LESSON 16

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM



Aim: **To teach the children that God is not in a hurry to fulfil his promises. His timing is always perfect.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 15:1-21**

Memory Verse: **Genesis 15:1**
"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask if any member of the class has ever gone outside on a dark night when there was no moon and tried to count the stars. It is impossible. There are so many of them!

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. God once told Abraham to go outside and count the stars. Abraham was feeling very sad, even though he had won a great battle and rescued Lot (see Lesson 15). He and Sarah still had no children, so one of his servants would inherit all his riches when he died. **Show Picture 16.** Still, God told him that his descendants would be like the stars in the sky – too many to be counted. Abraham believed the Lord (15:1-6).
2. God was pleased with Abraham and renewed the promise of a land of his own (15:6-7).
3. God made a special agreement or covenant with Abraham to show that he meant to keep his promises. God told Abraham to prepare a special sacrifice of a young cow, a goat, a ram, a dove and a pigeon by cutting each animal in half (15:8-11).
4. As the sun was setting God put Abraham into a deep sleep. He told him about some of the things that would happen to his descendants in the future. Then God sent fire between the two halves of the animal sacrifices to show that he accepted them; that sealed the covenant between Abraham and himself (15:12-20).

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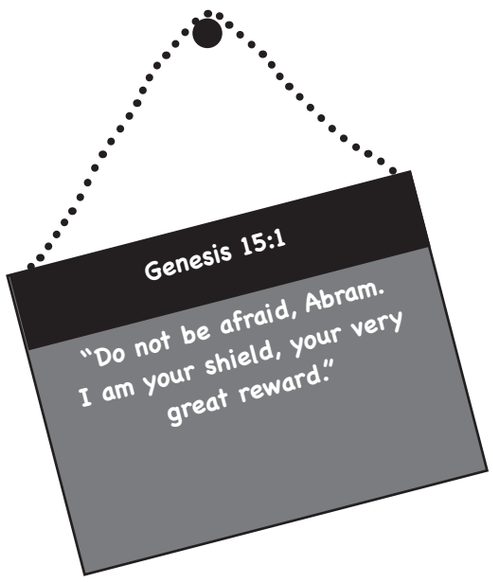


Instil the Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Ask the class if there are times in their families when special agreements are made – perhaps when people enter into marriage? God made this very special agreement with Abraham, promising him that some things would happen. In the years to come Abraham would remember God's promise every time he looked up at the stars. He had to keep faith that, when the time was right, God would fulfil his promise.

We find God's promises in the Bible. They are there for us to believe and act on. Everybody who takes God at his word will experience God's blessing, just like Abraham did.



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