

October 11, 1998

Genesis 15-18:15

Early Childhood

AGEN06EC

God Promised Sarah a Son.

Materials I Need:

Memory Verses:

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
2. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you. Genesis 12:2a

Attribute of God emphasized in this lesson:

God keeps His promises.

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. Did God promise to give Abram a family with as many people in it as the stars in the sky? *(Yes. God would make Abram into a big nation-family.)*
2. Did Abram believe that God would keep His promise? *(Yes)*
3. Did three angels come to visit Abraham at his tent? *(Yes. Abraham fixed them lunch.)*
4. Did the angels tell Abraham that Sarah would have a baby son? *(Yes. Even though she and Abraham were too old to have a baby, God promised Sarah a son.)*
5. Does God always keep His promises? *(Yes)*

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. What was the promise that God gave to Abram? *(God promised Abram a son who would become a great nation-family. They would number more than the stars in the sky.)*
2. How did Abram and Sarai try to help God with His promise? *(Sarai suggested that Abram marry Hagar and have a son with her.)*
3. What happened in Abram's family when Hagar became his wife and found out that she was going to have a baby? *(Hagar was rude to Sarai and Sarai was mean to Hagar.)*
4. Why did Sarah laugh when the angel promised her a son? *(Abram and Sarai were too old to have children.)*
5. Does God always keep His promises? *(Yes. We can trust our powerful God to keep His promises.)*

Key for symbols:

- This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.
- ② This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.
- ④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Hook:

- Kitchen Center: (AGEN06ECGF2)** Let the children play with a stove and table today. Pretend to bake bread and other lunch items. Talk about what you are preparing for lunch. Pretend like you are serving lunch to three guests. Older children can find pictures of food in magazines. Cut them out and help the children glue them onto a paper plate. Tell the children that in today's Bible Adventure, we are going to learn about Sarah, Abraham's wife, who baked some bread for three

special visitors who were really angels. Say the names Abraham, Sarah, and Lot often as you play. Glue oyster crackers on the table of the GF2 picture which shows the three guests eating lunch.

- Memory Verse Review:** "God made Abram a promise in our Bible Adventure a few weeks ago. He promised to make Abram into a big nation-family, but Abram had to wait for God's promise. While he was waiting, God gave Abram a new name, Abraham. Let's say that name together a few times. Let's sing our memory verse song to remind us what God's promise to Abraham was." Sing "Genesis 12:2" from AGEN04EC.
- Play Dough:** Let the children make different food items from play dough. Pretend to fix a lunch for three guests. Make a small loaf of bread and pretend to put it in the oven. Wait for it to bake. Ask the children if they wait patiently at home when their mothers fix lunch. Make long tubes of play dough by rolling with hands. Make a round face and then add eyes and a mouth. Talk about waiting with a happy face or a sad face. Knowing that God keeps His promises gives us a happy face.
- Follow the Leader and Wait:** Ask the children to follow you in tapping different parts of your body or things in the room. As long as your other hand is in the air, the children march in place and follow you in touching something. When your hand goes down to your side, the children must wait quietly for the next instructions. Talk about waiting patiently and how hard it is. You might show the children how some people fidget while waiting! Tell them that Abraham and Sarah have had to wait for a long time to have a baby. In today's Bible Adventure, they will hear good news from three special visitors.
- Name Game Song:** Sing the following song to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Talk about names. Tell them that God is going to change a name in our Bible Adventure today.
I'm so glad we are together, together, together.
I'm so glad we are together with (child's name) and (child's name).
With (child's name) and (child's name) and (child's name) and (child's name).
I'm so glad we are together at Bible School today.
- ④ **Line Up and Wait:** With the children lined up and ready to go outside, to go get a drink, or to go visit another classroom, ask them to wait quietly until you tell them to go. Set a timer and ask them to wait for two minutes. Talk about waiting. Talk about things they might have to wait for (see list under snack time).
- ④ **Name Pennant and Parade:** Cut pieces of construction paper in half diagonally from corner to corner to form pennants. Let the children use markers to decorate their pennants with their names. Tape the long end of the triangle to a large drinking straw. Let the children wave their pennants as they march around the room to music. Teach them one of the new songs from the Song section or sing songs from previous lessons as you march.
- ④ **Sign Language for "Wait":** Learn how to say the word "wait" in sign language. Invite someone in to show you and talk about waiting with the children. Abraham and Sarah have waited almost one hundred years to have a baby. Sing "Wait, Wait" as the children sign the words.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

- Invite a family that includes a great-grandparent, a grandparent, a mom and dad, and a child, if possible. Talk about how all the people are from the same family. "This person has a great big family." Count the number of family members. Abram was given a promise of land and a great big nation-family. In our Bible Adventure today, we will hear about how many people God promised Abram in his family.
- Have one of the teachers bring his or her baby son to class. Have the teacher tell the children that this is his baby son. Ask the children if any of them are sons. (All of the boys should raise their hands.) All of the boys in the class were once baby sons who grew to be bigger boys. We are all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In our Bible Adventure today, Abram is going to hear about a promise of a baby son and many great-grandchildren.

mother of nations.” Abraham was shocked. Sarah was too old to be a mother. Abraham did not tell Sarah what God had told him about her.

(Show the GF2 picture.) One hot day, while Abraham was sitting in the doorway to his tent by the trees at Hebron, three men came and stood near him. Abraham didn’t know it, but these three men were angels sent from God. They had a very special message from God for Abraham and Sarah.

Abraham said to the men, “Please stay for lunch. Come sit in the shade while we fix your lunch.” The three angels of the Lord were glad to sit under the trees as a servant washed their dusty feet.

Abraham ran to Sarah and said, “Quick, bake some bread! We have three guests for lunch!” Then Abraham ran to his servant and said, “Quick, cook some delicious meat! We have three guests for lunch!”

When the bread was fresh out of the oven and the meat was cooked just right, Abraham served his guests. While the angels were eating their lunch, one of them said to Abraham, “God is going to keep His promise to you. I will come back to you at this time next year and your wife Sarah will have a son.”

(Show Sarah eavesdropping in the tent.) Sarah was listening to the angels talking. When she heard what the angel said about a baby, she laughed to herself. She thought, “I am too old to have a baby; I am ninety years old. It is too late for me to have a baby now!”

The angel said, “Why did Sarah laugh? Nothing is too hard for God. God will keep His promise. Sarah will have a baby within the year.”

Sarah was embarrassed and afraid because the angel knew that she had laughed at God’s promise. She lied and said to the angel, “I did not laugh.”

The angel said to her, “Yes, you did laugh, but God will keep His promise. God always keeps His promises.”

Abraham and Sarah believed that God was powerful and would keep His promise. Isn’t God good to make Abraham into a great nation-family? We will hear more about Abraham and Sarah’s special baby in two weeks.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for keeping Your promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son so that they could become a great nation-family. I believe Your promises in the Bible, too. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Look:



"God's Promise" Activity Sheet and Song: (AGEN06ECGF1) Let the children color the picture of Abraham looking at the stars, and then help them put drops of glue on the stars and sprinkle glitter over the glue. Using a shallow pan underneath your glitter will help to recollect it easily. Younger children can fill the sky with different colors and sizes of sticky stars. As the children are working on this project, review the appropriate Aim Questions, then say, "Abraham and Sarah had to wait for God's promise. Did they wait patiently? No! They weren't very patient, but God still was faithful to keep His promises. Let's learn a song about Abraham and Sarah waiting." Teach and sing "Abraham and Sarah Had to Wait" from the Song section.



Snack and Song: Immediately after the Bible Adventure, bring out the snack and show it to the children. "I promise that you will get to eat this wonderful snack this morning, but we will have to wait patiently until the end of _____ (whatever activity you choose from the Look section). We will have to wait for the snack just like Abraham had to wait for God's promise of a son. Let's sing a song to help us remember to always wait patiently for God because He keeps His promises." Sing "Wait, Wait" from the Song section. It would be fun to make Pillsbury biscuits. Let the children place a biscuit on a cookie sheet. Take them out to bake them. Either bake them in the church oven or pretend to take them out to bake; bring back baked biscuits later.



People Collage: Give children magazines to find pictures of people and glue on a piece of paper to make their own collage. You will need to cut out many pictures for younger children. The children will enjoy looking to see which people look most like their own family. Talk about the big family that Abraham was going to have because God promised him a great nation-family.



Angel Puppet: (AGEN06ECGF3) Children can make angel puppets today and use them to tell about God’s promise to Abraham. Be sure to explain to the children that the angels who came to Abraham looked like men. Some angels that we hear about in the Bible have wings. “We will make an angel with wings today, to remind us of the promise that the angels gave Abraham about a son.” Each child will need an 8” square piece of white fabric, a large cotton ball, an 8” piece of string, and a recipe card cut as shown with two holes punched in the center for the wings. Thread the string

through the holes in the index card. Place the cotton ball in the center of the fabric. Gather the cloth around the cotton ball and place it on the wings between the ends of the string. Tie the string loosely so they can put their finger into the cotton ball. Let them retell the Bible Adventure and God's promise.

④ **Star Stencils: (AGEN06ECGF3)** Cut several star patterns out of poster board. Let the children trace around them and fill a paper with stars. Color them and count them. Remind the children that God showed Abraham many stars in the sky and told him his family would have more people in it than there were stars in the sky.

④ **Bible Adventure Review:** Retell the story to the children in simplified form and adding some false statements. Tell the children to stand up if they hear you say something wrong.

④ **Rhythm Sticks:** Tap the rhythm to the children's names, ending with Abram and Abraham, and Sarai and Sarah. Talk about God changing their names and what they meant. Clap the rhythm to "Nothing is too hard for God. God will keep His promises." If interest allows, tap the memory verses as well.

④ **Snack Time:** Using a frosting tube, decorate graham crackers with happy faces. Talk about how happy Abraham would be to have the family God promised him, if only he would wait. Set a timer and tell the children they will have to wait so many minutes before they can eat their crackers. During this time, sing "Wait, Wait" from the Song section. Talk about waiting. You might include the following examples: waiting to cross the street, waiting to get your pizza order, waiting for your birthday that is several months away, waiting for the day to come when you get to take a trip to Disneyland, waiting to take your turn on the swing or slide, waiting at the doctor's office.

④ **Mirror Image Review:** Ask two children to come up and face each other. As you repeat simplified story statements, ask one child to act it out while his partner "mirrors" his actions. Include the part of the story with the angels arriving, Abraham greeting them, the meal being prepared, the meal served, the angels talking, Sarah laughing, and Abraham listening to the promise. It might be easier for the children if two teachers act it out first. Then several teams of children could do it at the same time.

Songs:

Baby Son (tune: "Frere Jacques")
"You will have a baby so-on, (Rock your arms as though holding a baby.)
Yes, you will; yes, you will." (Shake your finger.)
God will keep His promise, (Point to the sky.)
God will keep His promise,
Just believe, just believe. (Fold your hands as though praying or raise your arms to the heavens.)

Wait, Wait (tune: "God is so Good")
Wait, wait for God,
Wait, wait for God,
God always keeps His promises.


Abraham and Sarah Had to Wait (tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")
Abraham and Sarah had to wait,
Abraham and Sarah had to wait,
God still was faithful,
He sent His angels.
Abraham and Sarah had to wait.




Took:

"God's First People" Booklets: (AGEN06ECGF4) Let the children color the GF4 pictures that show how God promised Abram a son and a big family, as many people as the stars in the sky. Talk about the Aim Questions as the children color. Count the stars in the sky. Let children add stick-on stars to their pictures. Add any pictures or objects in the children's sixth baggie in their "God's First

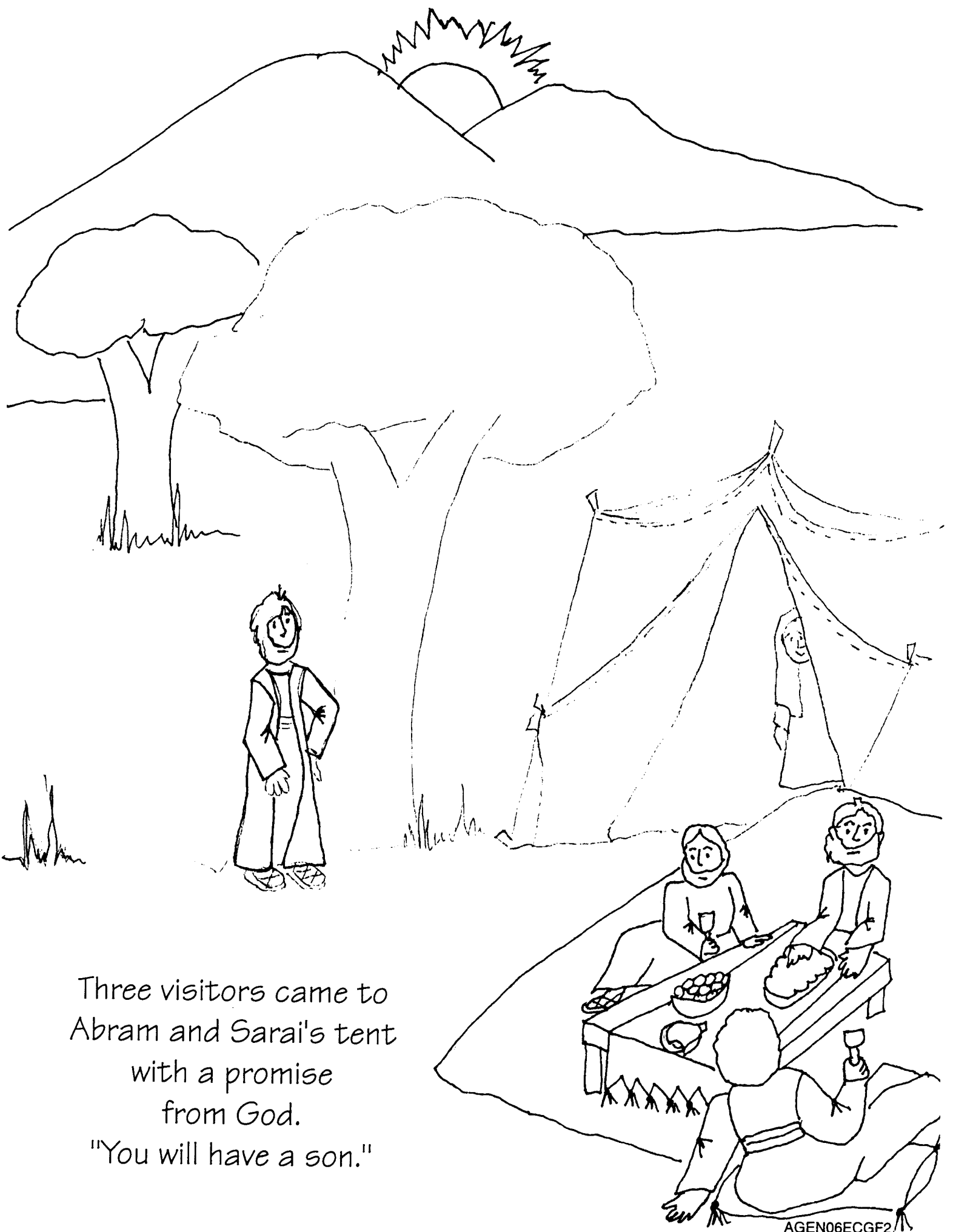
People” booklets. Review former lessons as the children look at the pictures and objects in their first baggies. Keep the children’s booklets in a safe place throughout the Genesis series.

 **Pudding Drawing Bag:** In a quart size re-sealable plastic bag, place 1/4 cup milk and 2 tablespoons instant vanilla pudding mix. Seal well. Give one to each child. Let the children mix the pudding until the consistency thickens. As you write on the board, ask them to make the same on their own pudding “drawing pad.” Write an “A” for Abraham, an “S” for Sarah, a star for God’s promise, a happy face for Sarah’s laughter, an angel, or the first letter in their names.

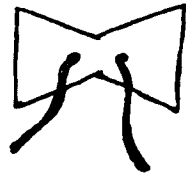
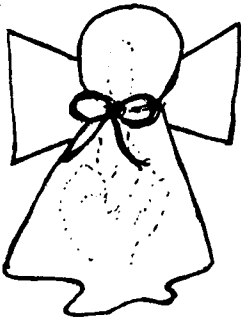
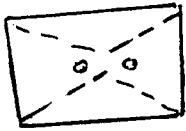
 **Envelope Surprise:** Before class, on a piece of poster board that fits into an envelope, draw a small child or a star with glue on it that leaves a raised impression when dried. Place one in an envelope for each child in the class. Let them take the side of a crayon and reveal what is in the envelope by coloring on the outside. This is the promise for which Abraham had to wait. Sing “Wait, Wait” from the Song section.



God said to Abram, "You will have as many people in your family
as there are stars in the sky."



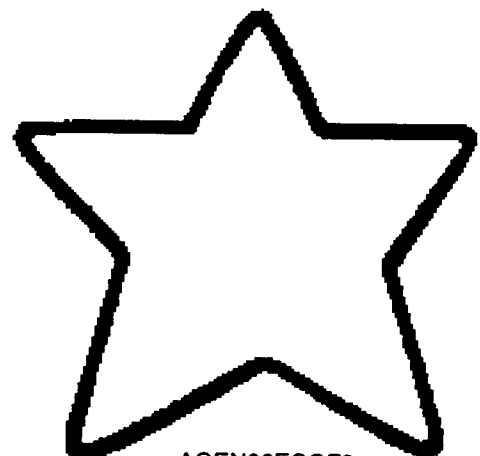
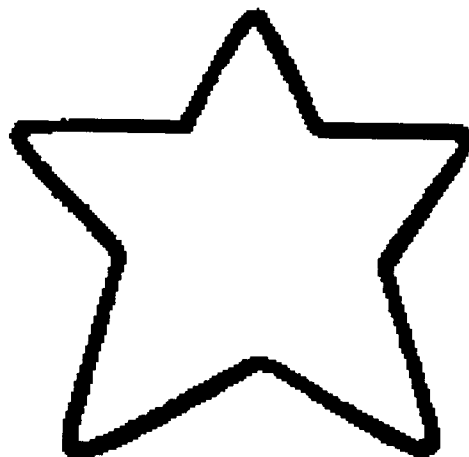
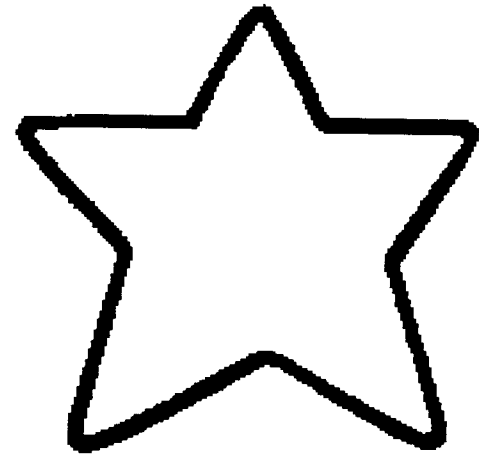
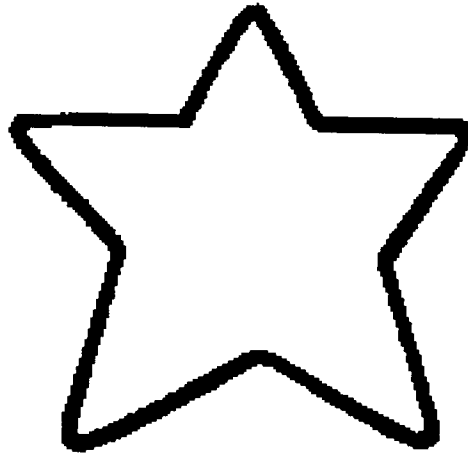
Three visitors came to
Abram and Sarai's tent
with a promise
from God.
"You will have a son."



Angel Puppet

Instructions: Cut an index card on the dotted lines. Punch holes as shown. Thread string through holes.

Place a large cotton ball in the center of an 8-inch square piece of fabric. Gather the cloth around the cotton ball and place it on the wings between the ends of the string. Tie loosely so that the children can put a finger into the cotton ball.



"God's First People" Booklet Page
Lesson 6

God keeps His promises.
God promised Abram a big family.



Genesis
15-18:15

I will make you a great nation,
and I will bless you. Genesis 12:2

God keeps His promises.
God promised Abram a big family.



Genesis
15-18:15

I will make you a great nation,
and I will bless you. Genesis 12:2