

Then the Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look at the sky and see if you can count the stars. That's how many descendants you will have." Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord was pleased with him.

- Genesis 15:5-6

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week we looked at the promise that God made to Noah to never flood the whole world again. It would be good at the start of this session to see what they can remember from last week. This week we are going to be looking at Abraham and Sarah and their story.

This is the second week of our Characters of the Old Testament series. As we work through each week it would be good to recap these stories with your children to help reinforce them.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

Blessings,
Jess

Supplies

- Children's Bible
- Art Supplies (depending on which craft you choose below)
- Cosy Spot in your home x2
- Puppets/Dolls/Soft Toys
- Baby doll + baby blanket

Worship

Please spend some time listening and singing to your family's favourite worship songs. This may have already been done in the worship period of Oaktree's service. Below is a selection of action songs which you might like to try:

- Father Abraham <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXowiv3FAc>
- Our God is a Great Big God
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSTfM8M2Md8>
- Lord I Lift Your Name on High
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SeqQjBNoj4>

Story Time

Find a special comfy place with your children and their Bible and read the story of Abraham and Sarah together. If this story isn't in your children's Bible the below link is to a YouTube video of the story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDz-7OX4C9k>

Today we are also going to act the story out with the children. The main characters of this story are Abram/Abraham, Sarai/Sarah and God. Depending on what you have available in your home you could use puppets, dolls or soft animals to play these parts.

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There once was a man named Abraham and he had a wife called Sarah. They lived in a place called Harran. They were special to God and he loved them very much, just as He loves all of us, but they didn't have any children.

Because they were special to God, God talked to Abraham. He told them to move from their home and travel to a new land.

Use your puppets/toys to act out God talking to Abraham and Sarah.

Abraham trusted what God said, so he and Sarah started walking.

With the dolls and your children all get up and start walking around the room and ask your children which way should we all go?

Abraham and Sarah trusted God, that he would show them the way to their new home.

Find a new comfy spot and settle there as your new 'home'

God said that he was going to give or bless Abraham and Sarah will lots of children – more than they could count – that's a lot of children!

Ask your children what is the highest number they can count to?

God said your children and grandchildren will be like the stars in the sky – too many to count.

Ask your children if they have ever tried to count all the stars in the night sky. It is really hard there are just too many.

Have the puppets/ dolls try and count the imaginary stars in the sky.

Abraham and Sarah were in the new land called Canaan. They kept trusting God that they would have lots and lots of children. But they had to wait, wait, and wait some more. They started wondering if God was going to give them any children. *Have Sarah and Abraham puppets sit around waiting, you may like to whistle and twiddle your thumbs and encourage your children to try and copy you.*

Abraham and Sarah were really, really old – even older than grandparents. They were too old to be having children! But God said to them “trust me.” Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old when God said you are going to have a baby next year.

Sarah didn't trust God, she thought her having a baby was funny and silly because she was so old, it made her laugh. *Your children can show you their best silly laugh.*

But God asked Sarah to just keep trusting Him and that is what she did. God always keeps his promises and guess what Sarah had a little baby boy, just when God said she would. *Give your children the baby doll and help them wrap it in a blanket and look after the baby.*

God kept his promise to Abraham and Sarah they had lots of children and lots and lots of grandchildren. God keeps his promises to us as well. Let's all say thank you to God.

Prayer

1: Take your children outside.

Spend some time looking around and pointing out all the beautiful things that God has made. Help your children say simple thank you prayers to God for His beautiful creation.

If you have older pre-school children you can encourage them in longer prayers.

2: This prayer exercise is to encourage your children to see God in everything around them. Reminding them that God is with them and that they can always trust God.

Craft

Today's story is about Abraham and Sarah and God's promise to them. God promised that they would have many children and grandchildren. So many that they

would be like the stars in the sky – too many to count. To help remember the promise God made them and kept, today's craft will be making a night sky which is full of beautiful shining stars. These beautiful creations should have too many stars for your little one to count.

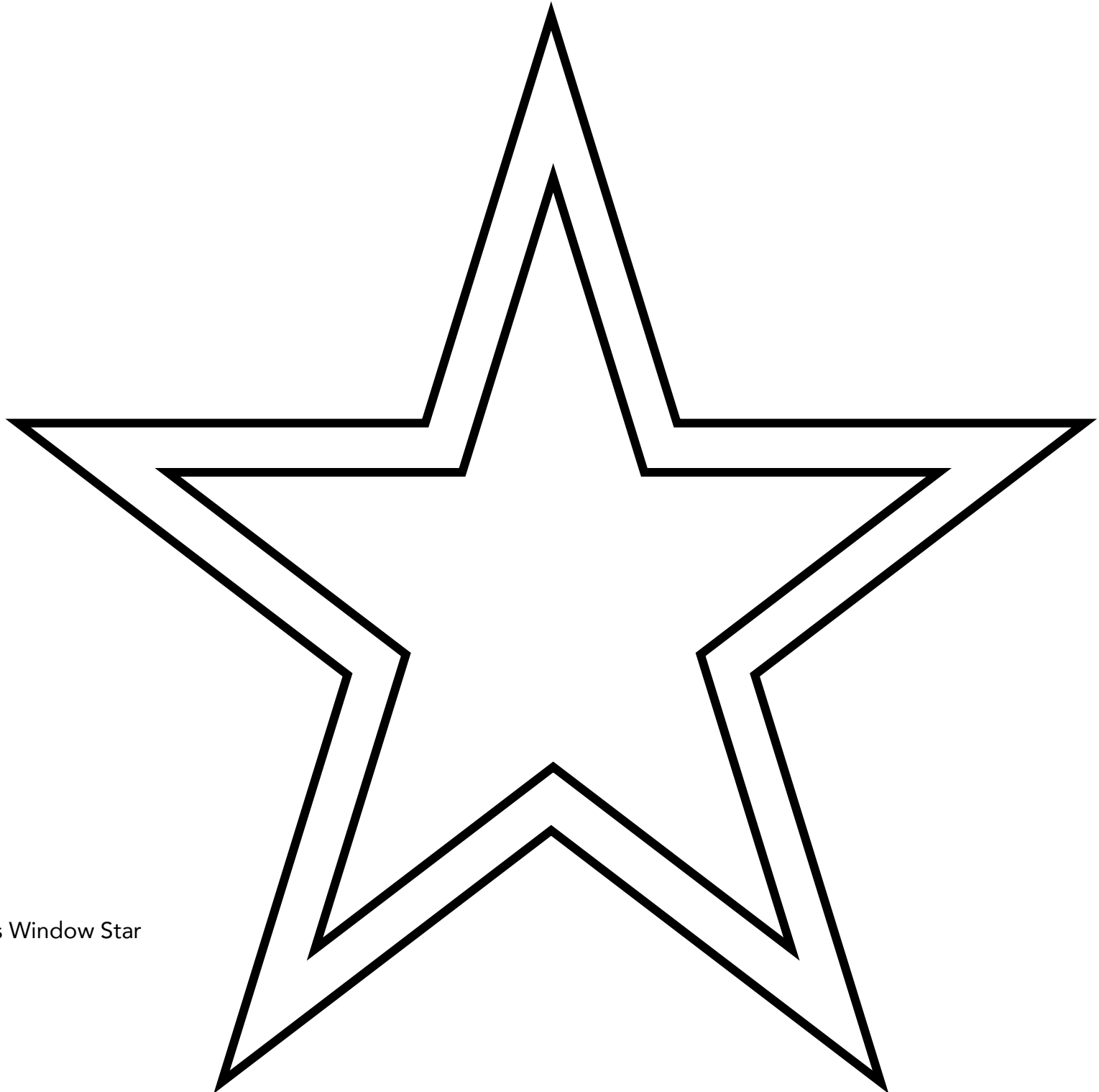
Depending on the resources you have at home you can create a starry night sky in many different ways:

Stain glass Window stars: Using the stencil at the end of the document cut out the middle stars. Using cellophane or thin tissue paper help your children cover the hole. Stick these to a window which receives lots of light and the stars will look like they are shining.

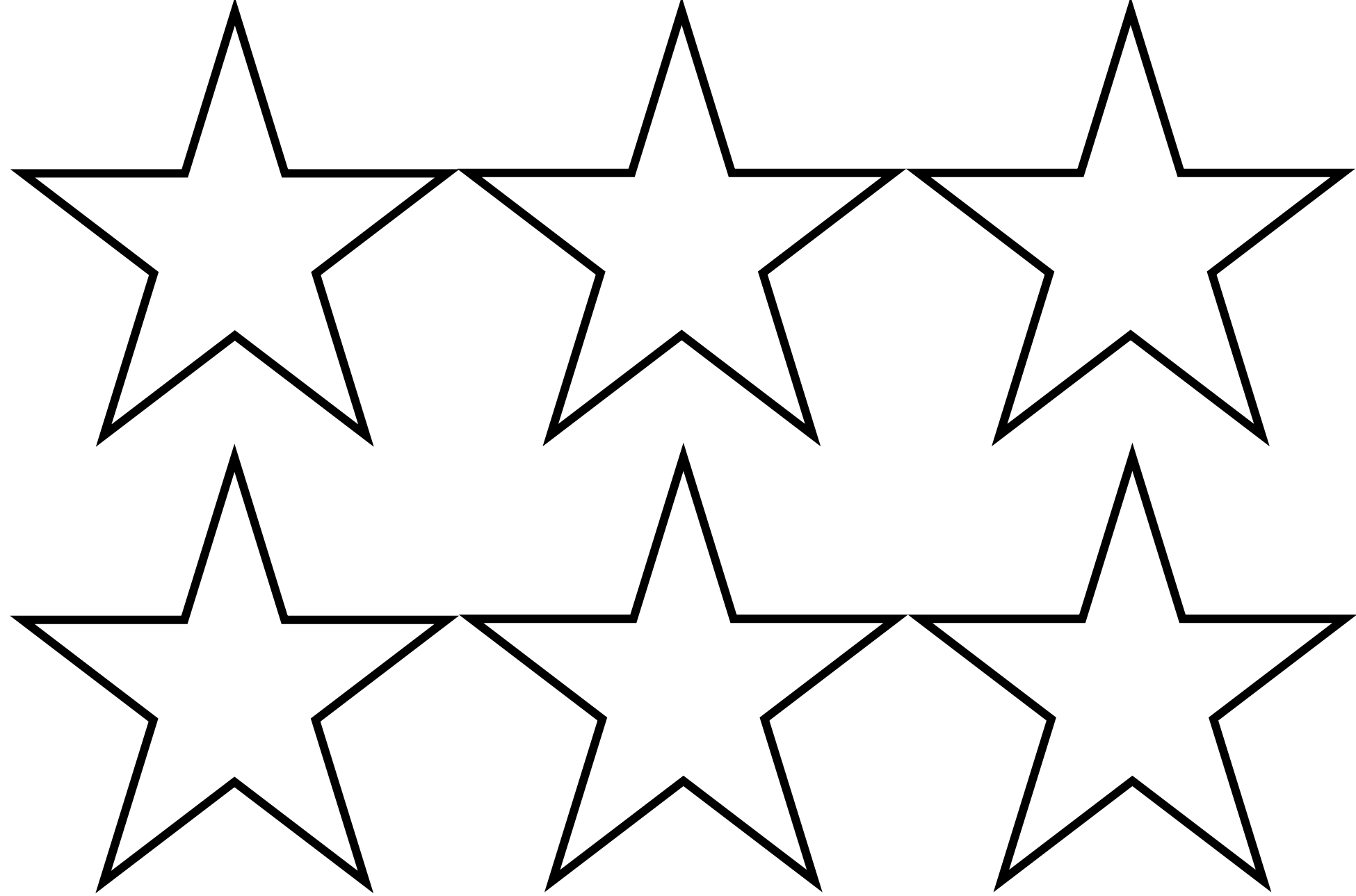
Glitter Stars: This craft is done best outside. On a piece of paper – preferably dark in colour – draw lots of star outlines. Place glue only inside the stars then let your children shake glitter over the paper.

Paint Splatter Stars: On a piece of paper or card – preferably dark in colour – let the children flick paint onto the paper. This can be achieved with paint brushes and toothbrushes. Bright coloured paints have the best results. All the little paint splatters are all the stars in the sky. It would take a super long time to count all the splatters.

Star Garden: Using the stencil at the bottom of the document, your children can decorate the stars using whatever craft materials you have around the home. Cut out your children's stars and stick them onto popsicle sticks, straws or sticks. Then places these around your home – maybe in pot plants, window sills or in your children's room.



Stain Glass Window Star



Star Garden
