

## ***Depend on your faithful God to keep His promises!***

**Bible Lesson:** Isaac is born! – *Genesis 12:2, 15:1-6; 17:1-7, 15-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-7*

**Main Teaching:** Depend on your faithful God to keep His promises! **Word Up:** God is faithful!

### **Supplies:**

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Paper and marker or pencil for each child – Small Group
- Recording for “Jesus Loves Me / Amazing Grace” and “He Will Do It” - Worship (Sing About the King 1 CD)
- Two sticks of pieces of rope – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “The Patriarchs” – Bible Lesson
- 12 Cards with books of the Bible written on them from the Old and New Testament – Review Game (Resource Pack)
- Adhiambo Missionary Story card visuals – Missionary Story
- Quiet Time Sheet Week 3 – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

### **Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):**

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Word Up / Worship
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group



## **SMALL GROUP**

### **Say Memory Verse**

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

### **Trust God Drawing**

Draw a picture of something you might need help trusting God for. Share your picture with the group and pray for each other.

## **WORSHIP**

To learn songs and motions, go to [cefonline.com/freedemos](http://cefonline.com/freedemos)

**“Jesus Loves Me / Amazing Grace”**

**“He Will Do It”**



## WORD UP!

**"God is faithful"**

Do you know anyone that always has their homework done and turned in on time or who usually follows through with what they say they are going to do? Those people are faithful. You can depend on them. God makes a lot of promises in the Bible. And He is always faithful. He always does what He says He will do. Every time I say **"Word Up"** you all can stand up and say **"God Is faithful!"**

## OBJECT LESSON

### Promise Sticks

Materials: 2 sticks (you can also use rulers, ropes, pieces of masking tape, etc.)

What You Do:

Show the two sticks (rulers) and tell the children you're going to make a promise. The promise is that you will put these two rulers about two feet apart and then jump over both of them. (*Place the rulers as described and jump over them.*) Move them a little farther apart and promise again that you will jump over both with one jump. (*Make sure that you can keep that promise.*) Spread the rulers wide enough so it is obvious you can't jump over both with one jump. This time, don't promise to jump over them in one jump, but ask the children what they would think if you made that promise. Would they be able to trust you to fulfill that promise? (*Show that you can't jump that far in one attempt.*)

What You Say:

I'm going to make you all a promise. I promise that I will be able to jump across these sticks with one jump. Do you guys think I can do it? (*Jump over the rulers*) I promised you I would do it! Let's move them a bit farther apart...I promise I can do it again...farther! (*Continue moving the sticks and jumping over them until they are just barely far enough to jump over.*) Okay, this time, I'm going to move them REALLY far apart! What if I promised you that I could jump over them now? Would you be able to trust me to fulfill that promise? (*allow children to answer*)

When I made the promise and the rulers were close together, you had no problem trusting me to keep the promise. When the rulers were too far apart, it would be foolish for me to make a promise to jump both in one jump. Even if I did, you wouldn't trust me to keep that promise. It makes sense to only promise things that you know you can do. Even then, we sometimes fail to keep some promises. When God makes a promise, though, you can count on it. He will never break a promise, because he can always do what He says He will do! Sometimes His plan is different than we expected. In our Bible story today, we are going to learn about a time when God kept His promise, even when it seemed impossible.



## BIBLE LESSON

(*Choose a volunteer to come to the front of the club.*) I'm going to ask (*child's name*) to come and sit on this chair. (*Child sits on chair.*) I'm a little surprised! You didn't look to make sure the chair had four legs. You didn't test it to see if it would hold you up and not fall down. You just sat down. (*Child's name*) did that because he depended on the chair. Every day we depend on all kinds of things. Sometimes those things or people let us down. Sometimes it's hard to know who you can depend on. In last lesson, we learned that God made some big promises to a man named Abram. Abram needed to depend on someone much greater than himself. But could he?

## PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Do you remember the promise God made to Abram? (*Hold up one finger at a time as children respond with name, land, children.*) God promised Abram a name, land, and children. God promised that Abram's family would be a blessing to all nations of the world. But years and years went by and still Abram and his wife Sarai, who were very old, didn't have any children. How could their family become great if they had no children? This bothered Abram and Sarai a lot. Had God forgotten His promise?

## Flashcard 3-1

One night God spoke to Abram. "Don't be afraid, Abram! I am your shield. Your reward shall be very great." God wanted Abram to know that He would protect Abram and also reward him. Abram said, "How can this be true? I still don't have any children."

God said, "You will have a son. Look up at the sky and count the stars. Your family will be like that—more than can be counted." Have you ever tried to count the stars? How many stars do you think there are? (*Allow response.*) There are more stars than we can count! Abram's family would be like that. Abram would be the patriarch (leader) of a great nation. Abram gazed up at the starry sky. He had a choice to make—would he depend on God to keep this promise which seemed impossible?



You and I often have to choose whether to depend on God or not. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, you can **depend on your faithful God to keep His promises**. Trust that God will do what He says He will do. When things happen in life that you don't understand, you can still depend on God. Does someone you love have a sickness that won't go away, even though you have prayed that it would? Or are you lonely and feel like you don't have friends? Or maybe you see scary things on TV that happen in your city, or you see scary things happen in your home or school. What do you do when these things happen? You can remember that God is faithful—He always keeps His promises.

## Word Up

**"Word up". "God is faithful!"** (*Say with children.*) Where do you find God's promises? (*Allow response.*) You find them in God's Word. The Bible says, (*read Deuteronomy 7:9*). God is faithful and always does what He says He will do. Often in life you and I have the choice of whether or not we are going to depend on God to keep His promises.

Would Abram depend on God to keep His promise? (*Allow response.*) The Bible says Abram believed God! Because he believed God, the Bible says it was counted as righteousness—he was declared right with God. (*Read Romans 4:3.*) That he believed God means Abram trusted that the one true God was powerful and faithful to keep His promises. Believing God was the most important thing Abram did—and it's the most important thing you can do too.

## Flashcard 3-2

One day God spoke to Abram again. "Sarai shall have a son," God said. Abram laughed. He was 99 years old and Sarai was almost 90. Could they really have a son? It seemed totally impossible! But God wanted Abram to see that with God nothing is impossible!

God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many nations," to remind Abram of His promise that seemed impossible. God changed Sarai's name to Sarah, which means "princess," and promised she would be the mother of many nations. God was promising to Abraham that through his family, the Savior of the world would come!

## Flashcard 3-3



Who is the Savior? (*Allow response.*) The Savior is Jesus, God's perfect Son. Jesus was born into the family of Abraham—two thousand years after Abraham lived. Why does the world need a Savior? Can someone tell me? (*Allow response.*) It is because of sin. What are some examples of things boys and girls do that don't please God? (*Allow response.*) Sin is a big problem because it separates you from God now and forever. God is holy (perfect) and loves you more than you can ever imagine. He made you and doesn't want you to be separated from Him. Because of His great love for you, God sent His only Son, Jesus, to Earth to take your sin upon Himself when He died on the cross. Then on the third day Jesus came alive again! (*Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-5a.*) Jesus is alive in Heaven today ruling as King. He is the Savior God promised to send.

The Savior would come through Abraham's family! How could that be? When God changed Abraham's name, Sarah still didn't have a child. God had more to say to Abraham. Sarah really would have a son and they would name him Isaac. One day Abraham had special visitors from Heaven. Abraham quickly had food made for the guests. Act like you are preparing your favorite food. (*Do with children.*) The visitors asked where Sarah was. She was in the tent. Then one of the visitors, who was actually the Lord, reminded Abraham of His promise to give him a son. He said, "Sarah will have a son!"

### Flashcard 3-4

Sarah, who was listening, laughed to herself. She was almost 90 years old and Abraham was 99, almost 100! The idea was ridiculous! To her surprise the visitor asked, "Why did Sarah laugh when I told her she'd have a son? Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Sarah lied and said that she had not laughed. But God knew because God knows everything.

Sarah and Abraham needed to depend on the fact that nothing was too hard for their faithful God!



You can also know that nothing is too hard for God. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **depend on your faithful God to keep His promises.** Maybe the hard thing in your life is a sickness, or feeling alone or feeling scared by things going on in the world. When you face those hard things, what can you do? Remember God's promises and talk to God. He loves you and wants you to bring your struggles to Him. Trust that He will do what He says because He is faithful.

**Word Up!, "God is faithful!"** (*Say with children.*) Our memory verse reminds us of that. Let's say it together. (*Say 1 Thessalonians 5:24 with children.*) God can be depended on because He is faithful. God gives many promises to those who believe in Jesus! One is in Hebrews 13:5 where Jesus says, "I will never leave you." You can even remember this verse by putting one word on each finger of your hand. (*Demonstrate this, having the children personalize it—"Jesus will never leave me."*) Memorizing and repeating Bible promises like these help you to remember to depend on God no matter what is happening in your life. They help you depend on God, who is with you and will help you through it. This doesn't mean the problem will go away. But you can know that whatever happens God is with you and loves and cares for you. He will help you through it. Throughout this week repeat this verse to yourself whenever you need to remember God's promise. **"Word up!", "God is faithful!"** (*Say with children.*) He keeps every promise, no matter how impossible it may seem. Nothing is too hard for God.

It wasn't too hard for God to give Sarah and Abraham a son when they were way too old to have children. But when would it happen? It had been so many years since God first promised them a son!

### CLIMAX

### Flashcard 3-5

About a year later, God gave Abraham and Sarah a son! (*Read Genesis 21:6-7.*)

## CONCLUSION

Abraham called his son Isaac, which means “laughter”! Abraham and Sarah rejoiced because God made the impossible possible—they had a son! God had kept His promise.



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, depend on your faithful God to keep His promises. Our memory verse reminds us of God's faithfulness. Let's say it together. *(Say verse with children.)* When you are sick, scared or lonely, remember God's promises and talk to Him. Remember He is your Father, who loves you and wants you to bring your struggles to Him. Then repeat this promise from God's Word *(read Hebrews 13:5b)*. Say to yourself, “Jesus will never leave me.” God is faithful to keep this promise. Will you depend on God to keep His promises? Next week you can come back to club and tell me how God helped you as you remembered His promise.

## INVITATION



If you have never believed in Jesus as your Savior, there is a very important promise God gives to you. God promises that those who believe in Jesus will have eternal life. *(Read John 3:15.)* God says that whoever believes (trusts) in Him will not perish. Whoever means anyone—no matter what you look like or what you have done. To perish means to be separated from God now and forever. Jesus died on the cross and came alive again so you don't have to be separated from God. If you believe—trust Him as the only one who can forgive your sin—then He promises you will have eternal life that starts the minute you believe! God the Holy Spirit will live in you and help you live to please God. One day you'll go and live with God in Heaven, God's home. Will you trust Jesus as the only one who can give you eternal life? Please close your eyes. If you would like to believe in Jesus today, show me by raising your hand. *(Allow responses.)* You may put your hand down and open your eyes. If you raised your hand to show me you would like to believe in Jesus or if you have questions about that, please meet me *(designate time and location)* and I will show you more from the Bible about God's promise of eternal life.



## REVIEW GAME

## Old or New

*Instructions:*

Write the names of 12 books of the Bible on slips of paper and place them in a container. *(Choose books that have been used in the Bible lessons, memory verses and/or books that the children have learned.)* Divide the children into two teams and ask questions, alternating between the teams. When a child answers a question correctly, give his team 1,000 points and let him draw a slip of paper from the container. Give him a few seconds to confer with his team then say whether that book belongs in the Old or the New Testament. If the team guesses correctly, give them an additional 1,000 points. Put the slip of paper aside and continue. The team with the most points wins.

1. What were the promises God made to Abram's family? *(Land, name and children.)*
2. What did God say Abram's family would be like? *(Like the stars in the sky; more than can be counted.)*
3. Why did God say Abram was righteous? *(Abram believed God.)*
4. What did God change Abram and Sarai's names to? *(Abraham and Sarah.)*

5. Who was born into Abraham's family 2,000 years later? (*Jesus the Savior.*)
6. Why do you need a Savior? (*Because I have sinned.*)
7. What did Sarah do when she heard what the visitors said? (*She laughed.*)
8. According to our memory verse, what is God like? (*He is faithful.*)
9. What does the word faithful mean? (*Something or someone you can always count on.*)
10. What is one way you can remember God is faithful? (*Hebrews 13:5b hand action; answers will vary.*)
11. What is a promise that God has made to you? (*He will never leave you; if you believe in Him you will have eternal life; if you believe in Him the Holy Spirit will live with you; etc.*)
12. What can you do this week when something hard happens? (*Depend on God because He is faithful, trust God's promises; remember Jesus will never leave me; tell God about my struggle.*)

## MISSIONARY STORY

### Part 3:

#### Adhiambo Serves God



After Adhiambo graduated from college, she became a high school teacher. She also taught Sunday school and *Good News Club*®.

One evening after *Good News Club* she was working in her office when she heard a knock at the door. It was ten-year-old Lidya. Lidya was from a Christian home. She was well-behaved and showed love and care for others. Adhiambo believed Lidya was a Christian (someone who believes in Jesus).

“Why did you come to see me, Lidya?”

“I would like to receive Jesus and be saved from my sins,” Lidya

said. “I’ve been a pretender—acting like a Christian. But I never really asked Jesus to be my Savior.”

Adhiambo showed Lidya God’s promise in John 1:12. (*Read from your Bible.*) She explained to Lidya that she needed to believe on Jesus as her Savior from sin. Lidya bowed her head and prayed. She told God she was a sinner and she believed Jesus died for her sin. She asked Him to be her Savior from sin!

Lidya wasn’t pretending anymore. She now had true joy and peace in her heart and knew her sins were forgiven. She loved to tell other children how God knew she was a pretender and how she finally asked Jesus to save her.

One day Adhiambo was thinking about the many children who need Jesus. *There are thousands of children who need to know Him*, she thought. *I must reach more—but how?*

That year two American missionaries named Kathy and Sandy visited Mombasa, the city in Kenya where Adhiambo lived. “You are a wonderful teacher of children,” Kathy told Adhiambo.



“Would you like to learn how to help other Christian adults teach God’s Word too?”

*Teach Christian adults to become teachers?* Adhiambo had never thought of such a thing. She thought hard about it. If she taught ten people how to teach and each one taught 40 children, how many children would hear the Good News of Jesus? *(Allow response.)* 400! That was way more than she could tell by herself.

“I’d love to train teachers,” she replied. “But how? I have no money to pay for the classes.”

“A friend of yours has already paid your way!” Kathy told her.

“It’s Ephesians 3:20 again!” Adhiambo exclaimed. God showed

His power to provide in a way that was more than Adhiambo could imagine.

Adhiambo was excited to travel to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, for the special training course. Other students came too.

One of the teachers made a circle on the floor with a big rope and asked Adhiambo’s class a very important question.

“If you know Jesus as your Savior, are you willing to be whatever God wants you to be? How many of you would step inside this circle to show that you want God to be in charge of all your life?”

**Did Adhiambo step inside the circle? We’ll find out next time.**



## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

“Living for God’s Glory” (Optional prayer time)

What does it mean to live for the glory of God? *(Allow response.)* It means to do everything to show others how important and wonderful God is. What is one way you can bring glory to God this week? *(Allow response.)* You can depend on the Holy Spirit to help you bring glory to God. Let’s pray together and ask for His help to do that this week. *(Pray first to model prayer for the children. Include prayer for their needs. Then call on volunteers to pray.)*

## DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 3 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids are working on bringing glory to God this week.

## God Is Faithful to Keep His Promises – Isaac is Born

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in your Bible as a ready reference.

### Lesson Outline

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Every day we depend on all kinds of things.

#### II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Years went by and Abram and Sarai still had no children.

A. **Flashcard 3-1** (Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 4:3)

1. God spoke to Abram. God wanted Abram to know that He would protect and reward him.
2. God told Abram that his family would be as many as the stars.

3. **Depend on your faithful God to keep His promises!**

[Deuteronomy 7:9a]

4. Abram believed God and God counted Abram as righteous.

B. **Flashcard 3-2** (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-18)

1. When Abram was 99 and Sarai was 90, God told Abram they would have a son.
2. God changed Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah.

C. **Flashcard 3-3** (Genesis 17:19; 18:1-11)

1. God was promising to Abraham that through his family, the Savior of the world would come! [I Corinthians 15:3-5a]
2. God said that Sarah would have a son and they were to name him Isaac.
3. Abraham had special visitors from Heaven.

D. **Flashcard 3-4** (Genesis 18:12-15)

1. Sarah laughed when she heard one of the visitors say she would have a son.
2. When the visitors asked Sarah why she laughed, she denied it.

3. **Depend on your faithful God to keep His promises.**

[I Thessalonians 5:24; Hebrews 13:5b]

#### III. CLIMAX

**Flashcard 3-5** (Genesis 21:1-7)

By the next year, God gave Abraham and Sarah a son!

#### IV. CONCLUSION

A. Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac and rejoiced that God made the impossible possible.

B. Will you depend on God to keep His promises?

[I Thessalonians 5:24; Hebrews 13:5b]

C. God promises that those who believe in Him will have eternal life. [John 3:15]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text.

Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.