

Book Introduction

God promised to make Abraham's descendants as many as the stars in the sky. Descendants are the children, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, all the people that come from one's children forever after. This was a hard promise for Abraham to believe because he didn't have any children at that time. He and his wife were too old to have children.

Even though he was very old, Abraham believed God's promise to give him a son and that made God happy. Abraham knew that God always does what he promises.

God also promised to bless all people on earth through Abraham. Jesus is one of Abraham's descendants. We are all blessed because Abraham believed and trusted God.

Discussion Questions

Day 1: Why did God choose Abraham? What are descendants? What did God say would happen to Abraham's descendants? What does around mean?

Day 2: Why did Abraham's wife laugh at the idea of having lots of descendants?

Day 3: What was the difference between Abraham and his wife?

Day 4: What did they name their child? Why did they name him that? Why in their old age were they able to have a child?

Day 5: Why wouldn't Abraham ever see Isaac's children? What would God

Day 6: How long would Abraham's descendants have to wait to receive the promise God had given Abraham of a special land to live in? What can be said about God's promises?

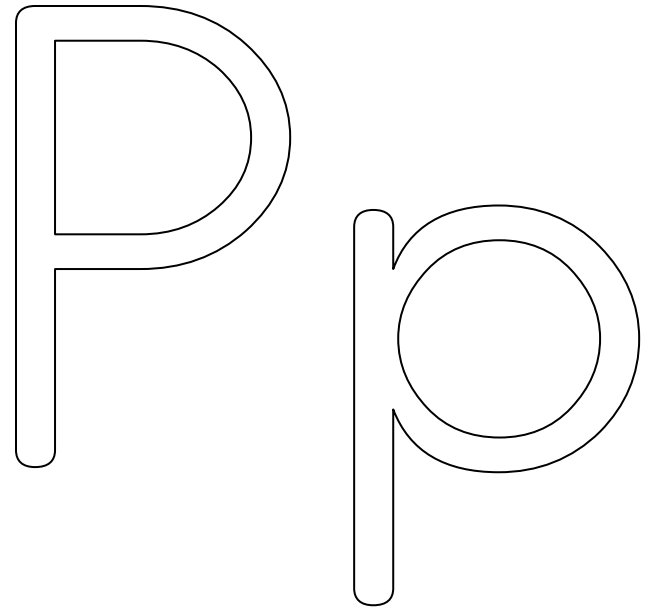
Lesson Rhyme

P—P	Make sign of "P"
Promise	Raise R hand from top of L like swearing on Bible
Like the stars	Put hands up & wiggle fingers like twinkling stars
that he could see	R hand over eyes looking up
P—P—Promise	Same as above
His descendants	2 fingers R hand walking on L palm
one day'd be	Move above across body



#36

What did God promise Abraham?



P—P—Promise

Like the stars that he could see

P—P—Promise

His descendants one day'd be

Day 1

Draw a picture of Abraham and the stars.

God had chosen Abraham
as faithful he was found.
God said that his descendants
one day would abound.
He told Abraham to look and count
the stars that he could see.
God said that his descendants
like the stars one day would be.

Day 6

Draw a picture of Abraham praying.

Abraham's descendants,
400 years would have to wait.
But later out of slavery
in that land they'd celebrate.
God's promises don't happen fast;
they are sometimes very slow.
But to trust and wait for them,
faith in God does surely show.

Genesis 15:5: ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Genesis 15:15-16: ¹⁵ You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

Day 5 Draw a picture of Isaac and his children.

Isaac would have children
that Abraham wouldn't see.
Because Abraham would die before
his grandsons came to be.
Isaac's sons would not receive
God's promise of the land.
But God would still watch over them
and keep them in his hand.

Day 2 Draw a picture of Abraham and Sarah.

Abraham was quite old
and his wife laughed at the thought.
In her old age to bear a child,
it seemed likely not.
For 90 years she had lived
and still had no child at all.
Though Abraham had trusted God
and listened to his call.

Genesis 15:13-14: ¹³ Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

Genesis 18:11-12: ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Day 3

Draw a picture of Abraham praying.

So when God said within a year,
a child she'd surely bear.
She really didn't trust that God
was answering her prayer.
But Abraham believed that God,
his promise he would keep.
So Abraham kept waiting,
his faith was very deep.

Day 4

Draw a picture of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.

God did what he had promised;
a son to them was born.
In their old age they had a child,
just as God had sworn.
The baby they named Isaac,
as that's what they'd been told.
God had given them a son
though they were very old.

Genesis 18:10:¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Genesis 21:1-3:¹ Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.