



*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

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**Topic:** Covenants of the Bible – Abraham and God's Faithfulness  
**Sessions Aim:** Children will learn about the promises God made through the Covenants to Abraham, God's faithfulness and our need to trust that God will fulfil them even when we have to wait.  
**Bible Passage:** Genesis 12:1-7 and 21:1-7

### **A Time of Prayer**

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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 Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for the covenant promises that you made in the Bible,  
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 to keep trusting you and the plans you have for our lives.  
Amen

### **Worship Songs**

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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.

To help get out some energy before the session, while the worship songs are playing encourage your children to be active in their praising of God. They make like to dance, or do jumping jacks anything that keeps them physically active while you worship God.

### **Recap of Last Week and Obstacle Course**

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1: Before today's game ask your children what they remember from last week's session of Noah and God's faithfulness. Ask them how they went with practising their faithfulness to God.

Recap with your children what a covenant means. A covenant is like a partnership or agreement between God and us. Within these covenants God makes promises to his people to bring us blessings.

2: Play Blindfolded Obstacle course.

Abraham and Sarah had to step out in faith. God gave them three promises but they had to trust him and leave their home. God had promised them a new land, lots of children and that their descendants would bring blessings to all people.

They trusted that God would give them these promises and they left their home and followed God. Today's game involves the children trusting their parents to lead them through an obstacle course blindfolded.

Create an obstacle course for your children, where they can weave in between furniture from one end of the room to the other. This activity can also be done outside.

Safety Note: While making the obstacle course a challenge for your children's ages make sure that it is done safely, minimising trip hazards and injuries. Make sure the children move very slowly through the course.

Explain that you will lead your children by giving them instructions, walking them through the course. Such as take one little step to the left and then come forward two steps.

Cover your children's eyes and start to lead them through the course.

To get to the end of the course they will need to show patience and completely trust you to be their guide.

Today's story also involved a lot of patience and trusting in God.

### **Bible + Discipleship Questions**

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1: 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 12:1-7 and the flip to chapter 21 and read verses 1-7.

2: To encourage children to look more deeply into the passage ask them the following questions. It is good to ask these sorts of questions every time you read from the Bible.

- What's one thing that stood out to them or surprised them?
  - Why?
- Are there any repeated words or phrases?
  - If yes, why do they think that might be important?
- Is there anywhere else in the Bible where we read similar things?
- What has happened earlier in this book, what happens after?

This process can be made easy by having a printed version of the passage in order to write notes and highlight key phrases. If you don't have access to a printer you can also copy the passage into a word document. Bible Gateway is a great place to electronically find passages, <https://www.biblegateway.com>

3: Discuss the following points with your children.

1. God will Give them the Land

The first promise of this covenant is that God is going to give Abraham land. All Abraham had to do was get up, leave, and follow God. When Abraham arrives in the land God tells him again – To your offspring I will give this land (Gen 12:7). There were other people currently in this land but as we keep reading the Bible we see God fulfilling his promise of giving his people the land.

The Covenants are all part of God's big story which is the Bible. From the very beginning to the end we see God at work fulfilling the promises he made. That's why we keep reading our Bibles and asking those questions. We can always be learning more about how one part of the Bible connects to another – seeing God's big plan.

2. God will make Abraham into a great Nation

This is the second promise from the covenant God made with Abraham. God promised to bless Abraham and Sarah with so many children to create this great nation. God didn't fulfil this straight away, he actually waited 25 years. This caused Abraham to question God if he was ever going to give him and Sarah children. Sarah was too old to be having children, she was in her 90's. So, the idea of her having lots of children made her laugh. This would have really upset God. But God is always faithful and he delivered on this promise. We read today in chapter 21 that Sarah gave birth to a boy. If you come back next week you will see the great nation that all of Abraham's and Sarah descendants came to be.

3. The Third Promise is that all peoples on earth will be blessed through Abraham

People really had to wait for this promise. There has only ever been one person who has brought blessing to all peoples. Do you know who that person is? It is Jesus! And we know that Jesus is related to Abraham, at the start of the book of Matthew we read the history of Jesus' family and it traces all the way back to Abraham. God kept his promises in His perfect son Jesus.

## **Application**

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1: Abraham and Sarah waited for the promises from the covenant to be fulfilled. They had to keep trusting in God, that he would keep his promise.

This week I would like to challenge each of your children to daily spend some time in prayer with God. Praying for one thing happening around the world and also for

their family and friends. Bringing before God their worries and praise points. Asking for God's Spirit to help them to keep waiting patiently and trusting in God.

2: Throughout the week please check in with your children to see how they are going. The Bible tells us that God hears our prayers and he answers them, even if it takes a long time, he does answer. An important part of your children's spiritual formation is recognising when God has answered their prayers, in whatever way that is. One way to help them recognise answered prayers in their lives, is to share how God has answered your prayers.

## Craft

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1: Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time to see some of the promises God made in the covenant fulfilled. Part of these promises were fulfilled in Jesus which is a long time to wait. But the promises in covenants are to bring blessing to God's people and creation. Or to bring about good.

Today's craft involves waiting and patience but the end result is beautiful.

2: You will need some crayons that you no longer want, sticky tape, paper or card and a hair dryer.

At the top of the page stick the crayons in a line. Prop the paper or card so that it is tilted.

Use the hairdryer to slowly melt the crayons and they will run down the page.

This may take a while and the children will need to wait but the end results can be very beautiful. As a reminder of God's faithfulness and our need to be patient and trust in the Lord write the words, "God keep his promises" and display this around the home.

Other Craft ideas with a similar concept include:

- Tie Dye – this takes a long time (possibly more than one day) but is worth the wait and patience. There are lots of get website with step by step instructions for tie dye with food colouring.
- This craft is a fun long-term project to complete with your children during this time of social distancing. A lot of the food scraps in our kitchens can be re-grown. This website has a variety of foods which can be grown from scraps. Find one that you have in your kitchen and grow them with your children. As you care for the plant and watch the good fruit come from it, remember that you need to be trusting in the Lord and waiting on him.

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