

ABRAHAM PROMISED A SON**Genesis 15 – 18**

Lesson Memory Verse: James 1:17a - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above."

Lesson Aim: To teach the students to trust in all of God's promises beginning with the promise of salvation.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): What is a promise? Can you think of anyone who made a promise to you? Tell me about it. (Let the children tell about promises people have given them.) Would it be wrong if someone made a promise and then did not keep it? Yes, remember how Satan promised Eve that she would not die if she ate the fruit of the forbidden tree, but she died. Why? Satan is a liar and does not keep his promises. Anyone who does not keep his promises is a liar. But you can trust God when He gives a promise to you. He will keep His promises, and they are very special. When God promises to give us a gift, you will not be disappointed. Our memory verse tells us what His gifts are like.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse uses two words to describe His gifts. Can you find these two words that tell what His gifts are like? (Have the verse printed on the chalkboard or on a large card.) His gifts are **g**_____ and they are **p**_____. I think you know what **good gifts** are, but what are **perfect gifts**? (Perfect gifts are complete, nothing is missing and nothing is wrong with them.) Only God can give good gifts to us because He is the only One Who is good. And only God can give us perfect gifts, because He is the only One Who is perfect. That is why only God could give us Jesus. That is also true of God's gift of the Holy Spirit, of His gift of heaven, of His gift of eternal life and of every gift that God gives. Every gift that God promises is good and it is perfect. Also He will keep His promises. You will receive the gifts that God has promised to you.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson we are going to look at the good and perfect gift which God gave to Abraham. From this lesson you will see that God always keeps His promises.

I. God Promised Some Blessings for Abraham (15:1-21)

A. He promised to give a reward to Abraham (15:1).

"I am . . . your exceeding great reward." Abraham had obeyed God by leaving his homeland and by going to the place where God had led him. Because he obeyed, God promised to reward him.

WE: If we obey God because we love Him, then He will reward us. However, He may make us wait before He rewards us, but He will not forget His promise to us.

B. He promised to give a son to Abraham (15:2-6).

This son would be the beginning of a great people which would number more than the stars of Heaven. Abraham believed God's promise, and God declared him to be righteous (15:6).

WE: We need to believe God's promises. God will bless us for believing Him and declare us right in His sight.

C. He promised to give a land to Abraham (15:7-21).

It was important that God give Abraham a land so that his people would have a place to live when they became a nation. These promises meant much to Abraham.

WE: God will give us the best kind of rewards, too. When you believe His promises, He will make us rejoice with His gifts. God wants us to study His Word and find the many promises He has given to us in the Bible. When we find them, we need to believe them, and God will be faithful to give them to us.

II. Abraham believed only part of God's Promise (16:1-16)

A. Abraham believed he would have a son, but not by his wife, Sarah (16:1-3).

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He did not think that God could give him a son by Sarah because she was so old. He listened to his wife's reasoning. He had waited ten years for God to keep His promise to give them a son, but nothing had happened. So he decided to "help" God by making it easier for Him. He decided to have a son by his wife's maidservant, but this was sinful.

WE: We must never try to help God by doing something sinful. We must learn to be patient and to believe that God can do what He has promised without our help unless He asks for it. Furthermore, He will never ask us to do something sinful if He asks us to help Him.

B. Abraham went ahead with his plan, but this plan brought trouble to his family (16:4-16).

When Sarah's maidservant Hagar had a child by Abraham, it was wrong and caused trouble between Sarah and Hagar. Hagar felt she was better than Sarah.

WE: When we disobey God's laws and do things our way, we will suffer for it. Trouble will come into our life. We will not be happy unless we wait to do things until the time God wants them done; then we must do them the way He wants them done.

III. God Repeated His Promises to Abraham (17:1 – 18:15)

A. God told Abraham again that He would keep His promises to him (17:1-14).

Although Abraham had waited for these promises for 24 years (he was 75 when he first heard them and now he was 99), God had not forgotten what He had promised. God told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, but one nation would be very special, and they would be given the land of Canaan on which they could live as long as they obeyed Him. When Sarah heard this, she laughed secretly, but when the Lord rebuked her for laughing at His promise, she denied it. However, the Lord told her that she had laughed (18:15). Nothing is too hard for the Lord and He was helping Sarah to believe this.

WE: The Lord will help us to believe in His promises, too. We should never doubt them. We should never laugh at God's promises and think that they are too hard for Him to keep. Nothing is too hard for God to do, and if He has promised to do something, He will do it. Will you believe His promises?

B. God helped Abraham and Sarah to have a son in their old age (17:15-18:15). God helped Abraham to believe that He would give him a son when he would be one hundred years old. When he heard that, he laughed (17:17). But God told Abraham that it would be true and that he should name his son Isaac (17:19). God always keeps His promises, and He helped Abraham to believe Him.

Soon afterward, the Lord came to Abraham's home again. This time He talked to Abraham so that Sarah could hear what He was saying. The Lord told Abraham that she would have a son very soon. When Sarah heard that, she laughed in her heart because she thought she was too old to have a son (18:12). She would be ninety years old. The Lord knew she had laughed, and so He asked Abraham why she had laughed. Sarah denied that she had laughed, but the Lord told her that she had (18:15). Nothing is too hard for the Lord and He was helping Sarah to believe this.

WE: The Lord will help you to believe in His promises, too. You should never doubt them. You should never laugh at God's promises and think that they are too hard for Him to keep. Nothing is too hard for God to do, and if He has promised to do something, He will do it. Please believe His promises!

BE (for Action): Today we learned that God promises to keep His promises, and He wants us to believe that He will. One wonderful promise that He has given to us is the promise of eternal life. We can become God's children if we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior (John 1:12). God will keep His promise and give you eternal life if you will believe Him (John 5:24). If you know that you are not a Christian, you should ask Jesus Christ to be your Savior today (Rom 10:13). He will keep His promise and you will be saved from Hell to live with Him. Are you willing to do it now? (Have the children bow their heads, and then give them an invitation to raise their hands if they want to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. Then tell them to stay after class and you will help them understand exactly what they should do and pray with them.)