Count the Stars

The Calling of Abraham and the Three Promises

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:46 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth God calls Abram to leave home and promises land, descendants, and blessing for all families. Abraham and Sarah wait many years; the Christian story sees the promised blessing reaching the world through Jesus.

Learning goals Children will name the three promises, retell Abraham's response under the stars, and describe one safe, ordinary next step of trust while remembering that questions and waiting can be part of faith.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: Have you ever known the next step without knowing the whole plan? Watch for what God promises Abram and how Abram responds when he still has questions.

Watch and notice

Notice Abram leaving with Sarai and Lot, the altar in Canaan, the star-filled sky, the naming of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac's birth, and the final connection to Jesus.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Abram know when he left home, and what did he not know?
He knew God had called him and promised to guide and bless him. He did not have a map or the full future.

2. What are the three promises named in the film?
Land for his people, descendants who would grow into a great family, and blessing reaching all the families of the earth.

3. Why did God invite Abram to look at the stars?
The countless stars helped Abram imagine descendants even though he and Sarai were old and had no child together yet. Abram spoke honestly and still trusted God.

4. How does the film connect Abraham's family to Jesus?
The story traces Israel through later generations and presents Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, as the blessing offered to people of every nation.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

Count the Stars

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Children draw one of the three promises in each space: a place to live, stars suggesting descendants, and a blessing shared widely. Invite an oral explanation of each picture.

Read & Write Children identify the promises, explain why the stars mattered before Isaac was born, and choose a concrete good next step that is safe and age appropriate.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use pictures or gestures for the three promises. Accept oral answers.

Ages 9-11: compare what Abraham received and still awaited. Discuss honest questions and trust.

Three promises, one next step | Optional 4 minutes

Make cards marked LAND, DESCENDANTS, and BLESSING. Match each to a film moment. Then consider a promise to help set the table: what is the next faithful step?

Look for understanding Look for all three promises and the distinction between a promise and its later fulfillment. A child's next step should be a safe act of love, prayer, or responsibility, not leaving home or enduring danger.

Closing prayer God of Abraham and Sarah, thank you for calling people by name and keeping your promises. Help us ask honest questions, trust you, and take the next good step. Through Jesus, may your blessing reach every family. Amen.

At home With a caregiver, look at the night sky or a picture of stars. Retell the three promises and choose one small act of kindness for tomorrow.

Handout answer notes Land, descendants, and blessing for all families. The stars represented more descendants than Abram could count while he and Sarai still waited for a child. Accept a safe, specific step such as prayer, helping at home, or keeping a promise.

Teach with care

Open a Bible to Genesis 12:1-9 and 15:1-6. Point out Canaan on a map if available. Explain that Abram and Sarai are later called Abraham and Sarah; the names in the film change as the story moves forward. The film condenses several Genesis passages. God's covenant is not a guarantee that each personal wish arrives on our timetable. The Jesus connection is a Christian reading; respect Jewish faith and Israel's continuing story.

Words to explain Covenant: a sacred bond God makes with his people. Descendants: children, grandchildren, and later generations of a family. Blessing: a gift of God's goodness to be shared.

Sources for the leader

Call, land, and blessing: Genesis 12:1-9 (USCCB)
Stars and trust: Genesis 15:1-6 (USCCB)
Isaac's birth: Genesis 21:1-7 (USCCB)
Christian reading: Galatians 3:6-9 (USCCB)