


GENESIS

Lesson 6: GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUE

CONTENT:

1. The story of God's promise to Abraham - of a son, numerous descendants and land; the ritual of the promise: fire between the animal pieces, renaming of Abraham and Sarah, visit of 3 men; birth of Isaac.
2. To show how Mary, too was promised a son in a humanly impossible situation, but she responded by believing.
-  3. Guide to lead the children to realise God's faithfulness to his promises, particularly- 'I am with you always'. {Mt28:20}
4. To encourage the children to believe in God's promise.

ASSIGNMENT

REFERENCES: Genesis 17:1-6,15,16; Gen 18:1-15; Gen 21:1-8; Luke 1:26-45; Matt 28:20

MATERIALS NEEDED: Good News Bible -one per 3 children at least. Activity sheets. Blank badges with pins, felt pens.

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation)

Today we are talking about promises.

[Write 'PROMISES' on the black board. Quickly give out small slips of paper to each child. Make sure they are sitting in pairs.] Sometimes your teacher punishes you for passing notes to your friend. But today we are all going to pass notes!

Write a promise to your partner on the slip you have just read.. Enjoy yourself and write any kind of promise – something impossible... This is a kind of a game only, so don't worry, they can't catch you and force you to fulfil your promise... Write on one side of the slip only [After all have exchanged promises] Read your friend's promise to you. Now on the other side write your reply to your friend's promise. [After this is done, and all the slips returned, ask a few children to share what they have promised and the response they got. Bring out-]

Some of us received promises which we believed, so we answered with 'Thank –you!' But some promises we could not believe because we felt our friend did not really mean it...

OR that they could not do it...it was impossible... so we just laughed or gave an unbelieving answer like , 'You can't give me that!'

II. DEVELOPMENT:

Today we are going to look at 2 women who were given a promise. We'll see how they replied to that promise. But first, we'll look at our friend Abram and hear how his name was changed and how God made him a promise.

Read Genesis 15: 1-11

In those days when people made an important promise, they did not write a letter and sign it {as you did} but they did – cut some animals into half, placed them on two sides and then both the people walked in between the 2 halves, as if to say- 'If I break my promise, let me be broken into two, like these animals!' This shows us a very serious promise. So , Abram must have been

waiting to see if God would come down and walk in between the pieces. Let's see what happened-
Read Ch 15:17-21. Let's see how God changed Abram's name-
Read Ch. 17: 1-6, 15 -16

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

God has made a promise to you also! Would you like to hear that promise?

Let us get ready to listen... be very still and quiet...

Sing softly together – *'Come by here, O Lord... We are listening Lord...'*

Before Jesus went up into heaven, he said – 'I am with you always, to the end of time'. {Mt 28:20}

[Read the words again] Let this promise sink into your hearts.

Now tell Jesus....Help me to believe this wonderful promise, Lord.

Help me at all times to believe that you are walking besides me.

Let me believe like Mary and keep talking to you and listening to your voice... asking for your guidance ... and obeying your quiet inner voice.. Amen.

[If there is time, let the children write on badges 'I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS WITH ME'. These could be prepared before hand, so that the children just write the words and make a border. They put on their badges and promise to tell atleast one person that Jesus is with them too!]

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Divide the children into groups of about three. Each group should have a Good News Bible. Give out activity sheet 'GOD MAKES A PROMISE' and let them discuss the answers and write them.

After this, have a class –sharing of the answers and bring out.]

- Both Mary and Sarah were promised something impossible, because Sarah was too old to have a baby and Mary was not married.
- But Mary believed that God's words were true and that he was ready to do great things for her. Later Elizabeth, her cousin said –'Blessed are you who believe that God's message will come true'. {Luke 1: 45}