

Lesson 7

Abraham Is Promised a

Genesis 13:14–18
15:1–6; 17:1–8;
15–19

Memory Verse

“This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that He hath spoken”
(2 Kings 20:9)

Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

Define what the names Abram, Abraham and Sarah mean

Locate in the story where Abraham sets the example of confidence in God

Describe the differences between Lot and Abraham

Express in their own words the promises God made

Teacher’s Bible Study

To have real faith does not mean that one will never doubt. Doubts are a normal human characteristic and emotion. Even the truly begotten Christian is not immune to it. Yet one must contest doubt by returning to the fundamentals of biblical belief, to his first love, by thinking the thoughts and doing the works he did when he was first being converted. Doubt need not undermine faith, but true faith can surmount doubt.

Abraham, as with all Christians, had his moments of doubt. He was not perfect. There were times Abraham relied on his wits. Read Genesis 15:1–6. We may find comfort in the failures of Abraham. Just as Abraham turned away from sin, we must do the same. Abraham displayed a great act of faith.

Background Information: In 1925–1941 the Nuzi tablets were discovered. These tablets comprise 20,000 documents written on hardened clay. These documents shed light on the customs of the day. These particular documents date within 400–500 years of the patriarchs. This is brought to your attention to understand why God said, “And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir” (Genesis 15:4). There was a custom then that allowed a slave or freeman to be adopted who in return for serving his benefactor becomes his heir.

Read Genesis 16. Ten years had passed since God promised a son to Abraham. Still, he and Sarah waited. Sarah convinced Abraham to take Hagar her maid as a secondary wife. Did Abraham and Sarah think they needed to help God keep His promise of a son?

The lesson Abraham learned and what we need to learn in our own lives is that we should not doubt God nor should we operate on blind faith. The faith of Abraham was in response to God’s divine revelation. Abraham was credited with righteousness. Credit was not given for his works, but because he relied on God alone. God will credit us with righteousness as well. Read Romans 4:22–24. Righteousness is reckoned in return for faith. This truth is repeated three times in the New

Presenting the Bible Story

Genesis 13:14–18

Abraham was a rich man. He had cattle, silver, and gold. When Abraham, Sarah, and Lot left Egypt, Lot and Abraham brought their flocks and herds. There was strife between Abraham's, and Lot's herdsmen. Lot, lifted his eyes in greed and went against the custom of the times. He did not give Abraham, the elder, first choice of the land. This should have been done, even though Abraham offered it to him. Lot chose the prosperous valley areas and Abraham was left with the hill country. Our story begins where the men have now gone their separate ways.

Abraham could give the land to Lot, because he had it to give. Abraham had the promise of God that his descendants would be so numerous you could not begin to count them. This is a perfect example of how much Abraham believed and trusted in God's promise. He did not cling to the land or "things"; he believed the promise from God was genuine.

There are contrasts to be made between Abraham and Lot: 1. Abraham was told by God to "lift up your eyes." Lot looked for himself (Genesis 14:10); 2. Abraham waited for God to give him the land. Lot took the land (Genesis 13:10–11).

This chapter ends with Abraham making an altar to God. Abraham made the right choice. He was unselfish, generous and trusted God. Lot was the opposite of these qualities.

Genesis 15:1–3

Before God made His covenant with Abraham, He reassured him. He encouraged Abraham to set aside his doubts and fears when He said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Abraham wasted no time asking God what that reward would be, especially since he was childless. The law of Abraham's time provided that a man who did not have a son could adopt a servant as his heir. Could it be that Abraham was suggesting to God that a mere servant would become his heir?

Genesis 15:4–6

God cleared this question up right away. "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." God took Abraham outside and asked him to number the stars. If you could number the stars, this is the number of your descendants. Once again, Abraham "believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."

Genesis 17:1–8

The name Abram, meaning "exalted father," is changed to Abraham which means "father of the multitude"

Abraham is now ninety-nine years old. This is the first time in the Old Testament that "Almighty God" is used.

Genesis 17: 15–19

God promises Abraham the following: 1. "And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceeding-

The name Sarai was changed to Sarah which means “princess”

Introduce
Memory Verse

Art and Activities

Explore the following questions with your students:

Always close your class with prayer

ly”; 2. “Thou shalt be a father of many nations”; 3. “Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham.”

Sarai’s name was changed to Sarah. Read verse 16: “I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.” Hearing this, Abraham laughed! How could a man that is 100 and his wife who is 90 give birth to a child? So Abraham makes an assumption. He assumes that his descendants will come through Ishmael. **WRONG!** “God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.”

2 Kings 20:9: “This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken.”

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Provide copies of Activity Page suitable for each of your students.

Older Children

Provide copies of Activity Page suitable for each of your students.

Explore the Subject

1. When you obey, you have faith. When your parents ask you to go to sleep, and explain that there are no monsters under your bed, do you obey them and go to bed? Yes, you obey them and go to bed—you have faith that your parents are telling you the truth. Give other examples.

2. How did Abraham show his trust in God? Abraham obeyed God. Abraham trusted God. Give examples. What does today’s memory verse say?

Respond and Reinforce

1. What does “promise” mean?

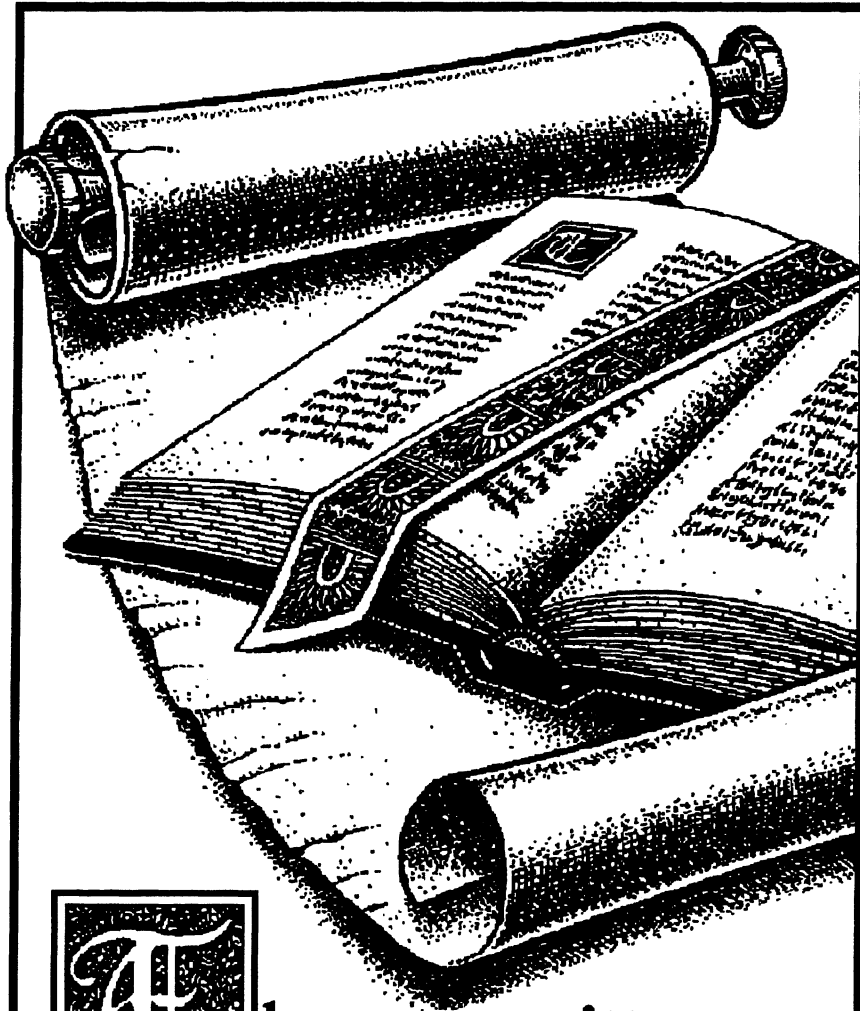
2. Does God keep His promise? Adam and Eve were told not to eat of the fruit of the tree of good and evil. What did God say would happen to them? Did it happen?

3. Did Abraham understand the meaning of the word

Activity Page

Thy Word is Truth Color Sheet

The Scriptures have been preserved for us today. God speaks to us through His Word.



These are written
so that you may
believe...and...believing...
have life in his name. John 20:31

Activity Page

The Promise

Genesis 13:14–18; 15:1–6; 17:1–8;15–19

Read the scriptures and find the words hidden in the puzzle below.

S	T	N	A	N	E	V	O	C	P
S	B	E	N	I	M	D	N	A	L
E	M	A	N	N	M	A	R	B	A
N	E	V	A	E	H	S	O	N	I
S	O	U	L	T	D	A	G	D	N
U	T	L	M	Y	E	R	R	N	O
O	C	H	I	L	D	A	B	A	I
E	A	T	G	C	S	I	S	S	S
T	N	R	H	H	E	I	R	S	I
H	A	A	T	N	E	T	A	S	V
G	A	E	Y	A	D	O	T	E	N
I	N	O	I	T	A	N	S	L	R
R	B	K	M	A	H	A	R	B	A

ABRAM
PLAIN
MINE
SEED
VISION

HEIR

STARS
RIGHTEOUSNESS
HEAVEN
ALMIGHTY
COVENANTS
NINETY
ABRAHAM

SARAH
SARAI
BLESS
CHILD
LAND
NATION
NAME

CANAAN
DAY
SAND
TENT
EARTH
SOUL
SON

Activity Page

Building Blocks of Faith

Look up the Scripture references and fill in the blanks

1. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and than not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God (Ephesians 2:8).*

2. *Therefore being _____ by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).*

3. *For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of _____ by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love (Galatians 5:5,6).*

4. *For what if some did not believe? shall their _____ make the faith of God without effect? (Romans 3:3).*

5. *Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we _____ the law (Romans 3:31).*

6. *So then faith cometh by _____, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).*

7. *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. fight the good _____ of faith, lay hold on eternal life...(I Timothy 6:11,12).*

Art Activity

Learning About God's Promises

We learn more about God through His Word. It helps us to know Him. There is an empty chair in the picture. Draw yourself in the chair learning about God and His promises. Color the picture of the boys and girls in Sabbath school.

