



*I am God Almighty, walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.
- Genesis 17:1-2.*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week we started looking at the Covenants of the Bible starting with the Covenant between God and Noah. Looking back at these covenants made in the Old Testament helps us to understand why the New Covenant with Jesus is so important. Humans in their sin failed in upholding their part of the covenants. Jesus in His perfection fulfilled the Old Testament Covenant obligations.

At the end of each session is an application for your children. Throughout the week it is useful to check in with them how this is going. This could be done before a meal or even before bed. Younger children may also need assistance in their weekly application.

This week we are looking at the Covenant that God made with Abraham. To help make the session simpler for the children, from the beginning we will be using Abraham and Sarah, instead of changing between Abram and Sari.

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

Topic: Covenants of the Bible – Abraham and God's Faithfulness
Sessions Aim: Children will learn the promises God made to Abraham, God's faithfulness to His promise and our need to always be trusting God.
Bible Passage: Genesis 12:1-3 and 21:1-7

A Time of Prayer

Come together in a time of prayer with your children. Everyone can share something they would like to pray for or share a God Story. These are stories of

where we have been able to see God at work in our lives or each other's lives during this week.

Dear God,

Thank you for the promises that you have given us,

Thank you that we can always talk to you and ask for your help.

Help us to be patient God, trusting that you will answer us.

Please help us keep trusting you and the plan you have for our lives.

Amen

Worship Songs

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 are a few suggestions for worship songs with actions. Please feel free to use any other songs which your children know.

- Father Abraham <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXowiv3FAc>
- Every Move I Make <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPvnZILn6EY>
- Lord I Lift Your Name on High
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SeqQjBNoj4>

Noah Recap and Game

1: Before we play our game, ask your children what they can remember from last week's session? They may be able to tell you about the story of Noah and God's faithfulness or how they practiced their own faithfulness to God throughout the week.

Recap with your children what the word Covenant means. It is a promise that God makes with His people. These promises are to bring blessings and good things to God's people. Sometimes when God makes these promises he asks his people to promise something in return. But humans are not very good at keeping their promises to God.

2: Play Red Light, Green Light.

Today's games will involve some waiting and trusting that parents will keep their promise of a treat. This game can be played either inside or out depending on the space you have.

At one end of the room have your children line up, at the other end have a treat or surprise, but cover it with a box or towel.

Explain the rules of red light, green light. When you say green light they are able to start walking, but when you say red light they have to freeze. Any child that moves from their statue position needs to start again. They may move forward once more when you say green light.

To make the game more challenging, depending on the age of your children, make them hold their statue position for longer on a 'red light', or very quickly after saying green light change to red light.

Point out the box or object under the towel. Tell them this is a treat/surprise that they will get when they reach the other end of the room. But they have to trust you that you have put something nice in the box/ under the towel.

Play red light green light.

In today's story we are going to look at two people who had to wait a long time between God making a promise and them receiving this promise. They had to keep trusting God that he was faithful and would keep His promise. Just like how the kids needed to be patient on 'red lights' and trust that you had put a treat under the box or towel.

Bible Time

1: You and your children find a comfortable place to settle and read God's word.

As the story of Abraham and Sarah takes place over many chapters, watch the following video for a snapshot of the story:

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

Have your children find Genesis 12 in their Bibles. Encourage them to use the contents page to help them learn their way around their Bibles.

Either you or one of your children pray for God's Spirit to be at work in our hearts revealing His meaning.

You or your children reads Genesis 12:1-3, then help them flip to Genesis 21 and read verses 1-7.

2: After reading the passage ask your children for one thing they found, surprising, or cool, or they were unsure about.

Talk with them about why they found it interesting or help to explain the parts they didn't understand.

3: Discuss the following points with your children.

1. God keeps His promise

The first Bible reading was the three promises God made to Abraham. One of them was that Abraham and Sarah would have lots of children. The second reading shows us that God kept his promises. He was Faithful. Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy.

Sarah and Abraham had to wait a long time and Sarah even found it difficult to keep trusting God. But God never forgot them.

2. Sometimes God wants us to wait.

Ask your children if they have ever had to wait a long time for something? Maybe a birthday or Christmas present, or for a grandparent to come who lives away from Melbourne. Waiting isn't easy and it can feel sometimes like we will be waiting forever.

Just like Abraham and Sarah, sometimes we need to wait for God to do something. When we ask him for something in prayer, sometimes he says yes, sometimes no and sometimes wait.

When we are waiting on God it is really, really important that we keep trusting in Him.

3. God blesses all people through Abraham's descendants:

Jesus is a descendant of Abraham. In the Bible there are long lists of family trees. When you look back at all of Jesus' relatives a long, long way, he is a descendant of Abraham. One of the promises that God made Abraham is that all the people on earth will be blessed through you. Jesus is the one who has blessed everyone. God kept his promises in His perfect son Jesus.

Application

1: Throughout this week come together with your children to spend some time in prayer. Spend time praying for different things around the world and for your family and friends.

Also praying for God's Spirit to help us keep waiting patiently and trusting in God.

2: After each time of prayer spend time with your children helping them see answered prayer in your life. Where you have been able to see God faithfully answer your prayers.

Craft

This promise from God involved a lot of waiting and trusting in God. Have you and your children ever planted seeds and watched them grow? You have to be really patient waiting for the beautiful flowers to grow from the tiny seed. This image can be a good reminder of how sometimes we have to wait for good things. For this week's craft we are going to make a pop-up flower, with the words "God keeps his promises" written on it. This is to help remind children we need to always be trusting God in everything, even when we have to wait.



1: You will need a plastic or foam disposable cup, paper, pencils, scissors, glue or sticky tape, and either a popsicle stick, straw, chopstick.

Decorate the cup to look like a flower pot, helping your child to write the words "God keeps his promises" on the side. Cut a small hole in the bottom of the cup – large enough for the stick to go through.

Create a flower or favourite fruit using paper that can be stuck to one end of the stick.

Place the end of the stick without the flower through the hole in bottom of the cup.

You can then slide the stick up and down to represent the flower growing.

2: Alternatively, if you would like a craft that can last for the entire social distancing period you can grow your own food from scraps in the kitchen. This takes a lot of patience from the children and it has the promise of having new food and their own little plant.

The below website lists a variety of food you can re-grow and how to do this.

<https://www.diyncrafts.com/4732/repurpose/25-foods-can-re-grow-kitchen-scrap>