



NPC Children

September 26 Family Lesson

Bible Story: Abram waits on the Lord (Genesis 15:1-6)

Theological Application: We can learn to wait on the Lord

Memory Verse: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)

Lesson Background: *The thrust of this lesson is to present Abram’s struggle to be patient as he awaits the fulfillment of God’s promise.*

LESSON

Bible Story

The purpose of this activity is twofold: To read the scriptural story to the children, and to encourage their memory of the story through repetition and play.

- **Ask your child(ren) to give you an example of something they had to wait for this week. (a turn, a treat, dinner....)**
- **Talk about what kids of feelings they experienced while they were waiting. Were they worried that what they wanted would not happen? Were they frustrated because they didn’t understand why they had to wait? ...**

Read Genesis 15:1-6

¹The Lord spoke his word to Abram in a vision. God said, “Abram, don’t be afraid. I will defend you. And I will give you a great reward.”

²But Abram said, “Lord God, what can you give me? I have no son. So my slave Eliezer from Damascus will get everything I own after I die.” ³Abram said, “Look, you have given me no son. So a slave born in my house will inherit everything I have.”

⁴ Then the Lord spoke his word to Abram. He said, "That slave will not be the one to inherit what you have. You will have a son of your own. And your son will inherit what you have."

⁵ Then God led Abram outside. God said, "Look at the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. And your descendants will be too many to count."

⁶ Abram believed the Lord. And the Lord accepted Abram's faith, and that faith made him right with God.

Discussion Question younger children:

- How do you think Abram was feeling when he was asking God those questions?

Discussion Questions for older children:

- When God spoke to Abram in a vision he said two "I will" statements (verse 1). What were the two things God told Abram He would do?
- Abram said two things in response to God. What were they? **Note:** encourage your child(ren) to say aloud Abram's responses (verses 2 & 3) in the tone that they imagine Abram may have said them. Was it a happy tone or more sad, or mad, or frustrated?
- What made Abram "right with God?"
- Does trusting in God make waiting for God to fulfill his promises easier? If so, why?

Song Activity

The purpose of this activity is twofold: To provide an opportunity for the children to get their wiggles out, and to provide them with something to sing in their head while they are waiting for things.

What You Do: sing this to the tune of twinkle twinkle little star

Twinkle, twinkle, all the stars. (*open and close hands like shining stars*)

You remind me God's not far. (*shade eyes with hand and look around*)

Be still and wait on the Lord. (*sit with hands folded in lap*)

Because I know I'm adored. (*Hug arms around chest*)

Twinkle, twinkle, all the stars. (*open and close hands like shining stars*)

You remind me God's not far. (*shade eyes with hand and look around*)

Prayer

Open in a prayer of gratitude and praise and invite the children to pray about whatever is on their heart. Please be aware that some children may prefer to pray silently or have the lead pray on their behalf.

Craft Activity

The purpose of this activity is to promote retention of the story and reinforce the theological application through creative play.

What You need: Printer, paper, scissors, God's Promise Catcher sheet page 5 of this lesson, folding instructions page 6 of this lesson.

What You do:

- Print out the God's Promise Catcher sheet.
- Invite your child(ren) to cut out the catcher.
- Encourage or help your child(ren) to fold the catcher.
- Observe that the catcher is sort of shaped like a star. They can refocus their attention on this catcher when they are finding waiting difficult. Much like God re-directed Abram's attention to the promise of descendants by having him look up at the stars.

The Theological Point of The Children's Lesson

Abram's frustration with waiting; "I continue childless", and his exasperation with having no control over, nor any understanding of, God's plan for him; "so a slave born in my house is to be my heir" is clearly evident.

The experience of waiting for something for an indeterminant period of time and for reasons not fully understood, is a familiar experience for children, particularly for younger children. In Sunday school this morning the children will explore how God helped Abram wait and how they can learn to be still and wait on the Lord. In this passage your children will see God's intimate relationship with his creatures. "The Lord came to Abram" with the assurance that he was still with Abram. God would keep his promise and protect and provide for Abram and his people. Rather than be assuaged, Abram challenges God with an assumption based on his limited human perspective, which God meets with an abundance of grace "no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." Then God redirects Abram's attention; "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them...So shall your descendants be."

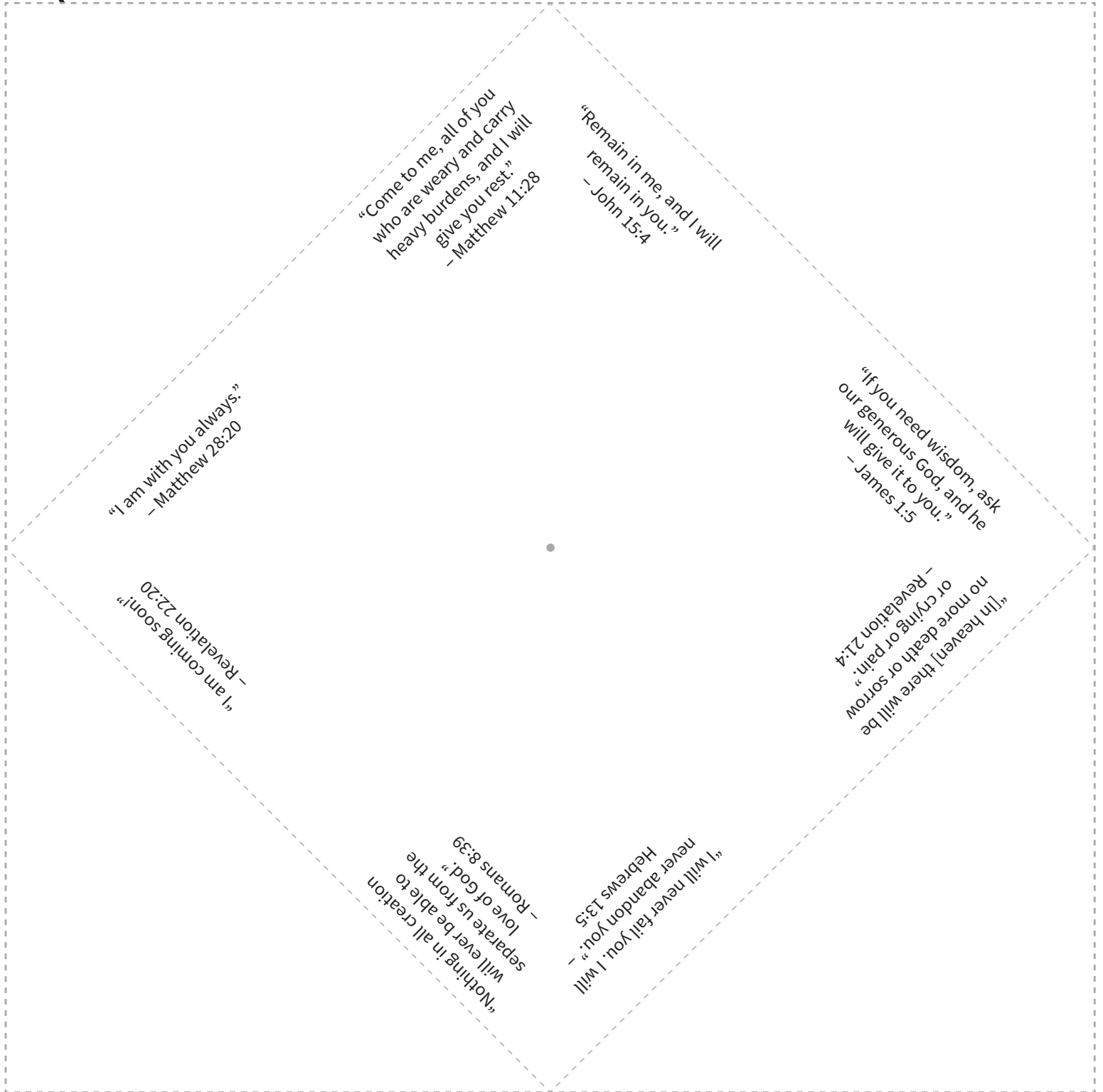
In this relational exchange with God, Abram was reminded of God's *omnipresence* (God as an infinite spirit being everywhere present in the cosmos), *omniscience* (God as knowing all things, all events, and all circumstances in a way that is perfect and immediate), and *omnipotence* (God's ability to do all things that do not conflict with the divine will or knowledge. God's power is limited only by God's own nature and not by any external force). And from this Abram "believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness." These concepts are translated for the children into *you can trust that God is always there with you, you can trust that God is always wise, he understands that it is hard to wait and he has not forgotten about you, you can trust that God is all powerful and will keep every promise he has made.*

Reflection Questions For Parents:

- How does trust inform patience?
- How does understanding who God is help us to trust him?
- Based upon this scripture, how can you help your child(ren) strengthen their waiting skills?

Application point: Sharing your stories of waiting on God is a wonderful way to help your children grow spiritually. Have you ever experienced your own “Abram moment” where you have begun to question your experience or expectations of God? What helped you be still and wait upon the Lord? In hindsight, how did the waiting change you? Share these things with your child(ren)

God's Promise Catcher



"I am with you always."
— Matthew 28:20

"Come to me, all of you
who are weary and carry
heavy burdens, and I will
give you rest."
— Matthew 11:28

"Remain in me, and I will
remain in you."
— John 15:4

"If you need wisdom, ask
our generous God, and he
will give it to you."
— James 1:5

"I am coming soon!"
— Revelation 22:20

"[In heaven] there will be
no more death or sorrow
or crying or pain."
— Revelation 21:4

"Nothing in all creation
will ever be able to
separate us from the
love of God."
— Romans 8:39

"I will never fail you. I will
never abandon you."
— Hebrews 13:5



