

The LORD carried out just what he had promised. (Genesis 21:1)

God's Promise to Abraham – Genesis 15:1-6

Prepare to Wonder

God tells Abraham not to be afraid. God will be his protector and his provider. But, Abraham questions God by asking, "What can you possibly give me, since I have no children?" But God keeps God's promises. God tells Abraham to look up at the sky and count the stars, for this is how many children God will give him. This is God's covenant with Abraham. Covenants between God and God's people are faithful interactions with God, for God never breaks God's covenants—even when there is doubt or confusion.

Abraham has questions, but he remains faithful to God. Abraham might have not fully understood what God was doing, but he hoped God would do amazing things. This is a wondrous faith. This is a wonderful example of who we are called to be as people of faith. Abraham models doubt and questions in the midst of his strong and committed faith. We learn here that there are always questions about God's desires for our lives, but in this story, we learn that God always keeps God's promises. Even when they might be different than anything we could have imagined.

Children need to know this important message. They might have big questions and not always understand what it means to follow God. But when they hear that God promises to go with them, they can find comfort in the midst of a wondrous and sometimes complicated faith.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

As you spend time with God this week, go outside in the evening and try to count all the stars. This is likely an impossible task! But doing so is a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness. Each night the stars appear without fail, and in this we know that God is always with us. As you take in our miraculous God, do a breath prayer. Point to a star, inhale, and say, "God you are faithful!" Exhale and say, "Help me follow you."

Welcome to Wonder

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

WONDER together:

- What helps you have faith in God?
- Are you faithful to God? How?

CONTINUE to Wonder:

- Is it hard to have faith? Why or why not?
- How do you know if someone has faith?
- What does your faith look like?

PRAY together

- Dear God, help me have faith in you. Amen.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or Download "Very Good" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Reason to Believe."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional, CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Genesis 15:1-6.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>) to download and watch today's Bible story.

SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: FAITH - Faith is to believe in God's presence and hope.

WONDER: Who has faith in the Bible story?

Stars in the Sky (Craft)

Supplies: craft sticks, glue or glue gun, markers, permanent markers, or glitter pens, stickers, and so forth

- Have the children glue the ends of their craft sticks together as they add additional craft sticks to form their stars.
- Each person needs 5 craft sticks and white glue.
- Assemble a star with the craft sticks by making a V shape with two craft sticks facing downwards and V shape of two craft sticks across the first V facing sideways. Use the fifth craft stick to close the star.
- Decorate the stars with the coloring supplies.
- Let the stars dry.

WONDER: How many stars are in the sky?

SAY: Stars remind us that God is always with us.

Spiritual Practice—Exploring faith through God’s promises

Supplies: Celebration Chart, Family Activity Book, (optional)

- Participate in a star breathing practice.
- Make a star with your body by standing up and spreading your arms and legs. Look up.
- Take a deep breath in and say, “When I look to the stars, I know God is with me.”
- Breath out. Bring your hands down, feet together, and look down, and say, “When I look at my feet, God goes with me.”
- Repeat this practice several times.