



THE ABCs OF GOD

A Study for Children
on the Greatness and Worth of God

by
Fill Nelson

Truth:78

Glorious

MAIN IDEA

- **God shows His greatness and worth.**

MEMORY VERSES (CHOOSE ONE)

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.—Psalm 19:1

Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory!—Psalm 72:19a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Romans 1:20a (NASB)
- 2) Psalm 19:1
- 3) Psalm 78:4b
- 4) Exodus 15:1, 6-7, 10-11
- 5) Psalm 72:19a
- 6) (Psalm 19:1-4a)
- 7) (Psalm 145:1-6)



TEACHER INTRODUCTION

What is the glory of God? One way to understand God's glory that is particularly helpful for children is to observe His creation. It is God's own "Show and Tell" of His "invisible attributes...his eternal power and divine nature" (Romans 1:20). Here is a helpful insight from Pastor John Piper:

God's glory is the beauty of His manifold perfections. It can refer to the bright and awesome radiance that sometimes breaks forth in visible manifestations. Or it can refer to the infinite moral excellence of His character. In either case it signifies a reality of infinite greatness and worth...God's ultimate goal therefore is to preserve and display His infinite and awesome greatness and worth, that is, His glory.¹

God's glory is no small matter. It is crucial for us to lay a foundation of this truth. By presenting a "Show and Tell" jewelry box, we can help the children understand how God shows and tells us of his glory—glory that would be hidden from us if He did not choose to reveal it.

Pray for hearts that would grow in seeing God's greatness and worth in all of life. Pray for humble hearts that would acknowledge God as the center of the universe, and not ourselves. Ask for God to make His glories known in very practical ways in the lives of the children this week.

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- **G-Glorious (6A)**
- **Romans 1:20a (6B, print double-sided with 6C)**
- **Greatness and Worth (6C, print double-sided with 6B)**
- **Creation 1-6 (5B-5G)**
- **Psalm 19:1 (6D)**
- **Full of Glory (6E)**
- **Red Sea Parting (6F)**
- For Review:
 - › Creator Review Sheet (one per child)
- Growing in Faith Together for Lesson 6 (one per child)

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Jewelry box with precious looking plastic gems, gold, and silver
- Tape
- For Application (for each child):
 - › Markers, crayons, and/or other stickers, stamps, etc.
- For Application (for each small group):
 - › Pictures showing the diversity of God's creation

IN THE BLESSING BOX

1. Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Press, 1996), 31-32.

Glorious

- Jewelry box (or another attractive box) containing precious looking, shiny plastic gems, gold, and silver (Note: This will be used in many future lessons, so care should be taken to make it look very special.)

REVIEW SHEET

→ If you opt to do the Review Sheet, this should be completed before presenting the lesson.

MATERIALS FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**1. ABCs Review Game**

You will need the following supplies for the class:

- › Alphabet Cards (Curriculum Resources) for words learned thus far: Question, Incomprehensible, YHWH (*Yahweh*), Eternal, Creator, and Glorious
- › Mini Blessing Box (See Optional Activity)

2. God is Glorious Cards

You will need the following supplies for each child:

- › Cardstock or construction paper
- › Magazine cutouts, stickers, and/or markers or crayons
- › Scissors
- › Glue

JEWELRY BOX

(Quickly remind the children that we are here to learn the answers to the most important questions about God, namely, “Who is God?” and “What God is like?” And we are learning that the Bible tells us the true answers to these questions. Now, hold the **jewelry box** in front of the children, close the lid, and comment as follows.)

The Bible tells us that God is eternal—He has no beginning and no end.

The Bible tells us that God is incomprehensible—He is more than we can fully understand.

The Bible tells us that God is the Creator of everything.

However, is there anything that shows us who God is and what He is like—something that can be seen?

(Open the **jewelry box** again.)

Where will we find the answer to that question? In the Bible.

(Display and read the **Romans 1:20a** visual from the NASB translation.)

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, has been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made,
Romans 1:20a

Romans 1:20a—For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, (NASB)

(To help the children understand this verse, point to each section and make the following comments.)

For since the creation of the world

This refers to the beginning of time when God created the world.

His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature

God has something called “attributes.” These are qualities or characteristics that God has. These are things that tell us who God is and what He is like. They are words that describe His greatness and worth.

TAPE

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, has been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made,
Romans 1:20a

(Flip the **Romans 1:20a** visual to reveal the **Greatness and Worth** visual.)

But this verse also tells us that God has attributes that are “invisible”—something that cannot be seen. Does that mean that God’s greatness and worth can never be seen, something like keeping the lid closed on the jewelry box?

have been clearly seen

These words tell us that God's greatness and worth can be seen...God does show us His greatness and worth.

JEWELRY BOX

(Open the lid on the **jewelry box**.)

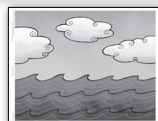
What is a way that God shows us His greatness and worth?

through what has been made



This is referring to all the things that God has created.

(Quickly show the children the **Creation 1-6** visuals depicting the six days of creation that were used in the previous lesson.)



- God does show us His greatness and worth.
- One way in which He does this is through what He has created.



(Briefly give the children some examples of this.)

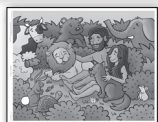
When you see a beautiful fish, God is showing you a little bit of His greatness and worth. When you bite into an apple and taste it, God is showing you a little bit of His greatness and worth.



Flowers, waves, mountains, volcanoes, waterfalls, birds, giraffes, elephants, trees, bananas, pumpkins, clouds, lightning, snow, dandelions—all show us a little bit of God's greatness and worth.



God has given us a "Show and Tell" of His greatness and worth!



(Point out that there is a special word for God showing His greatness and worth, the word "glory." Read and display the **Psalm 19:1** visual.)

Psalm 19:1—The heavens declare [show] the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork [the work of his hands].

- Creation is not the only way in which God shows His glory.
- God also shows His greatness and worth through all the deeds He has done.

This is what the writer of Psalm 78:4 said:



Psalm 78:4b—[We will] tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

(Display the **Full of Glory** visual, and explain that this verse is telling us that God's deeds—all the things He does and all the actions He takes—are also full of glory. Give the following example of this by displaying the **Red Sea Parting** visual, and ask the children if they can briefly recall what event the picture depicts. [God parting the sea so



His people could flee Pharaoh's army in order to escape from Egypt] Point out that this was a glorious deed of God—something that showed His greatness and worth.)

All of the people of Israel saw this happen. It was an amazing sight! And after seeing this glorious deed, Moses and the people of Israel sang a song responding to what they had seen.

Illustration.....

(Have the children participate in the reading of text from Exodus 15 by doing the following: Tell the children that you want them to pretend for a moment that they are like a closed jewelry box by sitting in a curled up position with their heads down and their arms crossed from shoulder to shoulder. As you read the Bible text, they should remain in this position until they hear the word “glorious” or “gloriously.” When they hear either of these words, they should quickly “open up” by raising their heads and arms upward. Have them practice doing this once or twice. Next, read the following verses from Exodus 15, emphasizing the words “glorious” and “gloriously” as you read. You may need to remind the children to “close” again after they have “opened up.”)

Exodus 15:1—Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

Exodus 15:6—Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Exodus 15:7—In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries;

Exodus 15:10—You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Exodus 15:11—“Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”



(Hold up the **G-Glorious** visual, and have the children recite the following.)

G is for glorious. God is glorious. He shows His greatness and worth.

- God is glorious in everything He does, whether it is creating the world, creating people to fill the world, choosing a people for Himself, parting the sea, answering a prayer, or delivering His people.
- Everywhere we look, and in every situation, we should be looking to see how God is showing us His greatness and worth.

(Read Psalm 72:19a.)

Psalm 72:19a—Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Small Group Application

Choose one or more of the following suggestions for interacting with the children during this time:

Workbook

Instruct the children to look in the workbook for the page with the large letter “G” for “Glorious.” Read Psalm 19:1 as printed on the page and have the children underline the word “glory.” Next, read Psalm 72:19a and have the children underline the word “glory” here as well. Ask the children to describe ways in which creation shows God’s greatness and worth. Encourage the children to decorate the letter, and then draw a picture of something God has created that shows His glory.

What deeds has God done, from the Bible and from real-life experience, that show His greatness and worth?

Have a time of prayer, thanking and praising God that He is glorious.

God’s Glorious Deeds

Remind the children of the beginning illustration with the jewelry box. What did they think when the teacher only did the “tell” part of Show and Tell? Were they excited when the teacher finally opened the box? Why? Have the children imagine that the jewels in the jewelry box were real diamonds, gold, etc.

Would they be really valuable and special? How can a jewelry box help us to remember what it means that God shows His greatness and worth? Is God more special and valuable than jewels? Are His works and deeds more amazing to look at? Can you give me some examples of God’s glorious works and deeds? What things has God done that we should be amazed by?

Seeing God’s Glory

Read and discuss Psalm 19:1-4a. (You may want to show some pictures showing the diversity of God’s creation as you do this.)

How does God show us His glory through what He has made? Did you see His glory this week? Where? Do you see His glory in this room? Where? How do these things show you how great God is?

Praising God

Read Psalm 145:1-6.

When God shows us His greatness and worth (His glory), how should we act toward Him? What does this psalm say?

Explain that the psalmist uses words such as “extol God; bless Him; praise Him.”

The psalmist says that we should praise God and tell others about God and what He has done. We should think about His glorious deeds. What can you do this week to praise God when you have seen that He is glorious? How could you tell someone about a glorious thing that God has done? How could you study a wondrous work of God?

Responding to God's Glory

Read Romans 1:20a and remind the children that one of the ways that God shows His greatness and worth is through what He has made.

Everything He created shows His greatness and worth—His glory. That means that He created everything for His glory. That means that each one of us was created to show the greatness and worth of God. How do you think a person would do this?

Give the children a concrete illustration to help their thinking. For example:

How would a person show or demonstrate that the jewelry in a box was really special, valuable, and amazing? How would you treat the jewels? Would you ignore them or want to look at them? Would you treasure them or use them for playing games with? How could you show or demonstrate that God is more special, valuable, and amazing than anything else?

Optional Activities

If time allows, choose one of the following optional activities:

1. ABCs Review Game

Create a mini blessing box using a shoe box and fancy paper. Inside the box, place the **Alphabet Cards** for words learned thus far: Question, Incomprehensible, YHWH (*Yahweh*), Eternal, Creator, and Glorious. Call on volunteers to pick a card out of the box. Then review all the information for that letter—word, meaning, and memory verse.

2. God is Glorious Cards

When we see the greatness and worth of God, we should tell other people about it. Have each child make a card with magazine cutouts, stickers, or their own drawings that tells about one way they have seen the glory of God. Encourage them to share this card with someone in their family or a friend.

Send Home

- Growing in Faith Together Page for Lesson 6 (one per child)

Large Group Lesson

Illustration.....

(Ask the children if they have ever heard of something called Show and Tell. Briefly explain that Show and Tell usually refers to something done at school when a student is asked to bring some object from home to school. Then the teacher has the student show the object to the class and tell about it.)

If you were asked to bring a Show and Tell item to school, would you bring an old pair of tennis shoes that your mom was going to throw away? Would you bring a piece of bread? What about a paper clip? No, you would want to bring something you thought was really interesting, special, or valuable.

Today I have brought a Show and Tell item, and I'd like someone to take it out of the Blessing Box.

BLESSING BOX
WITH JEWELRY
BOX INSIDE

(Choose a child to remove the **jewelry box** from the **Blessing Box**, making sure that he doesn't open the jewelry box. Have the child return to his seat. Next, keeping the box closed, begin to tell the children about the items in the box. Be as descriptive as possible to make the children eager to see what is inside, but keep it brief. For example...)

Inside are beautiful shiny shapes that look like diamonds and other gems. Some of the objects are like gold and silver. There are all sorts of interesting shapes and sizes. There are all sorts of bright colors that sparkle in the light...etc.

(Set the **jewelry box** back in the **Blessing Box**, and ask the students if you did a good job with your Show and Tell demonstration. Did anything seem missing? Point out the obvious if the children have not guessed it—you forgot the “show” part of your Show and Tell.)

❓ *Do you think that it is important for me to actually show you what is inside the jewelry box? Why?* (Allow the children to briefly respond.)

- Showing what was in the jewelry box proves that what you said about the contents is really true.
- In seeing the contents, the children could actually admire what is inside.

(Take the **jewelry box** out of the **Blessing Box**, and open the lid to display the contents. Give the children a few moments to observe the contents. Hold several of the **plastic gems** to the light to show how they sparkle. Ask the children if they have enjoyed actually seeing what is inside more than simply hearing your description.)

You might be wondering why I brought Show and Tell today. What does Show and Tell have to do with God?

G

GLORIOUS

God shows His
greatness and worth.

For since the creation of
the world His invisible
attributes, His eternal
power and divine nature,
have been clearly seen,
being understood through
what has been made,

Sample

Romans 1:20a (NASB)

For since the creation of
the world His invisible
attributes, **God's greatness**
and worth, have been
clearly seen, being
understood through what
has been made,

Sample

Romans 1:20a (NASB)

**The heavens
declare the glory
of God, and the sky
above proclaims
his handiwork.**

Psalm 19:1

Sample

Sample

Glorious



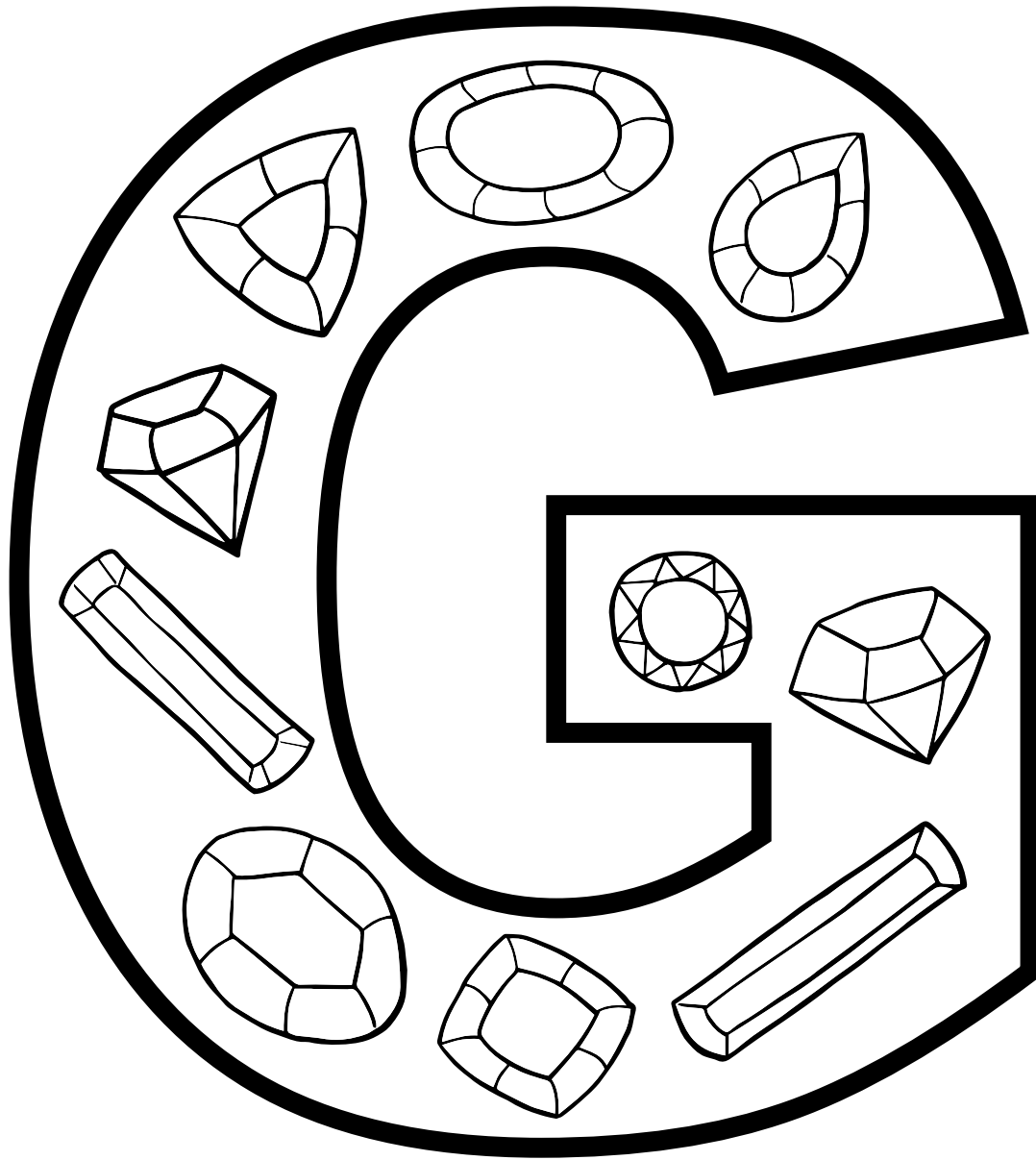
Full of Glory

Sample



Sample

Glorious



God shows His greatness and worth.

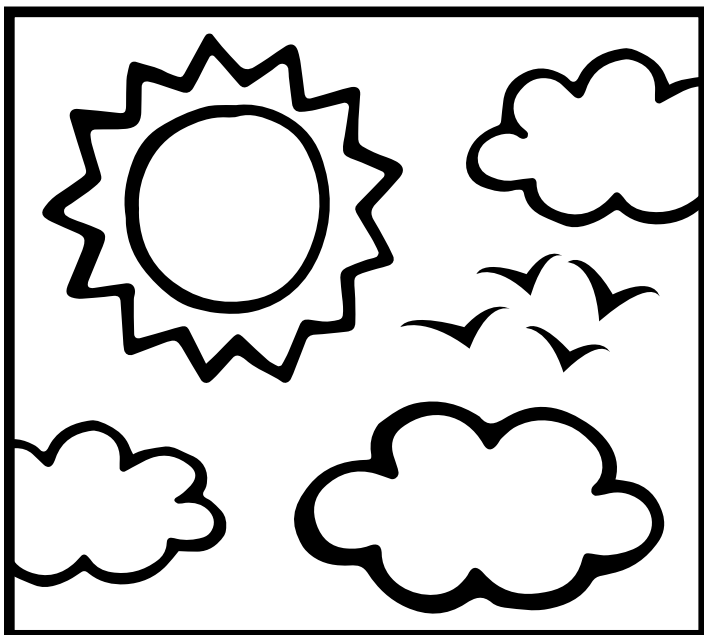
The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.—*Psalm 19:1*

Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory!—*Psalm 72:19a*

A glorious deed of the LORD:

Sample

A glorious deed of the LORD:



Draw a picture of something God has created that shows His glory:





Glorious

MAIN IDEA

- **God shows His greatness and worth.**

MEMORY VERSES

(Choose one)

*The heavens declare
the glory of God,
and the sky above
proclaims his
handiwork.*

—Psalm 19:1

*Blessed be his glorious
name forever; may the
whole earth be filled
with His glory!*

—Psalm 72:19a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 15:1, 6-7, 10-11
- 2) Psalm 19:1-4a
- 3) Psalm 72:19a
- 4) Psalm 78:4b
- 5) Psalm 145:1-6
- 6) Romans 1:20a



LESSON SUMMARY

What is the glory of God? One way to understand God's glory that is particularly helpful for children is to observe His creation. It is God's own show and tell of His "invisible attributes...his eternal power and divine nature" (Romans 1:20). Here is a helpful insight from Pastor John Piper:

God's glory is the beauty of His manifold perfections. It can refer to the bright and awesome radiance that sometimes breaks forth in visible manifestations. Or it can refer to the infinite moral excellence of His character. In either case, it signifies a reality of infinite greatness and worth... God's ultimate goal therefore is to preserve and display His infinite and awesome greatness and worth, that is, His glory.¹

God's glory is no small matter. Therefore, it is crucial to lay a foundation of this truth for our children. In this lesson, God's glory was likened to a "show and tell" jewelry box, filled with beautiful, sparkling, valuable jewels—the jewels representing God's divine attributes, which He reveals through His creation and by all of His deeds.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would have a humble heart that acknowledges God at the center of the universe, and not us.*
- *for God to make His glories known in very practical ways in the life of your child this week.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and discuss Psalm 19:1-4a. (You may want to show some pictures illustrating the diversity of God's creation as you do this.) **How does God show us His glory through what He has made? Did you see His glory this week? Where? Do you see His glory in this room? Where? How do these things show you how great God is?**
- Review Exodus 15:1-11. **What glorious deeds had God done? What other deeds has God done (from the Bible and from real-life experience) that show His greatness and worth? Have a**

1. Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Press, 1996), 31-32.

time of prayer, thanking and praising God that He is glorious.

- Read Psalm 145:1-6. **When God shows us His greatness and worth (His glory), how should we act toward Him? What does this psalm say?** Explain that the psalmist uses words, such as "extol God; bless Him; praise


Him." The psalmist says that we should praise God and tell others about God and what He has done. We should think about His glorious deeds. **What can you do this week to praise God when you have seen that He is glorious? How could you tell someone about a glorious thing that God has done? How could you study a wondrous work of God?**

ACTION STEP


This week, every night before going to bed, recall three glorious deeds of God that you observed or experienced.


MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY









Use the special code to discover what words are missing in the memory verses.

The heavens declare the _____


of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.—*Psalm 19:1*

Blessed be his _____


name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His _____!—*Psalm 72:19a*


G	I	L	O	R	S	U	Y
							

Faithful

MAIN IDEA

- **God always does what He says He will do.**

MEMORY VERSE

*He who calls you is faithful;
he will surely do it.*

—1 Thessalonians 5:24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Joshua 23:14
- 2) (Matthew 1:21)



TEACHER INTRODUCTION

The Old Testament is an amazing testimony to the faithlessness of God's chosen people. When Moses communicated God's holy and righteous law to Israel, they boldly exclaimed: "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do" (Exodus 24:3). How quickly they broke that promise, for they failed to understand the depth of deceit that sin had planted in their hearts. And their testimony is not unique, for we all, like them, have inherited rebellious sinful hearts from our first ancestors, Adam and Eve. God's law acts as a mirror both to Israel and us—it truthfully shows us our sin, our falling short of treasuring God most of all.

But God made a wonderful promise in the midst of Adam and Eve's failure—a promise to send a perfect Deliverer to crush the power of Satan, sin, and death. And throughout the Old Testament, we see the extraordinary faithfulness of God as He keeps promise after promise, pointing forward and culminating in the arrival of the Deliverer—Jesus, the Holy Son of God. In Jesus, all of God promises are "Yes" (2 Corinthians 1:20)!

Pray that as the children see God's perfect faithfulness revealed, they may experience Him as a bedrock of certainty. He is trustworthy in all His words and deeds. May they have an unshakable confidence in Him in every situation.

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- **F-Faithful (14A)**
- **S-Sovereign (9A)**
- Promise Tag (14B, see Visuals Preparation)
- 100 Years 1-6 (14C-14H, see Visuals Preparation)
- Promise 1-Flood (14I)
- Promise 2-Son (14J)
- Red Sea Parting (6F)
- Promise 4-Jericho (14K)
- Promise 5-Savior (14L)
- Promise 6-Baby (14M)
- Faithful (14N)
- For Review:
 - › Attentive Review Sheet (one per child)
- Growing in Faith Together for Lesson 14 (one per child)

OTHER SUPPLIES

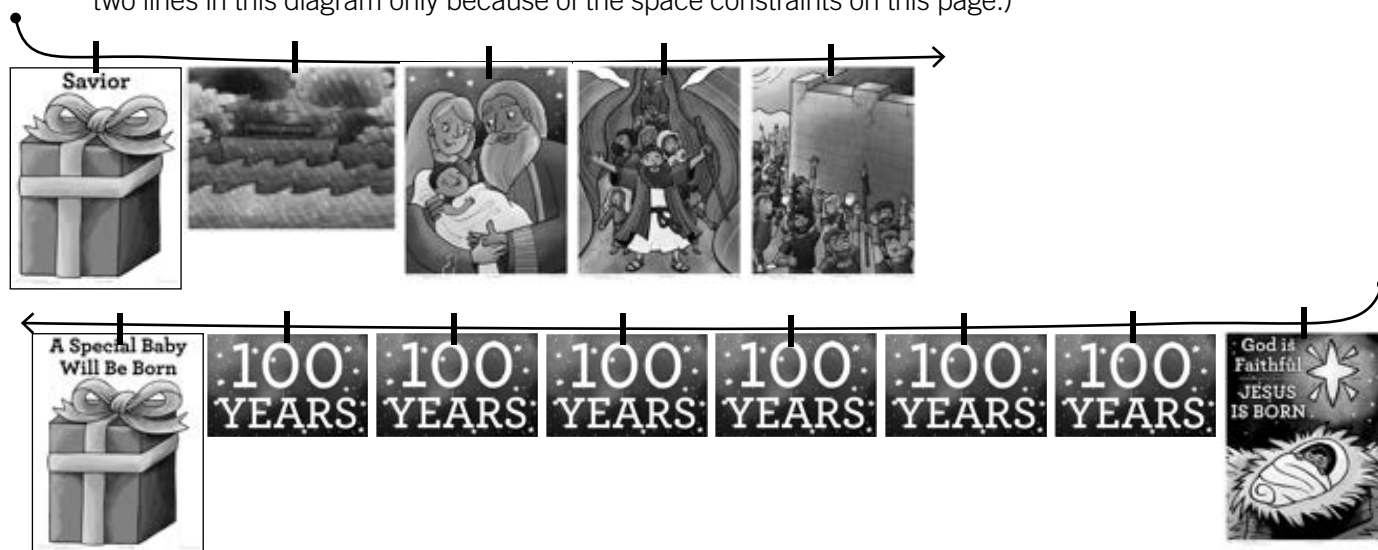
- Bible
- Small gift related to Jesus' birth (e.g., manger scene ornament)
- Gift wrap
- 4 nesting boxes (see Visuals Preparation)
- Tape
- Clothesline and clothespins or large paper clips, or tape
- For Application (for each child):
 - › Pencil or pen
 - › Markers or crayons

IN THE BLESSING BOX

- Small gift relating to Jesus' birth (e.g., a Christmas ornament with a manger scene or something similar, see Visuals Preparation)
- 4 gift boxes or bags (see Visuals Preparation)
- Gift wrap (see Visuals Preparation)
- Tape

VISUALS PREPARATION

- **Clothesline**—Stretch out the clothesline and attach each end to a solid object, so that you can use the clothesline to hang visuals using clothespins or large paper clips during the lesson. If you opt to not use the clothesline, use tape to attach the visuals to the wall.
- **100 Years Visuals**—Cover the 100 Years 1-6 (14C-14H) visuals with gift wrap, taping the gift wrap at the top only of each visual. Tape the 100 Years visuals on the timeline before class, leaving room for the Promise 1-6 visuals (14I-14N), as shown below. (Note: The Promise visuals are shown below for your reference for placement of the visuals during class. The timeline should be one long line, not two. It has been broken into two lines in this diagram only because of the space constraints on this page.)



- **Blessing Box Gift**—Place the small gift relating to Jesus' birth in a small box and wrap with gift paper. Place this wrapped box in a slightly larger box and wrap again, and repeat two more times (the last gift box will now contain three successively smaller gift boxes). Attach the Promise Tag (14B) to the outside of the last box (The gift could also be wrapped using a series of gift bags instead of wrapped boxes.)

REVIEW SHEET

- If you opt to do the Review Sheet, this should be completed before presenting the lesson.

MATERIALS FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**1. God is Faithful Christmas Ornament**

You will need the following supplies for each child:

- › Faithful Ornament (OA-14A through OA-14C, Curriculum Resources)
- › Colorful scrapbooking paper or heavy wrapping paper
- › Double-stick tape or gluestick
- › 24-inch piece of thin ribbon or string

2. Memory Verse Game

- › Choose a Memory Verse Review Game from the Appendix section.

3. ABCs Review Game

You will need the following supplies for each small group:

- › Alphabet Cards (Curriculum Resources) for words learned thus far: Question, Incomprehensible, YHWH (*Yahweh*), Eternal, Creator, Glorious, Wise, Almighty, Sovereign, Provider, Self-Sufficient, Understanding, Attentive, and Faithful

Large Group Lesson

Illustration.....

*BLESSING BOX
WITH GIFT INSIDE*

(Choose a child to open the **Blessing Box**, take out the **gift**, and read the **Promise Tag** out loud to the class.)

❓ *What is a promise?*

- A promise is someone telling you that they will do a certain thing.
- A promise means you will keep your word: You do what you say you will do. There will be a gift inside the box.

❓ *How will [child] know for certain if I have kept my promise?*

(Instruct the child to quickly unwrap the **gift**.)

❓ *Have I kept my promise?*

(Instruct the child to quickly unwrap the **gift** two more times, and repeat the question after each unwrapping—*Have I kept my promise?*)

- It may seem like I have not kept my promise yet.
- The unwrapped gift was not what you expected.
- This class may begin to doubt whether or not I will keep my promise: Will there really be a gift inside? Or just more wrapped boxes?

❓ *Why would it be important for someone to keep a promise? Does it really matter?*

- Keeping a promise is important, because it proves whether or not someone can be trusted.
- When someone is trustworthy and keeps his promises, we say that he is “faithful.”

❓ *How will you know whether or not I have been “faithful” in keeping my promise?*

(Tell the child to return to his seat and explain to him that later in the lesson you will have him come up and unwrap the gift again.)

.....

❓ *Do people always keep their promises? [No.] Why not?*

- Sometimes people purposely lie to avoid doing something, like saying “I promise I will do the dishes after I play outside.”

- Sometimes people forget and don't remember that they made a promise.
- Sometimes people are not able to keep a promise even if they try, like if your daddy says: "I promise we will go to the zoo on Friday." But when Friday comes, your daddy is sick and cannot take you.

❓ *What about God? Is He always faithful in keeping His promises? Could something happen that would make God not able to keep a promise?*



(Hold up the **S-Sovereign** visual, and review that God is sovereign. He has the right, wisdom, and power to do all that He pleases.)

- Nothing can stop God from keeping a promise. He is always able to do what He says He will do.
- God is always able to be faithful.

❓ *But does God ever lie so that He can avoid having to do something later? Does He say one thing, knowing that He really doesn't intend to do it?*

CLOTHESLINE AND CLOTHESPINS OR PAPER CLIPS, OR USE TAPE ON THE WALL, AND THE PROMISE 1-2, RED SEA PARTING, AND PROMISE 4-6 VISUALS

(Use the **clothesline and clothespins or paper clips**, or **tape** on the wall and the corresponding **visuals** as you briefly recall some of God's promises. Attach each visual to the line in chronological order from left to right, starting with the **Promise 1-Flood** visual.)

- God promised to destroy the world with a flood, but save Noah and his family.
- Was this a lie, or did God keep His promise?
- The flood came and destroyed the earth while Noah and his family were kept safe in the ark.
- God is faithful. He kept His promise.

(Display and hang the **Promise 2-Son** visual.)

- God promised to give Abraham and Sarah a baby in their old age.
- Was this a lie, or did God keep His promise?
- Sarah gave birth to Isaac in her old age.

(Have the children recite with you...)

God is faithful. He kept His promise.

(Display and hang the third promise visual, the **Red Sea Parting**.)

- God promised to free His people Israel from their slavery in Egypt.
- Was this a lie, or did God keep His promise?
- God sent the plagues against Egypt and led His people out of Egypt, through the Red Sea.

God is faithful. He kept His promise.

(Display and hang the **Promise 4-Jericho** visual.)

- God promised that Israel would have victory over the mighty city of Jericho.
- Was this a lie, or did God keep His promise?
- God instructed Joshua to have Israel walk around the city, and blow trumpets and shout. Then God caused the mighty walls of Jericho to fall down.

God is faithful. He kept His promise.

- Many years later, before Joshua died, he reminded the people of Israel about how God had kept His promises.

(Read Joshua 23:14.)

Joshua 23:14—And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.

❓ *How many promises did God keep? [every single promise]*

- God never lies. When He says He will do something, He does it.
- God never fails to keep a promise. He is faithful.

❓ *But could God ever forget to keep a promise? Has He made too many promises to keep track of? Or maybe over a long time, will He forget about one?*

(Display the **Promise 5-Savior** visual, and place it to the left of the **Promise 1-Flood** visual on the **timeline**.)

- After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God made a very special promise. A promise of a very special gift: He promised to one day send someone who would save His people from their sin.
- Years and years passed...

(Point to the **events** on the **timeline**.)

- ...but still no Savior came.

(Display the **Promise 6-Baby** visual, and place it directly to the right of the **Promise 4-Jericho** visual on the **timeline**.)

- God began to give His people more clues about the promised Savior.
- God's promised Savior would be born as a little baby. He would be born to a virgin in Bethlehem (Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2).

GIFT WRAP-
COVERED 100
YEARS 1-6 VISUALS

- Would God keep His promise?

(Choose a child to lift the **gift wrap** from the first **100 Years** visual to reveal the visual underneath. Quickly repeat this with the other **100 Years** visuals.)

This is lots and lots of years. That is more years than any of us have been alive. Had God forgotten His special promise during all that time? Might it have seemed like what happened to [child with gift]—always waiting and hoping that there would be a gift inside?

GIFT AND
FAITHFUL VISUAL

(Give the **gift** to the child again and have him unwrap the final layer to reveal the gift inside.)

- I did not forget my promise to [child's name], even though it might have seemed like it.

(Place the **Faithful** visual to the right of the last **100 Years** visual.)

Yes, it may have seemed that God had forgotten His promise. But God IS faithful. He always does what He says He will do. Always!

- God kept His promise and sent His people a Savior.
- Jesus is God's promised Savior.

(Display the **F-Faithful** visual.)



God is faithful. He always does what He says He will do.

Small Group Application

Choose one or more of the following suggestions for interacting with the children during this time:

Workbook

Instruct the children to turn to the large letter “F” for “Faithful” in the workbook and have them read and repeat with you the definition printed on the page. Next, read and discuss the memory verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:24. Instruct them to underline the words “he will surely do it.” Then have them decorate the letter and the illustration.

Why is it important to know that God is faithful and will always do what He says He will do? Can you really completely trust someone if you don't know whether or not he will keep his promise? Why not? How does it feel when someone doesn't keep a promise that he made to you?

Recalling God's Promises

Ask the children if they can recall some promises that God has made in the Bible and/or use some of the following:

Deuteronomy 7:9 (to keep loving His people)

Psalm 34:15 (to watch over and hear the cry of His people)

Isaiah 41:13 (to help His people)

John 3:16 (to give eternal life to those who believe in Jesus)

1 Corinthians 10:13 (to provide escape in times of temptation)

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (to provide protection from Satan)

Hebrews 13:5 (to never leave you)

1 John 1:9 (to forgive when you confess your sin)

Can you think of a time when trusting in one of God's promises helped you in a difficult situation? (Be ready to share from your own experience.) Is there a certain promise you are having a hard time believing that God can keep? Are there examples of God's faithfulness in the Bible that could help give you more confidence? Is God able to keep a promise even when it seems impossible to us (like God keeping His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a baby even though they were too old)?

“Warning” Promises

Ask the children if they think that God only makes “nice” promises, the kinds of promises people like to hear. Point out that in the lesson there was a promise God made that people didn't want to hear:

God promised to send a flood to destroy the world, including all the wicked people who did not trust and obey God. Was God faithful to keep this promise, too? Why? [because He is faithful and always does what He says He will do] Can you think of any other promises people might not want God to keep? [e.g., Psalm 1:6 and Mark 16:16] Will God stop being faithful just because people don't like a certain promise? Because God is always faithful, how should we act toward Him? Should we pay attention to His warning promises?

Trusting God to Keep His Promises

Ask the children to recall what they felt like when the child had unwrapped the gift from the Blessing Box three times and still didn't find the hoped for present inside.

Did you start to wonder if the teacher had been telling the truth? How long did [the child] have to wait to finally see the present? How long is that compared to how long God's people waited for the promise of a Savior? Do you ever feel as if God was “slow” in keeping a certain promise? What was it? Is it sometimes hard to trust God and believe that He knows just the right timing for keeping His promise? Why is it important to keep on trusting in His faithfulness even when we can't see Him keeping a promise right away?

Jesus, the Best Promise of All

Read and discuss the promise that God made to Joseph from Matthew 1:21.

How did God keep His promise to save His people through Jesus? What did Jesus do to save His people? Why was Jesus the best promise of all?

Thanking God for His Faithfulness

Take a few minutes and have the children make a list of promises that God has kept—both biblical examples and personal ones. Have a time of prayer thanking God for His faithfulness.

Optional Activities

If time allows, choose one of the following optional activities:

1. Faithful Ornament

Before Class: Print one copy of **Faithful Ornament** in color on cardstock for each child. Cut out the three hexagon ornament pieces. Using one of the ornament pieces as a template, cut three additional hexagon pieces for each child out of colorful scrapbook paper or heavy wrapping paper. Fold each ribbon/string in half and tie the ends together in a big knot.

In Class: Have the children fold each of their six hexagon ornament pieces in half vertically with the fronts facing each other. Put tape or glue on a back half of the first ornament piece and attach it to a back half of the second ornament piece, lining up the edges. Put tape or glue on the other back half of the second piece and attach it to the third piece. Continue until all of the ornament pieces are attached in a stack. Be careful to make sure all of the images are facing the same direction. Pull the ornament open and lay the ribbon or string down the center of the ornament (against the folds). The knot should be just below the bottom of the ornament with the loop at the top. Tape or glue the ribbon to the center of the ornament to secure it. Tape or glue the open halves from the first and last pieces together to complete the ornament. Tie a knot in the ribbon at the top of the ornament.

Note: If you are short on time, you can remove some of the hexagon ornament pieces or create a flat ornament by gluing just two pieces back-to-back with the ribbon between them. If, on the other hand, you have more time, some of the cutting could be done by the children.

2. Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Review Game from the Appendix section.

3. ABCs Review Game

Play the ABCs Review Game (similar to the game of concentration) using the **Alphabet Cards** for words learned thus far: Question, Incomprehensible, YHWH (*Yahweh*), Eternal, Creator, Glorious, Wise, Almighty, Sovereign, Provider, Self-Sufficient, Understanding, Attentive, and Faithful. Place the cards face down on a table, making sure that they are shuffled well. Have each child take a turn flipping two cards over. If they are for the same attribute of God, that player wins the pair and gets another turn. If they don't match, the next child takes a turn.

Send Home

- Growing in Faith Together Page for Lesson 14 (one per child)

F

Faithful

God always does what

He says He will do.

A PROMISE

**Inside is
a Gift
for You**

100
YEARS

14C

100
YEARS

14D

100
YEARS

14E

100
YEARS

14F

Sample

100
YEARS

14G

100
YEARS

14H

Sample





Sample



Sample Savior



A Special Baby Will Be Born



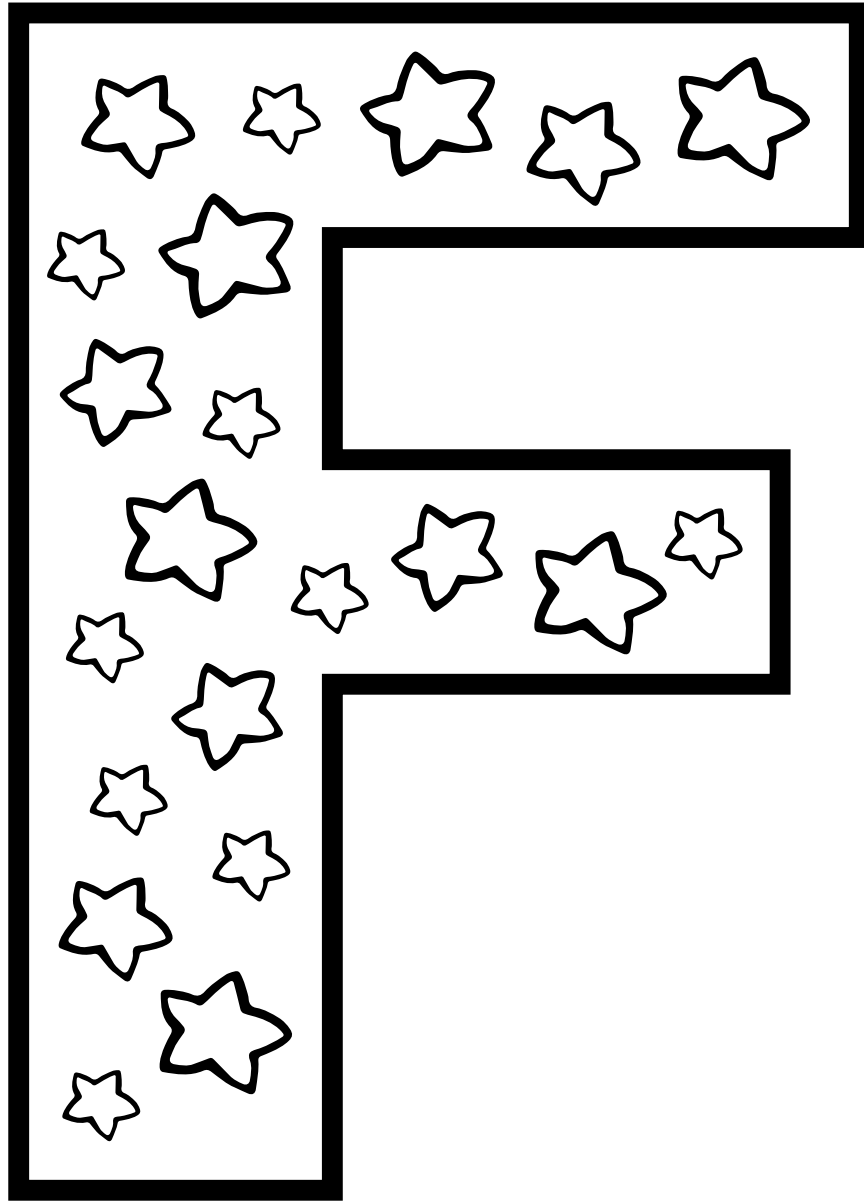
God is Faithful

JESUS IS BORN



Sample

Faithful



God always does what
He says He will do.

He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

—1 Thessalonians 5:24

Sample





Faithful

MAIN IDEA

- **God always does what He says He will do.**

MEMORY VERSE

He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

—1 Thessalonians 5:24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Joshua 23:14
- 2) Matthew 1:21



LESSON SUMMARY

In this lesson, we reviewed the amazing testimony of God's faithfulness to all His promises: sending a flood and saving Noah and his family, giving Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age, delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt, the defeat at Jericho so Israel might enter the land... every promise fulfilled. But one promise, given before all these, had remained unfulfilled—the promise of a Savior for God's sinful, and often faithless, people.

Amazingly, God had made this wonderful promise in the midst of Adam and Eve's failure—a promise to send a perfect Deliverer to crush the power of Satan, sin, and death. And throughout the Old Testament we see the extraordinary faithfulness of God as He keeps promise after promise, pointing forward and culminating in the long-awaited arrival of the Deliverer—Jesus, the Holy Son of God. God always keeps His promises!

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child sees God's perfect faithfulness revealed, he or she may experience God as a bedrock of certainty. He is trustworthy in all His words and deeds.*
- *that your child will grow to have an unshakeable confidence in God in every situation.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the meaning of "God is faithful." **Can you think of a time when trusting in one of God's promises helped you in a difficult situation? Is there a certain promise that you are having a hard time believing that God can keep? Are there examples of God's faithfulness in the Bible that could help give you more confidence? Is God able to keep a promise even when it seems impossible to us?** (For example: God keeping His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a baby even though they were too old.)
- **Does God only make "nice" promises, the kinds of promises people like to hear? When God promised to send a flood to destroy the world, including all the wicked people, did God keep that promise too? Can you think of any other promises that people might not want God to keep?** (Example: Psalm 1:6 and Mark 16:16.)

Will God stop being faithful just because people do not like a certain promise? Because God is always faithful, how should we act toward Him? Should we pay attention to His warning promises?

- Read and discuss the promise that God made to Joseph from Matthew 1:21. How did God

keep His promise to save His people through Jesus? What did Jesus do to save His people? Why was Jesus the best promise of all? How could we show God we really believe that Jesus is the best promise of all? How could we show this to other people, too?

ACTION STEP

This week, look up the following verses in your Bible: Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 34:15; Isaiah 41:13; John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Hebrews 13:5; and 1 John 1:9. What does God promise to do in each verse? Make a list. Are there other Bible promises you can add to the list?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Then, color the picture as you memorize the verse.



He who calls you is _____;
he will surely do it.—1 Thessalonians 5:24

UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON FORMAT

The lessons in the Teacher's Guide are carefully written and designed to equip classroom volunteers in their roles. Here are some of the helpful features to guide you through the lesson.

Each lesson is focused around several key themes and passages of Scripture, which are highlighted in the gray box along with the memory verse.

Teacher Introductions help teachers prepare their own hearts with a short devotional and prayer points.

Lesson instructions also include (as needed): directions for preparing visuals, diagrams showing how to assemble more complicated visuals, notes for the following week if special advanced preparation is needed, and directions for setting up the classroom if visuals need to be hung on the wall or hidden in the room.

Two to three Optional Activities are included in each lesson for use as time allows. Some supplies are included as printable PDFs in the Curriculum Resources (in the Classroom Kit). These and other materials teachers will need to gather are listed in the opening pages of each lesson, along with preparation directions.

Visuals and other resources provided in the Curriculum Resources files or in the printed Visuals Packet are listed here. Visuals in bold can be displayed electronically.

Other supplies may need to be gathered by the teacher. Supplies needed for the workbook or application time are also noted here.

T:78

JESUS, WHAT A SAVIOR!

Lesson 9

God Makes a Promise to Abraham

MAIN IDEAS

- **God desires to make a special people for Himself.**
- **God chooses Abraham to be His friend and gives Abraham faith to trust in Him.**
- **God promises Abraham descendants from all nations.**

MEMORY VERSE

All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.—Psalm 86:9

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 12:1-2
- 2) Genesis 15:1, 5
- 3) Genesis 21:1-3
- 4) Genesis 22:1-13, 17-18
- 5) (Psalm 86:9)
- 6) (James 2:23)



TEACHER INTRODUCTION

The story of Abraham emphasizes a major theme in the Bible: justification by faith alone. As we have seen in previous lessons, all people are helpless sinners and deserve God's punishment. The only way to be a child of God is to depend totally on His saving provision. Abraham's faith expresses the extent to which he was trusting in God. Instead of depending on any ability he had within his own sinful nature, Abraham put his whole confidence in the greatness and worth of God, trusting that God would keep all of His promises (Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19). In Abraham, God revealed His purpose and promise to establish a great nation of people saved by faith—a nation that will someday include believers from all the nations and ethnic groups of the world.

As you prepare for this week's lesson, meditate on the promises of God and His power and faithfulness to keep them. Are you trusting in God alone for your salvation? Do you believe that God will keep His promises? Pray for a heart of faith that will joyfully embrace and trust in the promises of God. Pray that the children would have faith awakened in their hearts. Pray that God would use them to glorify God among the nations and gather for Himself a people from every tribe and tongue.

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- **Abram (9A)**
- **Sarai (9B)**
- **Promise (9C)**
- **Isaac (9D)**
- **Ram (9E)**
- **Stars (9F)**
- 2 Darkened Hearts and 2 Red Hearts (9G-9H)
- Growing in Faith Together for Lesson 9 (one per child)

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Bible
- 2 paper plates
- 8 crayons
- Small pile of sand (if sand is not available, use salt or sugar)
- For Application (for each child):
 - › Star stickers, sequins, or glitter glue
 - › Markers or crayons
- For Application (for each group):
 - › World map
 - › Photos of people from other nations

When visuals from the Visuals Packet or Curriculum Resources are used, some thumbnails are included in the margin so teachers can easily see what needs to be displayed. Teacher-provided visuals are also listed here.

A review is often included at the beginning of the lesson to tie it in to previous lesson themes since the curriculum builds on what has been taught.

Teachers are encouraged to lead children to discover concepts through the interactive lessons. Children with different visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning styles are engaged through a variety of illustrations, different ways of presenting Bible stories, and a range of activities included with each lesson.

Suggested wording for the teacher to use for complicated or important ideas is formatted in italics.

Points for teachers to convey in their own words are provided in plain text.

Lessons start with an introductory illustration, which prepares children for the lesson focus and lays a foundation for what will be taught. Ideas are conveyed with concrete, real-life examples.

Tips for working with visuals, interacting with students, and explaining challenging concepts are included in parentheses throughout the lesson.

Scripture is highlighted in the lesson with bold italic text, but teachers are encouraged to use their Bibles with the students during the lesson.

Lesson 9

Large Group Lesson

(Briefly review last week's lesson by asking the following types of questions.)

? *Why did God send a flood over the whole world? Did everyone die in the flood? Why did God save Noah and his family? Were they sinners, too? What had God done to Noah's sinful heart?*

- Noah loved, trusted, and obeyed God.
- He knew he was helpless to fix his sinful heart.
- He knew he deserved God's punishment. He knew that only God could help him.
- He had faith in God. He did things God's way.
- God was pleased with Noah and God covered Noah's sin.
- God saved Noah and his family from death in the flood.

Illustration.....

(Take out the **2 Paper Plates** and set them on a table or desk. Place the **8 crayons** on one **plate** and the **pile of sand** on the other. Choose two children to come to the front.)

I have special job for each of you.

You [addressing one of the children] should count the number of crayons.

And you [addressing the other] should count the number of grains of sand.

(Help the child counting the sand get started. Let the second child continue counting the grains of sand for about a minute after the other child has finished counting the crayons. Address the following questions to the child who counted the crayons.)

Did you finish counting the crayons already? How many are there? Only eight? That is such a small number. [Child's name] and I have hardly started counting the grains of sand. There are too many grains to count! There must be thousands and thousands of grains. I think we'll give up counting the sand and just say that there is more than we can count.

(Have the children return to their seats. Display the **8 crayons** for everyone to see.)

Jesus, What a Savior! © 2013 by Jill Nelson. Illustrations Truth 78.

59