



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God's promises are for now and for later.

THE BIBLE

God's Covenant with Abram: Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Paradise Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Sack Race
- ACTIVITY** | Parachute Play

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 12: 1-3, 15:1-6
- THE BIG IDEA** | God's promises are for now and for later.
- VIDEO** | Promise, Episode 3
- ACTIVITY** | Star Blessing
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Star Cookies
- ACTIVITY** | Count the Starfish
- ACTIVITY** | Sharing God's Promise
- MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Star Search
- ACTIVITY** | Nows and Laters



WEEK 3

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY DENA KITCHENS

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Parachute Play

You can substitute some of the parachute games by telling a few toddlers to sit on the parachute as you pull it around the room. The kids will love this fun way to travel!

ACTIVITY | Star Blessing

Try an alternative activity that doesn't require too many fine motor skills. An excellent option would be to make [starry night sensory bags](#) for the younger kids to explore.

ACTIVITY | Count the Starfish

Pre-cut the starfish. Instead of buttons, help the younger kids use Cheerios or Froot Loops to glue on the stars. Make sure the kids have their own bowl or plate of cereal in case some of them decide to eat them while doing this activity! You might want to keep the box handy in case anyone needs a refill.



WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God's promises are for now and for later.

THE BIBLE

God's Covenant with Abram: Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Paradise Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play some fun worship songs for the kids to sing and dance along to! We suggest repeating ["There are Promises."](#) and also playing this fun song called, ["Father Abraham."](#)

ACTIVITY | Sack Race

- Welcome back to our island paradise! We are hearing so much about God's promises. In today's story, God tells Abram to leave his home and travel to a new place. Let's travel across the room and see who can finish first in our sack race!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide groups into teams and provide each team with a pillowcase or potato sack. Mark start and finish lines on opposite sides of the room. The first kid on each team races to the finish line and back and passes the sack to the next person in line. This continues until everyone has had a turn.

ACTIVITY | Parachute Play

- Let's play a few games with this parachute on our beach.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a games parachute and a beach ball to play the games listed below.
 - **MAKING WAVES:** Position the kids equally around the edges of the parachute and tell them to hold onto the edges. Encourage them to work together, moving the edges of the parachute up and down to make waves.
 - **BALL PLAY:** Now, toss the ball onto the parachute and tell the kids to work together to keep the ball up in the air.

- **PARACHUTE TRAVELS:** Remove the ball. As kids lift the parachute in the air, call out a name. That kid must run under the parachute and out the opposite side before the parachute lands on them.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Tell a few of the younger kids to sit on the parachute as you pull it around the room.

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 12: 1-3, 15:1-6

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a large poster board or dry erase board, draw the lines to make a large [five-pointed star](#) as you paraphrase today's Bible story. You could do this on the back of your Big Idea board with chalk or metallic marker, and then flip it over to reveal the Big Idea after the Bible story.
- A long time ago, God spoke to someone named Abram and told him to leave his home and go to a different place that God was going to show him. *[Draw the first line.]*
 - **Have you ever left your home to go to a new place?** Imagine having to leave your whole family and all your friends. **How would you feel if you had to do that?**
- But the story didn't end there. God told Abram that he was going to become really great. God was going to bless Abram and make him a "great nation."*[Draw the second line.]*
 - If God had said that to you, **what would you think it meant?**
- Some time later, God spoke to Abram again. God remembered the promise made to Abram and told him not to be afraid. *[Draw the third line.]*
 - **Why might Abram have been afraid?**
- God promised Abram that he would be the father to a great nation. But Abram was old and didn't have any children. He could not imagine how that could be so. *[Draw the fourth line.]*
 - **Have you ever been promised something but you weren't sure it would happen?**
- God led Abram outside. "Count the stars," God said. But there were so many Abram couldn't count them all. God told Abram that he was going to have a lot of kids, and then those kids would have lots of kids, and so on. *[Draw the fifth line.]*
- **Have you ever tried to count the stars?**
- Just as the stars are too many to count, so are the people who came from Abram's family. From that one person came many, many people who would one day follow the one, true God. God promised that Abram would be great now, but even greater in the future!

THE BIG IDEA | God's promises are for now and for later.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in large letters on a black poster board, using chalk markers in rainbow or neon colors. Tape large tropical leaves on top of the words. When it's time, remove the leaves one by one to reveal the Big Idea.
- There are many promises in the Bible that God made to people back then that are promises God makes to us today.
- Let's say today's Big Idea together: **God's promises are for now and for later.**

VIDEO | Promise, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's preschool teaching video.*

ACTIVITY | Star Blessing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a construction paper star, a marker, and various art materials. If you are in a space designated for your own use, keep the stars and hang them from the ceiling as a reminder that God's promises are for now and for later.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Make [starry night sensory bags](#) for the kids to explore.*
- You are a part of God's promise and a part of Abram's blessing. Write your name on the star and decorate it.

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Let the kids hold their star as you pray together.*
- Dear God, thank You for Your promise to Abram. We know that You promised great things for Abram and for us. Your promises are for now and for later. Help us to trust You like Abram did!

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Star Cookies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Serve star-shaped cookies for snack.*
- **What did God promise to Abram?**
- When you look up at the stars in the sky, you can remember that you are a part of God's blessing to Abram.

ACTIVITY | Count the Starfish

- God told Abram to count the stars in the sky, but did you know there are stars in the ocean, too? What am I talking about? Starfish, of course! Let's make our own to add to our island paradise.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a copy of the [Count the Starfish printable](#), printed on colored cardstock, and help the kids cut out the star. Give each kid a small pile of assorted buttons for them to glue on.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Pre-cut the starfish. Instead of buttons, tell the kids to use Cheerios or Froot Loops to glue on the stars.*
- These buttons remind us of how God promises us lots and lots of good things when we trust what God has planned for us.

ACTIVITY | Sharing God's Promise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a small bag of star stickers.*
- Let's share God's promise with each other. Give two stickers to another kid and say, "One for now, one for later."

- Keep sharing your stickers until they are all gone.
- God’s promise to Abram is the beginning of great things happening for a lot of people. It started with one person who moved from his home to a new place, started a family, and continued as a promise and blessing for everyone.
- **God’s promises are for now and for later!**

MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids the treasure map coloring page and crayons. Tell them to color the jewels in the order of the memory verse and then read it together with them. Tell them to take their pages home to help them practice the memory verse.

PLAY TIME

While you’re waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute this week’s coloring page along with some crayons or markers. As they color, remind them of today’s Bible story and Big Idea. To tie into the theme, you could use [star-shaped crayons](#) or make your own beforehand with broken crayon pieces melted into a [star-shaped silicone mold](#) using the instructions [here](#).

ACTIVITY | Star Search

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a sand table or plastic bin with dark-colored sand and hide glow in the dark stars in the sand. Encourage the kids to find the stars and count them.

ACTIVITY | Nows and Laters

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the board game, “Chutes and Ladders” together. Instruct the kids to repeat a part of the Big Idea whenever they go down a chute or up a ladder.
- God makes promises to us that we might see happen right away or some time in the future. Say, “God’s promises are for now,” every time you go up the ladder and, “God’s promises are for later” when you go down the chute.
- **God’s promises are for now and for later.**

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.