

Let Your Light So Shine



Unit 2

Abraham's Descendants

Lesson - 25 min

If completing the lesson activity, explain it here and start passing the paper.

Before reading the Bible verses of the day, give some background on Abraham, Abraham lived around 2000 B.C. and was named Abram. God called him to start a new nation in Canaan and changed his name to Abraham which means "father of a multitude." Abraham obeyed God and traveled to Canaan, and waited years, but his wife Sarah did not have a baby. To start a new nation, Abraham would need children, so he was puzzled. In Genesis 15:1-6 we hear Abraham asking God about this.

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

What did God ask Abraham to count? (The stars.) Have you ever looked at a night sky with stars? Have you ever tried to count them? Is this an easy task or a difficult one? Why? Why do you think God asked Abraham to try to count the stars? (Because He wanted Abraham to understand how many descendants he would have.) At this point complete the Lesson Activity.

How did Abraham respond to God telling him this? (He believed God.) Abraham gives all of us a lesson in trusting God. Sometimes it can take a long time for things to happen. Have you ever had to wait for something? Sarah was 90 years old, and Abraham was one hundred years old before they had a baby. That was a long wait for the descendants that God promised. But Abraham trusted in God.



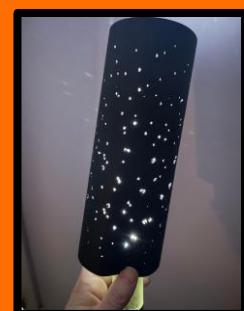
Lesson Activity

Supplies Needed: black paper with a piece of cardboard underneath it, a pencil, tape, flashlight, timer

As you go over the lesson and discuss Abraham, pass a piece of black paper on top of cardboard around to the students. Have each student punch a few holes into the black paper before passing it to the next person. You can set a repeating timer to help them remember to pass it at the appropriate time. When directed in the lesson, roll the black paper into a tube and tape it this way. Place it vertically on the table and shine the flashlight into the tube. The holes should let the light shine through like stars.

Video Connection:

God's Story of Abraham and Sarah:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdqrwGJYePQ>



Games

Star Seeker – 10 min

Supplies Needed: glow in the dark stars or paper stars

In a pitch-black room, place glow in the dark stars. Students then seek the stars. Make the connection to Abraham and how he gazed at the stars to understand God's promise to multiply his descendants. If you do not have a dark room or glow in the dark stars available, neon paper stars could be hidden.

After all the stars are found, have the students help you hide them again for the next group.

Follow the Star – 15 min

Supplies Needed: cut out star and tape or star sticker

Hold a star and act as the group leader. Much like in the game following the leader, the students line up behind you and copy what the leader does and where they go. Make the connection to Abraham following God's teaching which led him to have descendants that outnumber the stars. Some tasks could include jumping, skipping, climbing over a chair, going outside or in and out a door, zig zagging, or spinning. After a few minutes, pass the star to the student behind you and allow them to be the leader. Continue this until everyone has had a turn.



Apolytikion of Abraham – Tone 1

In the night universal of ignorance toward God, and in that starless, profound gloom bereft of heavenly light, thou, O Abraham, wast kindled in the firmament, burning with bright far-shining faith in the Everlasting Light, Who shone forth to us from thy seed. Do thou entreat Him with fervor, that He enlighten us and save our souls.

Craft & Snack

Star Mobile – 25 min

Supplies Needed: paper plates, coloring supplies, paper stars, fairy lights, glue, glitter glue

Have students color both sides of a paper plate. Next spiral cut the paper plate and attach a pipe cleaner to the center of the plate to function as a hanger for the mobile. Glue stars onto the paper plate strands. Glitter glue may be added to the plate if desired. When completed, string a strand of fairy lights throughout the paper plate spiral, so it can be lit when hung.



Star Trail Mix & Stackers – 25min

Star trail mix: Have students combine infant puff star snacks with Cheerios and M&Ms to represent the stars, planets, and galaxy. You could add star sprinkles to this mixture as well. Make a connection by asking students to try to count all the stars like Abraham.

Star stackers: Using a star cookie cutter, have students cut bread, ham, and cheese slices into star shapes. Students can stack these to make mini sandwiches. Watermelon or brownies could also be cut into star shapes to serve.



Ending – 5 min

Questions to follow up on: Why was Abraham made the Father of all Nations? (Because of his faith in God.) When we look up at the night sky, we should think of Abraham and his faith and trust in God. It is a reminder that we are all descendants of Abraham and called to follow God.