

**OVERCOMING CHURCH OF GOD OF
AMERICA, INC.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL & H.Y.P.U

2019

**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

God's Promises

God's Gifts

Day 1

God's Promise to Abraham

Once there was a man named Abram. One day the Lord came to talk to Abram, and Abram asked, "Who will have all my things when I die". God promised Abram and his wife Sarai that one day they would be parents, even though they were old and had no children. God wasn't sure that Abram understood. So that night He took him outside, and said, "Do you see all the stars that are in the sky"? When Abram looked up, the whole night sky was full of stars, so many in fact that he would never be able to count them. Then God said, "That is how many children you will have". Quite a few years later when Abram was ninety-nine years old (older than even your grandparents) the Lord decided to change Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many." He also changed Sarai's name to Sarah.

God told them again that they would be parents and that they would have a boy. This time Abraham laughed so hard he fell on his face! It was hard to believe that he and Sarah would have a child in their old age.

One day three visitors came to Abraham's house. He hurried to meet them. "May I get you something to eat and drink?" Abraham asked. "Please come in and join us and have a rest."

The visitors agreed, so Abraham brought them some fresh food. While the visitors were eating, they asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" Abraham thought this was a little strange, but he replied, "She's in the other room". Then one of the men spoke and said, "I will come back to see you at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening behind the living room door. She started to laugh but covered her mouth and laughed to herself because she didn't want to be heard. Then she said to herself, "How can I have a child, I'm almost one hundred years old?" Later when the visitors had left, Abraham and Sarah realized that the man who had told them this was indeed God. A year later Sarah did have a son. She and Abraham named him Isaac, which means "he laughs." They were very excited and remembered to thank God for Isaac.

1. Ask the class What is a Promise?
2. promise-a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.
3. Welcome activity: Draw a picture of Abraham and Sarah and baby Isaac.

Biblical Background Genesis 21:1-7

Day 2

God Promise to Noah

The story of Noah is amazing! It includes a family, all the animals of the earth, a huge boat, a flood and why we have rainbows. It all starts with Noah. Did you know that after Noah was 500 years old, he had 3 sons? I don't know about you, but I've only met one or two people that were 100 years old and they were old! After Noah was 500 years old things started getting very interesting for him. One day as God was thinking about the people on earth His heart became very sad. He could see that all the people had become very bad, so bad that they stopped thinking of anything good. God was so sad and hurt that he wanted to get rid of every person and all the creatures that He had made. He wanted all the evil to stop.

The thing about God is that He gets very angry at our sin and all the bad stuff in the world, but we also know that God is love. God IS love, so that means that He can be disappointed when we do bad things, but He still loves us, and that's why He remembered Noah.

Noah was the only one that was righteous (which means that he did things right). He was a good guy and he walked with God. So, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all the people because the earth is full of fighting because of them. I am going to destroy them and the earth."

God then gave Noah instructions on how to make the boat. He told him what kind of wood and how big to make it. He also told him to put a door in the side of the ark and to make it with three floors.

The ark was humongous! We'll get to that more later in the story. The Bible says that next God told Noah that He would make a covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement with a promise. He would save Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. They would be safe in the ark because God was going to flood the whole earth and everything else would die.

I'm missing one other BIG thing that's going in the ark with Noah and his family... and that is... The animals! Two of all living creature's male and female (or the boy and girl of each). Plus, two of every kind of bird and every creature that moves along the ground. Then food for each of them for as long as they were on the boat. Yikes! That's a lot of animals and a lot of food. I think it would've been a very full, noisy, stinky place to be, but they would all be safe. Some people think it took over 100 years to build the ark and the Bible says that Noah was 600 years old when the flood waters came. Keep in mind that Noah was building a big ark because God told him to. I have a feeling Noah and his family were teased a lot from the other people. What if your neighbor started building a huge boat on your street? It would sound a little strange... When the ark was done God gave Noah 7 days warning before the flood to get all the animals and food on board and told him that He would send rain for 40 days and 40 nights.

When everyone was in the ark God shut the door. Then the rain started. The Bible makes it sound like the rain came from the clouds and that there was also water coming up from the ground. So, everything probably was covered quickly. The floods kept coming for 40 whole days! The ark floated on the water and all the high mountains were completely covered with water.

Every living thing died on the earth that wasn't in the ark.

So, the rain came for 40 days and nights but when it stopped Noah and the animals couldn't just leave the ark. There was too much water and no land for them to walk on, everything was covered. The waters flooded the earth for one hundred and fifty days, which is about five months. God remembered Noah and all that was in the ark, so he sent a wind to help dry the earth.

Finally, in the seventh month after the floods had stopped the ark rested on the top of a mountain. A little while after that (40 days) Noah opened a window he had made for the ark and probably let in some fresh air! Ha! Even more importantly he let a raven out. It would fly back and forth to the ark until the water had dried. Then he sent out a dove, but the dove couldn't find any place to go. He waited a week and then sent the dove out again. This time the dove came back with an olive leaf which meant the waters had gone down. He waited one more week and let the dove out again and this time it didn't return. From the way the Bible describes Noah, his family and the animals were in the boat for just over a year or 370 days! That's a long time to be on a boat with all those animals. When the earth had dried up enough God told Noah that everyone could get out of the boat. That probably was a very happy day! Maybe a little uncertain as well. There would be no one but them on earth and they would have to start all over building a house, collecting food...there wasn't a big grocery store waiting for them when they got off the ark.

Then Noah built an altar to thank God for keeping them safe. When God saw what Noah had done, he told Noah that he would never again curse the ground even if people became very bad. Then he made his official covenant with Noah and with all the animals. God would never bring a flood to kill all living creatures and destroy the whole earth again. Then he gave them a sign for everyone to see this promise. He put a rainbow in the sky and that's to remind us of the promise God made to Noah, the animals and us today! So, whenever you see a rainbow say a little prayer and thank God that he loves us and that He keeps His promises.

1. What was a sign of the promise? Every time we see the _____ it reminds us that God Keeps his promises.
2. Biblical Background History of Noah Genesis 6:14-22 7:1-24 8:1-11 Focus Scriptures 9:12-17
3. And God said, this is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations. I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.
4. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, this is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.
5. Welcome activity: Draw an Ark on Brown Construction Paper and allow the children to draw animals, Noah and family Biblical Background Genesis 6:14-22 7:1-24 8:1-11

Day 3

Promises of Seed

While Jesus was with his disciples and went around teaching to all the crowds who came to hear him, He often spoke in parables. A parable isn't a true story, it's a story that Jesus made up to teach a lesson. Have you ever heard of the story of Goldie Locks and the Three Bears? How about the Three Little Pigs? These stories are easy to remember, just like a parable. Jesus told them so the people would remember them. The difference between children's stories and parables is that children's stories are too make believe, bears don't talk and live in houses, and neither do pigs. But while the stories Jesus told weren't real stories, they were about real-life things. They were for adults and didn't have cartoons or make-believe characters. Even though you are young, you can learn these stories too. They show us how to act towards others, how to please God, and they teach us things about what Heaven is like and how we can live with him someday. After Jesus told a parable he would explain what it meant, but he only told people that were his real friends and really wanted to know him better.

An example of a longer parable is the one about the farmer, it goes something like this: Jesus had gone out and sat by the lake by himself. Soon such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat near the shore and people stood on the land to hear him. Then he began telling them parables: A farmer went out to plant his garden. As he was throwing the seed on the ground some fell on the hard path nearby and the birds came and ate them. The next seeds fell near some rocks the farmer had in a pile nearby. There was not much dirt around the rocks, so the seeds started to sprout and grow the next day. When seeds aren't planted in the dirt, they don't grow roots which help them stay strong and wet, which help them grow properly. So, in the afternoon when the sun was very hot the little plants that started to grow among the rocks withered away and died because they had no root in the ground. As the farmer continued to throw seeds onto the ground some of the seeds fell among the weeds and thorns that he hadn't pulled out. The thorns grew faster and taller than the seeds, so the seeds couldn't get enough sunlight and were choked out by the thorns. Finally, some seed fell on the good soil that the farmer had worked and dug holes for the seed to go into. Those seeds made plants and those plants produced lots and lots of vegetables. After Jesus told the parable the disciples asked what it meant. He knew that they would really listen and wanted to get to know him better, so He told them what it meant. It goes something like this: Just like when you're listening to you Sunday School teacher, your parents or pastor. They are trying to tell you more about God and about how to get to Heaven someday. When they talk to you about these things, they are planting a pretend seed in your mind. The seed is a story about Jesus and as you learn more the seed grows and gets bigger and you eventually will know lots about God and be able to tell others about Him. If you hear them talking about Jesus but don't understand, you need to ask questions. If you don't ask, you will forget what you learned, and it will be like the seeds that fell on the path that were eaten by the birds. You will forget and the seed will be gone from your mind and it won't grow.

Sometimes you might learn something about God, and you will be excited about it but you don't learn more. It helps to read Bible stories and pray and go to church if you can. If you don't do any of these things you won't have a good friendship with God.

So, if you don't learn more about God the pretend seed in your mind won't grow and it will be like the seed that fell on the rocks. It grew only for a short time and then it died.

The next seed is the one that was choked out by the thorns. This can happen when you hear a lesson about God and then you start to worry about all kinds of things. You might worry about your parents, your friends, or if you have all the coolest stuff. By worrying you will choke out the pretend seed in your mind. Pray to God instead of worrying!

The last seed is the best, it fell on the good ground. If you learn from what you hear in Sunday School and church, the seed in your mind will grow. You will be able to tell others about how great God is and God will be a good friend. Instead of growing a garden, you will be helping others know God and making Heaven grow with more people to live there.

1. What seeds are you sowing? Are you sowing on good ground?
2. Biblical scriptures Luke 8:4-15
3. Tell them why it is so important to sow on good ground because you will always reap a Good harvest.
4. Draw pictures of seeds you would like to sow.

Day 4

God's Gifts

This story is called the Parable of the Talents. A parable is a type of story Jesus would tell so we would learn something from it.

Jesus' stories had more than one meaning. For example, this story is about talents which was a super large amount of money in Bible times. Today a talent might be worth a million dollars! A talent in this story can also mean our gifts or abilities. Something special and amazing God gives just to you, almost like a superpower. The parable starts like this: A man decided to go on a long trip, so he called his servants and asked them to take care of his house, his stuff and his money.

Keep in mind that the man in this story is like God and the man's servants are God's people (you and me!) The man in this story trusted his servants and believed that they would take care of his special and valuable things. The man decided to give one servant five talents of money (let's say that it's about five million dollars), to another he gave two talents (or two million) and to the last servant he gave one talent. He gave each servant a large amount he thought they could handle or according to their ability.

Our abilities are our special gifts that God gave to each of us. He made some of us smarter about some things than others. Some of us are good at memorizing, some of us are better at certain sports, and some of us are better at knowing how to help others. Some can solve problems better and some are more generous. Our ability is something special we have that's different than anyone else. Back to the story, the man left on his trip and the servants each did something with the money that they received. The man with the five talents went right away and used his money and got five more! The man with the two talents also used his money wisely and gained two more talents.

But the man with one talent took his talent and buried it in the ground to keep the money safe. He didn't even try to do something with it. He reminds me a bit like a dog that buries a bone. He had lots of time to do something with his money. He could've bought some seeds and planted a garden and made some money, but he didn't do anything!

After a nice long trip, the master came back and wanted to know what his servants did with his money. The first man with the five talents said, "You trusted me with five talents, and I made five more!" His master smiled and replied, "Great job, good and faithful servant!" You are trustworthy with a few things so I will put you in charge of lots of things. Come celebrate with me! I think it's interesting that the master says he trusted him with a FEW things. He gave him five million dollars! That's ALOT of things. But to this master it was small compared to what he would give and trust him with now.

Then the man with the two talents came and said, "You trusted me with two talents, and I made two more!"

His master smiled and replied, "Great job, good and faithful servant!" You are trustworthy with a few things so I will put you in charge of lots of things. Come celebrate with me! Then the man who

received the one talent came and told his master, "I know you work hard for your money, so I was afraid to lose any of it. I decided to bury it and keep it safe. Here is your one talent back." The master was not impressed and said, "You lazy servant!" "At the very least you could've taken the money to the bank and you would've at least collected some interest from it." He immediately took the talent away from the man and gave it to the first man who used his money to make more. The point Jesus was trying to make is that if you use your special gifts and abilities God will give you more to keep doing these things you are good at. He will trust you with so much more.

1. Biblical History Matthew 25:14-30

2. If you have a chance to do something for God that he gave you special abilities for and you don't do it, you will lose your special gift.

3. What do you think your gifts are? Make a list of three gifts you think you have.

4. Are you using your gifts?

#1. Major Point God considers you very valuable and trusts you to do something for him using your gifts and abilities. If you have a chance to do something and don't because you want to watch tv, play video games or because you just don't want to do anything; God will take that valuable gift and give it someone who is doing something with their gifts. Maybe you're not sure what your special abilities are yet.

#2. Major Point Listen and watch when others compliment you or notice something good about what you're doing. To you it might be something small but to God it's a special and very valuable gift that only you can give. If you keep using it God will continue to make it bigger and better. Also try to encourage and compliment others if you notice something special in them. Your friends, teachers and parents might forget that God put something special in them and you might see it. Tell them that they're good at it and remind them that it's a special ability given to them by God.

Day 5

God Gave Solomon the Gift of Wisdom

1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 3:5-6, Kings 3:16-28

God gave Solomon the amazing gift of wisdom. As a result, he became famous for his wisdom and was able to pass it along to us through writing the book of Proverbs. The Bible teaches us everything that we need to know. Today our vacation bible class will learn that God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom and in turn, he was able to give us wisdom through the writing of the book of Proverbs.

1 Kings 4. Says, *God gave Solomon more wisdom than anyone else in the world. He knew more things than there are grains of sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than all the people in the west and all the people in the east. He was so smart that people all over the world heard about him and he was famous. He taught people about plants, animals, birds, reptiles, and fish. Everyone who heard about his wisdom came to learn from him. But that's not all.*

The story related in Kings 3:16-28, tells of two prostitutes who came before King Solomon, bringing with them a single baby boy. Each mother told the same story: that they both lived together, that both had given birth to a truth. child, that one child was dead in the morning and that the live child was hers. God gave Solomon wisdom to expose the truth. *Solomon wrote down his wisdom in the Bible in a book called Proverbs so that we can learn from him too!* Take your Bible and show the class Proverbs. Read a few verses to them in you want. *Solomon's wisdom came from God. Solomon was able to write down what he knew in the Bible so that we could learn from it too! The Bible teaches us how to live. God gave Solomon the amazing gift of wisdom.*

As a result, he became famous for his wisdom and was able to pass it along to us through writing the book of Proverbs. The Bible teaches us everything that we need to know. God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom and in turn, he was able to give us wisdom through the writing of the book of Proverbs

Proverbs 3:5-6. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.*

*"Trust in the LORD
with all your heart
and do not lean
on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will direct your path."*

Point to the sky
Use your fingers to draw a heart around your heart
Lean to one side
Tap your temple
Point to the sky
Move your arm in a straight path from your chin

1. Ask the class what is wisdom?

Wisdom-the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise.

2. We need wisdom from God to live a life to serve God.

3. Can you relate to the story when Solomon had to use his wisdom between the two mothers, where one had a dead baby, and the other a living baby?

4. Can you relate to similar situations when someone told a lie on you at school and it took the teacher to expose the truth because they used wisdom?