

Church at Home Pack – 7th November 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Just as Abraham did, Lord,
we come in faith to wait upon you.
You are the light of our hearts.
In you our hearts rejoice.
We place our trust in your holy name.
Amen.

Action reminder –

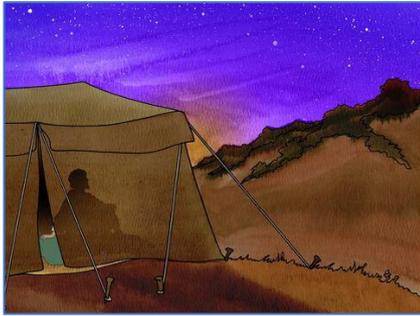
From the top of my head
(Touch head)
to the tips of my toes;
(Touch toes)
from the lobes of my ears
(Touch ear lobes)
to the end of my nose;
(Touch nose)
from my back, to my front
(Turn round)
to my wiggly fingers,
(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)
God loves me!
(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

Genesis 15: 1-6 and 21: 1-7



International Children's Bible (ICB)



15 After these things happened, the 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."

2 But 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." **3** Abram 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.

21 The Lord cared for Sarah as he had said. He did for her what he had promised. **2** Sarah became pregnant. And she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. Everything happened at the time God had said it would. **3** Abraham named his son Isaac. Sarah gave birth to this son of Abraham. **4** Abraham circumcised Isaac when he was eight days old as God had commanded.

5 Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. **6** And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. **7** No one thought that I would be able to have Abraham's child. But I have given Abraham a son while he is old."

New International Version (NIV)

15 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward."

2 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" **3** And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." **5** He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.



21 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. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." ⁷ And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

WATCH TOGETHER



Abraham – Crossroads Kids Club:

<https://youtu.be/zNSZ22QKDUE>



Abram to Abraham (Genesis 15 – 21) – Saddleback Kids:

<https://youtu.be/rDz-7OX4C9k>

A child wasn't the only thing Abraham had to wait for. Watch this video to find out more:



Genesis 12/Abraham and waiting on God's Promises –

Our Daily Bread: <https://youtu.be/MSLIGff9j1U>

TALK TOGETHER

- What things are you used to getting instantly in life?
- Do you expect God to do things instantly for you?

STUDY TOGETHER

Genesis 15: 1-6

- Why do you think Abram was afraid (v1)?
 - Look at Chapter 14: 14-16 to see what had happened before.
- God gave Abram two good reasons to have courage.
 - What were they?
 - How does Abram respond (v2-3)?
- In these times a childless man could adopt one of his own male servants to be heir and guardian of his estate. What does Abram's statement in verse 3 tell us about how he feels about God's promise to him in that moment?
- How did God reassure Abram that he would keep his promise (v4-5)?
- What was Abram's response?
 - What does this show us about Abram's relationship with God?

Read Genesis 17: 1-8

- Why do you think God repeated his promise to Abram?
 - How might revisiting God's promises in his word be helpful to you while you wait?
- In verse 5 we read that God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Why?

Read Genesis 21: 1-7

- Here we read that God's promise of a child for Abraham and Sarah is fulfilled. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. He had waited a very long time for what must have seemed like a very unlikely promise.
 - Tom asks us in his 'Sermon Snippet': Even when answers to our prayers don't come quickly, are we prepared to trust in one who will give us something far richer?

PLAY TOGETHER

Here's a variation on a game we suggested in the pack a few weeks ago:

Waiting

Someone (with a watch or phone) volunteers to be the timer. Everyone else stands up. The timer sets the stopwatch for 1 minute, says "Go" and starts the stopwatch. When the people standing up think that a minute has gone, they should sit down. The timer makes a mental note of who is the closest to a minute but doesn't say anything until the final person has sat down. Try doing it for 2 minutes or longer to see who gets closest. Is it harder to wait when other people have sat down? Can you hold your nerve if you don't think the time has gone yet?



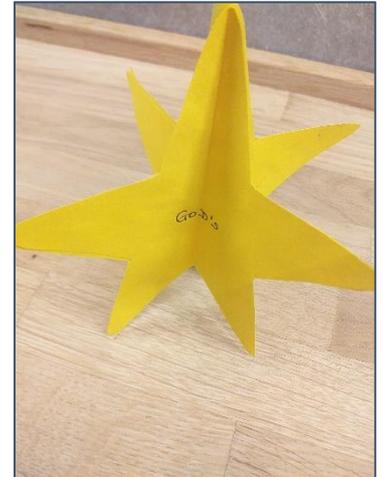
MAKE TOGETHER

'I believe God's promises' Star

You will need:

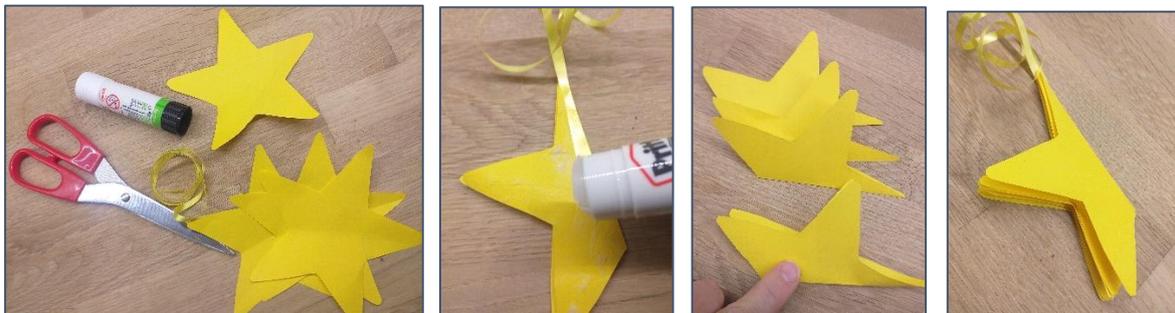
- Paper
- Pen/Pencil
- Scissors
- Ribbon/thread/string

- You can also use pens/pencils/stickers or glitter to decorate your star with.



1. Draw and cut out 4 stars of equal size from your paper.
2. Fold each star in half.
3. Add glue one side and stick down your ribbon, thread or string close to the fold.
4. Now stick your next star half on top. Then glue the next two star halves on top.
5. Add glue to the top star and fold it out to stick to the bottom star. This will open it out into a 3D star.
6. Once dry add the words 'I BELIEVE GOD'S PROMISES' – You could write one word on each side like in our example – and decorate however you like. Hang it up as a reminder of today's Bible passages.

You might like to make lots and imagine what Abraham must have felt when he looked up at the stars!



Bible Story Biscuits

This is a fun reminder of Genesis 15: 5

You will need:

- Plain biscuits (Rich Tea or Digestive are good)
- Icing sugar
- Water
- Star shaped sprinkles
- Jelly Babies

Make some thick icing out of the icing sugar and water and spread some of it over a biscuit.

Sprinkle on some stars and then place a Jelly Baby on top.



SING TOGETHER

Father Abraham had many sons – *Kids on the Move*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXowiv3FAc>

In God we trust – Hillsong Worship: <https://youtu.be/DIn-ZtjUDNY>

Promises – Crossroads Kids: <https://youtu.be/yY3EogFlkCY>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Wait – The most precious answer

Abraham's faith wasn't in the promise alone. His faith was rooted in the Promiser. Because his faith was not in what God would do for him, but in God himself, Abraham was willing to risk. He could do whatever God asked. He wasn't holding on to a particular outcome. He was holding on to God. Abraham's waiting strengthened his faith. Taught him God's ways. Showed him God's faithfulness. *Abraham knew that God would provide everything he needed.*

I have the same assurance that Abraham did — that God will provide everything I need. As I let that promise sink in, I see my waiting differently. Perhaps God is making me, and you, wait for the same reasons that he made Abraham wait. To forge our faith. To make us attentive to his voice. To deepen our relationship. To solidify our trust. To prepare us for ministry. To transform us into his likeness.

In retrospect, I can see that "wait" is the most precious answer God can give us. It makes us cling to him rather than cling to an outcome. God knows what I need. I do not. He sees the future. I cannot. His perspective is eternal. Mine is not. He will give me what is best for me. *When* it is best for me. As Paul Tripp says, "Waiting is not just about what I get at the end of the wait, but about who I become as I wait."

*This is an extract from this article: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-unwelcome-gift-of-waiting#the-most-precious-answer>



- Is God asking you to wait for something at the moment?
- What could you learn while you are waiting?
- What do you think God wants you to do while you are waiting?

PRAY TOGETHER

Father God,
help us to trust you
as Abram trusted you.
Help us to obey you
as Abram obeyed you.

Help us to hear your voice, and believe in your promise of salvation,
just as Abram heard you and believed in you.
You changed his name to Abraham:
change our natures and make us faithful.

Help us to trust you.
Help us to obey you.
Help us to hear you.
Help us to believe in you.

We are the sons and daughters of Abraham.
We are called to follow you.
You have promised us a share in your eternal kingdom,
through the life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Help us to trust you.
Help us to obey you.
Help us to hear you.
Help us to believe in you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DO TOGETHER

On a clear night go out and look at the stars in the sky. How many can you see? Astronomers estimate there are about a hundred thousand million stars just in the Milky Way.

Imagine Abram looking up at the stars and trying to count them. It seemed so impossible that an old man and an old woman without any children could go on to have hundreds of thousands of descendants. But Abram believed the Lord God. His faith was accepted and Abram was made right with God.

Are there any promises of God which you find hard to believe? Let Abram's faith encourage you to keep trusting.



family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder and prayers taken from

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 Reproduced with permission

Bible Story Biscuits idea taken and adapted from Flame Creative ministry (www.flamecreativekids.blogspot.com)