with magnets on the white board as a backdrop to the lesson.</li> <li>• <b>Covenant</b>  <b>Instructions:</b> Hand each student a "covenant," read it and, if the student agrees, both teacher and student should sign it. Discuss that a covenant is an agreement between two or more people that everyone promises not to break. You have covenanted to give them a Starburst. They have covenanted to cooperate during class. If they keep their agreement, you will keep yours. In today's lesson, they will learn about a covenant God made to a man named Abraham.</li> <li>• <b>Research</b>  <b>Instructions:</b> Read about Abraham on pages 24, 25 of the Adventure Bible Handbook and about travel in the Old Testament times on pages 68, 69 of The Children's Encyclopedia of Bible Times. Discuss the difficulty of traveling to lands unknown in the time of Abraham. Look at "Abraham's Journey of Faith" map and try to figure out how far Abraham traveled.</li> <li>• <b>Missions Prayer</b>  <b>Instructions:</b> Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.</li> </ul>
<b>INTRODUCTION/ INSTRUCTION -- LG GROUP</b> <b>2 MIN</b>	<p><b>Instructions:</b> Read "God Makes a Covenant with Abraham," <i>Mighty Acts of God</i>, pp.32-34.</p> <p>Some of you made a covenant when you came in to class. Listen while I read to you about God's covenant with Abraham.</p>
<b>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</b>	A man named Abraham became the father of all nations because God made a covenant with Him and he obeyed God. We're going to walk through the story of Abraham from the Bible.
<b>LESSON -- LG GROUP</b> <b>15 MIN</b>	<p><b>Drama – Role Play</b></p> <p><b>Instructions:</b> Characters will be played by the teachers, who should ad lib as the Narrator reads. The Narrator will also play God. Use a booming voice to distinguish between Narrator and God. Abraham and Sarah will read all other parts of the written lesson and Scripture narrative. The students will play the servants. The Narrator will lead the class to the four stations. Begin in the center of the room.</p>
<b>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</b>	Let's get into small groups to talk about how God has always kept His promises. Everyone get a Bible.
<b>LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 -- LG GROUP</b> <b>10 MIN</b>	<p>Turn to <b>Genesis 12</b> and follow along as I read <b>verses 1-6</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God told Abraham to leave behind everything he had ever known and walk across the desert to live in a place he had never been. What do you think about that?</li> <li>• What do you think you would do if God asked you to pick up and move without any idea of where you were going? How would you know it was really God talking to you? How do you think Abraham knew it was God?</li> <li>• How did Abraham show that he believed God? (He packed up and left Haran.)</li> </ul> <p>But part of God's promise to Abraham seemed impossible. Turn to <b>Genesis 15</b> and follow along</p>

	<p>as I read verses 1-5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why was this promise difficult for Abraham to believe? Why do you think Abraham was willing to believe what God said even though it was impossible?</li> <li>• Do you know that God makes a covenant with people today, too? He promises life forever with those who ask Jesus to forgive their sin. When you receive that forgiveness you learn to believe His promises and your life changes. If you are willing, then like Abraham, God will use you in His Incredible Plan.</li> <li>• How do you <i>really</i> know if you believe God's promises? (Decide to believe that He will help you do something you know He wants you to do, but you don't want to do or you're afraid to do. Then go ahead and do it asking Him to help you see how He is with you and will give you what you need.)</li> </ul> <p>"Abraham understood that God keeps his promises. He believed it was worth trading a comfortable house in Ur for tents in Canaan, since this was the land God was promising to give him. It would be important for Abraham's descendants to have plenty of land since, back in Ur, God had also promised Abraham that he would make a great nation of him. A great nation would need space to live in. A great nation of people to come from Abraham, a great land for those people to live in—these were wonderful promises. but God had made Abraham an even better one. "I will bless you," God had promised, "and in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Abraham understood very little of what that would mean, but he knew God is great and his blessings must be great</p> <p>"Thousands of years later, with a whole Bible to read, we know what God was doing. It had always been God's plan to have people who would be his own special people He would be their God, caring for them and blessing them, and they would belong to him. He was beginning here and now with Abraham to start a nation different from all the other nations."<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Let's <b>pray</b>.</p>
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## Abraham

**N** = Narrator (when speaking for narrator wear narrator hat band)

**G** = God (when speaking as God, put on God hat)

**A** = Abraham

**L** = Lot (Abraham's Nephew)

**S** = Sarah (Choose one of the students in the class)

**Class** (to be Abraham's servants, and should follow him whenever he motions to them.)

<b>N</b>	<p>Abraham's wife was named Sarah and, according to the Bible, she was very beautiful. Although she and Abraham must have loved each other very much, they were also sad because they were unable to have children.</p>	<p><i>Sarah curtseys when N says she is very beautiful. Sarah cries while Abraham comforts her.</i></p>
<b>G</b>	<p>"Leave your own country behind you, and your own people, and go to the land I will guide you to. I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; I will bless you and make your name famous, and you will be a blessing to many others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you and the entire</p>	<p><i>Abraham, Sarah &amp; Lot listening intently. (On knees?)</i></p>

<sup>3</sup> Starr Meade, *Mighty Acts of God*, pp. 30-31

	world will be blessed because of you.”	
<b>N</b>	God made a covenant, or promise, w/Abraham.	
<b>A</b>	God said for me to leave my country and go to the land He guides me to, He has promised that He will: -Give me a lot of land to live on -Make me the Father of a great nation -Make me known forever -Bless all the people of the entire world thru me.	
<b>N</b>	Those are some awesome promises! We’re going to find out what this means. So God called....	
<b>G</b>	“Abraham!”	
<b>N</b>	The Bible says Abraham sat and thought about it for awhile NOT.	<i>Say sarcastically</i>
<b>N</b>	The Bible says Abraham left as the Lord instructed him...Abraham was 75 years old at that time.	
<b>A</b>	Come Sarah, my wife, and come, Lot, my nephew – we will depart.	<i>Move to Camp #1(tent). Motion for class to follow.</i>
<b>N</b>	Abraham took his wife and nephew and all his wealth, the cattle and slaves he had gotten in Haran... and they finally arrived in Canaan. Traveling through Canaan, they came to a place near Shechem.	
<b>A</b>	Let’s set up camp here close to Shechem.	
<b>N</b>	Then God appeared to Abraham and said:	
<b>G</b>	I am going to give this land to your descendants. Look as far as you can see in every direction. For I am going to give you so many descendants that, like dust, they can’t be counted.	<i>A – put hands over to shade eyes and look in all directions.</i>
<b>A</b>	Come, let’s go and explore the new land God is giving us.	<i>A,S &amp;L stand up, motion and lead students to hike around looking here and there.</i>
<b>N</b>	So Abraham looked at all the land God promised to give him, and he was amazed. But Abraham and Sarah were confused.	<i>A &amp; S scratch their heads and look puzzled.</i>
<b>A</b>	How is God going to give us many descendants when we don’t have any children?	
<b>N</b>	Do you know what descendants are? They are the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, and on and on, of each family. You are the descendants of your mom and dad. You are the descendants of your grandpas & grandmas and so on. So in order to have descendants, you have to have children.	
<b>A</b>	God, how will Sarah and I have descendants when we have no children?	
<b>N</b>	God led Abraham outside	
<b>G</b>	Look at the sky. There are so many stars you can’t count them. Your descendants also will be too many to count.	
<b>N</b>	God led Abraham outside and told him to try to count the stars.	
<b>A</b>	There are too many stars to count. I can’t count them all.	
<b>N</b>	That was God’s point. On a clear, starry night there are too many stars to count. God promised Abraham that he would have too many descendants to count.	
<b>N</b>	Do you think Abraham found it easy to believe God? I suppose if he were a young man with lots of children it would be easy to believe that his children would have children who would have children, and pretty soon you couldn’t count them	

	<p>anymore. But how many children did Abe and Sarah have at this point? None, zero, zip. They had not a single child. And they were really old – way too old to be having babies.</p> <p>Our key verse says  <b>“Look at the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. Your descendants also will be too many to count” Gen. 15:5.</b></p>	
<b>A</b>	God told me that I would have a great many descendants. Even though we don't have any children yet, I <b>believe</b> God, and I am going to <b>choose</b> to trust Him.	
<b>N</b>	<p>This is what made Abraham so great in God's eyes.</p> <p>Not all the things Abraham had. Not anything Abraham did.</p> <p>Not all the things God would eventually give him, but</p> <p>It was his <b>faith</b> that made Abraham a great man.</p>	
<b>A</b>	My part of the covenant is to follow God wherever He leads me and to trust God to keep His promises.	
<b>N</b>	God will accomplish His plan through the people who are willing to trust and follow Him. If Abraham had not chosen to trust God, God would have chosen someone else who would trust Him, but Abraham would not have had the awesome experience of watching God faithfully keep His promises.	
<b>N</b>	<p>God chose Abraham to have a very important role in His incredible plan.</p> <p>God kept His covenant with Abraham.</p> <p>God's part of the covenant was to give him the land.</p> <p>The land God gave to Abraham and to his descendants is the country of Israel</p>	<p><i>Move class to Station #2 (map).</i></p> <p><i>Show Israel on the map.</i></p>
<b>A</b>	<p>God gave me a very important role in His Incredible Plan.</p> <p>God kept His covenant to give me land.</p> <p>The land He gave me and my descendants is the country of Israel</p>	<p><i>Keep showing where Israel is on the map.</i></p>
<b>L</b>	God promised to make Abraham the father of the Jewish people and of all who would believe God. God's own son, Jesus, was born a Jew in Israel. He was descendant of Abraham.	
<b>L</b>	Remember, part of the covenant that God gave Abraham was that God would bless the whole world through Abraham	
<b>L</b>	<p>Jesus is the blessing that God promised He would give to the whole world through Abraham. <i>Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to pay for our sin. He is the blessing to the whole world because He offers forgiveness to everyone in the whole world. Everyone who trusts that Jesus died on the cross for their sin becomes one of Abraham's descendants and joins the family of God. Each believer is then like one of those stars that God showed Abraham.</i></p>	<p><i>Point to map.</i></p>
<b>A</b>	You signed a covenant that said if you cooperated during class, I would give you a Starburst. If you have cooperated and believe I will give you the Starburst I promised to give you, follow me over here.	<p><i>Move to station #3, starburst station;</i></p> <p><i>hand out one starburst per student - for use with covenant.</i></p>
<b>A</b>	I, Abraham, believed God and followed Him. You believed me and followed me. When we believe God, we do what He tells us. <i>If you believe that Jesus died on the cross for you, you will tell Him that you want His death to pay for your sins.</i>	
<b>N</b>	If you have already done that, as you learn God's promises, you will want to obey what He tells you. This is how you can start to become like Abraham, the great man of faith.	

### Covenant

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to cooperate in class on this \_\_\_\_\_ day in July, 2016. In return, I will receive one starBURST at the end of class.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature