

# WEEK 1

## GOD'S PLAN REVEALED

### GOD CHOSE A SPECIAL PEOPLE

#### ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

## THE FOUR KEYS . . .

## KEY VERSE

They shall be My people, and I will be their God. Jeremiah 32:38

## KEY IDEAS

1. God chooses people.
2. God gives His people a purpose.
3. God's plan is for the good of all people.

## KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 12:1-9

## KEY PRINCIPLES



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God chose the people of Israel for a special purpose to bring salvation to the whole world.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

thankful that God always had a plan to bring salvation to all people and that He keeps His promises.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

explain how God's purpose for the people of Israel would help all the people of the world.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to keep their promises just like God keeps His promises.

# INTRODUCTION

God was not taken by surprise when sin entered the world because He created mankind with the freedom to choose Him and because He knows all things. But God always had a plan to rescue man from sin and death, even from the beginning. His plan would involve a special people that He would make a promise to. That promise was to protect them and make a great nation out of them so that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, could come through them and bring blessing and salvation to all people on earth. This Messiah was Jesus and the people God made His promise to were the Israelites, starting with Abraham. All through the Old Testament, we see God protecting Israel and keeping His promise to them. God would not let anything stop His plan to save the world!

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin by asking the class “What does it mean to make a promise?” Ask them to describe a time when they have made a promise. Did they keep it? Explain that we aren't always very good at keeping the promises we make. We might have really good intentions to do what we say we'll do, but sometimes we forget or decide we'd rather do something different. But God keeps every single promise He makes, and we can see that in reading His Word. Today we're going to talk about a promise He made to Abram (later Abraham) and how in keeping that promise, God brought blessing and salvation to the whole world through His son Jesus.

## KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 12:1-9. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- God chooses people.
  - Why does God choose people? God does not need anything from His creation, so God does not need anything from people. But God loves us and wants to have fellowship with us, so He chooses or appoints people for specific tasks that achieve His purposes for the sake of His glory and love for us. (Ps. 8:4-6)
  - How does God choose people? God knows everything about the people He creates, so He knows what tasks are best suited for us. God draws all people to Himself by convicting our hearts to turn to Him and obey. When we follow Him in obedience, God gives us purpose. (Deut. 7:6, 1 Peter 2:9, John 15:6)
- God gives His people a purpose.
  - What purpose did God give to Abram (Abraham)? God promised Abram that he would become the father of many nations. Through the nation of Israel, God would bring Jesus, the Messiah and Savior of the world.
  - What purpose does God give to us if we follow Jesus? Our mission in Christ is to go and make disciples of all people, telling them about the love of God and the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- God's plan is for the good of all.
  - How was God's promise to Abram kept? God kept His promise to Abram by giving him a son, Isaac, who was the son God promised would inherit the blessing. Through Isaac and his descendants, God built the nation of Israel. (Gen. 21:1-7)
  - How did God's plan for Israel bring good to the whole world? God's plan for the salvation of the world was always to redeem it through His son Jesus. Jesus had to come through a bloodline of people who only followed God and not idols so that it would be pure and undefiled. God's promise was to build the nation of Israel and keep them from idols so that the bloodline to the Messiah, the Redeemer of the world, would be holy. Through this nation the whole world could be saved. (Is. 9:6-7)

## Activity

Guide the children in building a family tree of Jesus to show the lineage that He came through. Discuss key people and how they all were given special tasks so that God could protect and keep Israel pure, following Him only. Tree should include at least: Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob, Rahab, Boaz & Ruth, David & Bathsheba, Mary & Joseph, Jesus.

## Prayer

Thank God for choosing a special people to be part of His plan to save the world from sin. Ask God to help you more fully understand His plan in Jesus and trust that He has a special purpose for you, too.

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Jeremiah 32:38.

Give your child a task at the beginning of the week. Tell them that you will help them to complete the task and make a promise to them that at the end of the week, you will bless them. Be sure to choose a “blessing” that is something they can share with others, maybe friends or other family members outside of your immediate family. At the end of the week, regardless of their ability or inability to complete the task assigned on their own, fulfill your promise to them. Remind them that God’s promises are not based on our ability to keep our end of the deal. God’s promises are given because He is good and He has a plan. Then He gives us the task to share that blessing with others.

Read more about the story of Abraham in Genesis 13:14-18, 15:1-6, 16:1-4, 17:1-8 and 15-22, 18:1-15, and finally 21:1-6.

## DISCUSSION

- **Throughout the story of Abraham, how many times did God remind Abraham of His promise?**  
God reminded Abraham at least 5 times of the promise He had made.
- **Why do you think it was hard at times for Abraham to not doubt God’s promise?**  
Abraham and Sarah were both past child bearing years, and God was slow to fulfill His promise in their eyes. Abraham tried to take matters into his own hands with Hagar when Sarah could not have a child, and it did not go well for him. God reminded him again that He would keep His promise.
- **Have there been times in your life when it was hard to believe God?**
- **How can we trust in hard times that God will do as He says?**  
We can always look back on what God has done before in His word as well as in our lives and see that He keeps His promises and we can trust in who He is. (Numbers 23:19, Joshua 21:45, Ps. 33:4, Ps. 145:13)

## PRAYER

Thank God that He always keep His promises and that He made a way for all people to be saved in Jesus. Ask God to help you trust in Him even when you have doubts that He will do as He says. Trust that His character is unchanging and His word never fails.