



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

LESSON 1

Abraham and Sarah Receive God's Promise

Four stories comprise today's lesson about Abraham's meeting and relationship with God.

Summary of Today's Story

In the first story, the Lord tells Abram to leave his country and go to the land that the Lord directs, promising that through him a nation will rise up and be blessed. Abram obeys without question.

In the second story, God repeats this promise, even though Abram reminds God that he has no heir. God

then makes a covenant (a binding agreement) with Abram as a sure sign of God's promise.

At another time, when Abram (now Abraham) is 100 years old and still without an heir with his wife Sarah, three messengers of the Lord appear to him and again promise a son. They also warn Abraham about the coming destruction of the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, while Abraham receives a promise from God that God will spare the city if there are as few as ten righteous people. Genesis 19, an optional reading, describes the destruction of these cities.

Where You'll Find Today's Story

In the Bible

We recommend the *New Revised Standard Version* Bible.

Genesis 12:1-9 (Abram is called to Canaan)

Genesis 15:1-21 (God promises a son and land)

Genesis 18:1-33 (Abraham's three guests)

Genesis 19:1-29; optional (Sodom and Gomorrah)

In Children's Bibles

If you plan to use a children's Bible for storytelling, write the page numbers of today's story in the space below.

In Our Sunday Lectionary

Portions of today's story are told in church on the following Sundays:

Year A: Second Sunday in Lent; Proper 5 (RCL); Proper 6 (RCL)

Year C: Second Sunday in Lent; Proper 11; Proper 12 (BCP); Proper 14 (BCP)



Weaving Our Story with the Biblical Story

In the story of Abraham and Sarah, we see the beginning of God's call to us as God's people. And we also see why it is that Abraham and Sarah are called. Abraham is the ideal man of trust, faith and obedience. Sarah, as his spouse, mirrors the complexity of a strong relationship; she is faithful but not unthinkingly submissive, both strong and weak, faithful and independent.

Abraham and Sarah are asked by God to cut themselves off from their entire past in order to follow God. The Bible says nothing about Abraham's feelings about this call, only that "Abram went." We of course know nothing about how Sarah might have reacted to this seemingly arbitrary change in their lives. However, we can imagine that the leaving must have been hard. A call or demand from God can be difficult. But God will provide for us, God's people, just as God provided for Abraham, Sarah, and their family. Remember the lesson that we have learned from our story of salvation (in *Weaving Our Faith*, Year 1): *God stays with us, no matter what.*

Why Abraham and Sarah? Abraham at least is ready to do what God asks of him. We assume that God also trusts Sarah to do the same. Abraham must have cultivated in himself the habit of listening to God, for when God asked, "Abram went." And he has cultivated the kinds of thoughts and feelings that lead him toward the higher good. He does not insist that his property, or his possessions, or even his relatives, are too important to leave behind in order to follow God. He has been living his life aware of the higher priorities, so that when he is called to make a decision, he knows how to respond. His heart and his mind, and his soul, are predisposed toward God. God's call to him, and his response to God, is not made at random.

We too need to cultivate that kind of predisposition to God and to the good, for God will call us also. If we are ready, then we will be able to hear.

Sarah's relationship with God is different, and lived out through her relationship with Abraham. Sometimes we too, like Sarah, are faithful companions that make it possible for others to fulfill more completely their calling in life. Still, Sarah was not an invisible presence but a powerful figure who protected the promise made to her by God. From her protective stance, we might learn a lesson about what it means to defend our spiritual inheritance and the gifts that God has given to us. Such defense of God's promises is at the root of good stewardship and good relationship with God.

We too are blessed in our relationship with God and in the strength we receive from God. We are blessed to be part of the *family of God*. "For once we were no people, but now we are God's people," says Peter (1 Peter 2:10).

Abraham and Sarah may also realize that in the blessings they receive, they will be a blessing for others. Their sacrifice in leaving their homeland, although a great cost to them, will ultimately find fulfillment in the creation of a holy people dedicated to God. But they do not know this immediately. In fact, they need to be reassured periodically of God's promise. But they still trust that God is leading them, and they are ready to obey even when they do not yet see the results of that promise. We find that same trusting obedience and sacrifice in Isaiah's "suffering servant" of humankind, of whom we find the fulfillment in Jesus Christ's obedience and sacrifice on the cross.

So Abraham and Sarah's trust, faith and obedience to God show us how to listen for God and obey, even when the call is difficult. The blessing we receive is closeness with God and knowing that following God's ways of love and righteousness will be a blessing to others, even if we do not see it.

Note: In the dialogue that Abraham has with the divine messenger about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God agrees to spare the two cities if God finds as few as ten righteous men living there. We may ask, why did Abraham not push farther? Why not five or two good men? But later in the story, we find out why. With a number fewer than ten, those few good people can be led out of the city to freedom, just as Lot and his family were led out by the angels.



The Episcopal Thread

One of the distinctive characteristics of the Anglican ethos is the recognition that, like Abraham, we don't always receive answers to our questions, even

when God comes to meet and to call upon us. In fact, the Prayer Book's Morning Prayer can be seen as a daily response to God's call to us, a response of trusting in God's daily guidance. In one of the call-and-response prayers, we pray (*BCP*, p. 98):

Lord, show us your love and mercy;
For we put our trust in you.

And at the end of the day, in the service of Compline, the "bedtime prayer of the Church," we acknowledge our own uncertainties and put our trust in the sure presence and guidance of God (*BCP*, p. 133): "Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness..."

Another lesson from Abraham and Sarah's life that has been woven into the Episcopal and Anglican ethos is the attitude of thanksgiving for God's blessings. The Anglican faith is an incarnational faith, seeing God's blessings in all of daily life. The Eucharistic prayers (*Eucharist = Thanksgiving*) begin with thanks to God, for example, "for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people..."

(*BCP*, p. 368). This calling began with Abraham and continues to God's calling of us, the Body of Christ, to worship and serve God every day.

In this first patriarch, God made a promise and a covenant. The practice of covenants with God our Creator continues as we participate in the Holy Eucharist each Sunday, re-enacting the time when Jesus said to his disciples as he passed the cup of wine to them, "This is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." Each time that we share in this cup, we reconfirm that New Covenant and make it ours.

When we are baptized, we promise to live a life "in Christ," making five vows that comprise our Baptismal Covenant. We renew these promises for ourselves every time someone in our church is baptized. In these promises and in God's care for us, we are assured that "now we are God's people."



Gathering

As the children enter the room, engage them in a simple entry activity that relates to today's lesson.

Older children will enjoy a few minutes of greeting one another and renewing friendships and sharing news about what others have been doing.

On page 9, you'll find a Gathering Activity handout, Sand Maze, to use if you wish. Below are other suggestions.

If you will be using a sandbox for story time, you might have this out for children to play with.

Another idea is to post a sheet of dark blue or black butcher paper on the wall and have children begin to paint stars on the paper, in preparation for the story of God's promise to Abraham of his descendants being as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Or buy a package of star stickers and have the children put these up on the paper—as many as they can!

You can also give each child a small vial of sand and have them count the grains of sand. These grains will later be compared to the stars in the sky (as in the old lessons in astronomy: “There are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on every beach in the world”). Use colored sand for fun.

After all the children have arrived and had a few minutes of activity or fellowship time, gather them together and say a simple opening prayer to begin the lesson, such as:

- Lord God, we thank you for bringing us together here, and for being with us today. We ask that you bless all of us here, and that you send your blessing also on those who are absent, especially those who are sick today [*you may name names here*]. Bless our time together, and our fun together, and our friendships here in this room. In Jesus’ name we pray. *Amen.*

Or you may use any prayer from the Prayer Book or from any book of prayers, or make one up yourself.



Telling the Story

Read the story from a children’s Bible or tell the story in your own words, using visual aids or interactive drama, if you wish, to make the story come alive. The Appendix includes suggestions for storytelling. These Abraham stories lend themselves well to drama, if you assign roles and have the children act out their parts while you tell the story (see the Drama section of Storytelling Enhancements in the Appendix). Another option is to have a sandbox with figures to move while telling the story. The children can play with this set later.

The idea of covenant, and especially the covenant between God and Abraham, is very important. You will need to define the word *covenant* for the children. It is a binding agreement between two parties. This covenant is God’s promise not only to Abraham and Sarah but also to all of us as God’s people.

Bible stories are powerful in themselves. Once you finish telling the stories, pause for a few seconds, then move directly to the worship time. There is no need at this point either to analyze the stories or to try to find a teaching lesson. Let the impact of the stories themselves sink into the hearts and minds of the children.



Prayer

Set up a small worship center in your room.

Materials:

- small table with a cloth to cover it
- 2 candles or a single large Christ candle
- matches
- Bible
- cross
- optional:* flowers (real, artificial or handmade by the children)

Have the children set up the prayer area. Invite them to place on the altar any drawings or crafts that they created during Gathering time. Then light the candles.

Read one verse out of the Bible so that the children can connect the story that was read with the Bible, which is the word of God.

Suggestions for the readings:

Younger children: Genesis 12:2 or Genesis 15:5-6

Older children: Genesis 12:1-3 or Genesis 15:1 and 5-6

Read as follows:

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis:
(*Read the selected passage.*)

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Invite the children to sit in a circle and join in prayer. Say a brief prayer yourself then invite prayers from each child in the circle:

- Invite prayers of thanks from the children for ways in which God has been present to them during the past week. Encourage them to notice God's active role in their lives, in concrete ways: a turn of the heart from anger to forgiveness; a movement toward love; comfort from somebody else, help when sick.
- Welcome any prayers of concern or petition. Children may offer prayers for themselves or for others in need or trouble.
- Recognize any birthdays and other celebrations, and give thanks to God for them. Ask if anyone has had a birthday or celebrated a special day during the past week and give thanks for these special times.
- End the prayer time by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

Carefully extinguish the candles.



Sharing

Pass out snacks and say a simple grace, such as this early

Jewish blessing and table grace:

- Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Or you may invite children to share a favorite grace from home or camp.

While all are having their snack, you may bring up some ideas or questions about the stories of Abraham that were just told. For example:

- How did Abraham and Sarah feel, being taken away from their home and from their people?
- How would you feel?
- How do you think Abraham and Sarah were able to do such a hard thing?
- From these stories, can you tell what kinds of people Abraham and Sarah were?

For older children, you may discuss the ways in which we can cultivate the habit of following God and hearing him.

- What kind of life or habits or orientation makes us more ready or able to hear God?
- What does it mean to trust God?

Answers may vary, but encourage such responses as love, forgiveness, wanting to do right, praying, and humility. Try to help children think of personal or concrete experiences from home, school, relationships with family and friends, and playtime. You might ask:

- How do we know when God calls to us?
- How do we know it is God?

Again, personal dilemmas can be brought up. God's will is always for blessedness for us, but we may not see that blessedness immediately. The blessing may come to us only after many years, as with Abraham, or in unexpected ways, or in ways that are good for us although we do not know that. We may feel a great loss when we move from our home—loss of familiar friends, school, neighborhood—and may not see how God helps us to grow and mature through that painful move.



Memorization

There is no passage to memorize for this lesson.

If older intermediate children have not already done so during the previous year, encourage them to begin memorizing the books of the Old Testament. You may need to help them with pronunciation. Suggestions for ways to help the children with their memorization can be found on page 15 in the Appendix (also downloadable).



Weaving the Family of God

Our faith as the *family of God* is woven from the story of God and our own stories as they connect to The Story. As the time

together draws to a close, take a few minutes to help the children summarize the story and say what they learned today. You may give a brief summary of the lesson, using the “Summary of the Story” section above, or encourage them to re-tell the story.

To help them summarize the stories, you may ask such questions as these:

- Who did we talk about today?
- What did God promise to Abraham?
- What qualities did Abraham have as one of the people of God? (He obeyed God, he believed in God, he was good)
- Where does Abraham fit into our story of the people of God? (The beginning)

When summarizing the lesson, use key ideas such as: promise, blessing, people of God, nation, obey, faith. The key themes for the *family of God* are *trust* and *faith*.



Closing Prayer

Before the children leave, gather them together for a

closing prayer and dismissal to send them into the church worship service or back to their homes in the comfort of God’s love and protection of them. The prayer can be very simple, such as this one:

- O loving God, you promise that we are your people and that we will always belong to you. Stay with us this week, we pray, and fill us with your spirit, that we may know that you are with us always. And help us to love you and to love our family and friends and neighbors as you love us. We ask all this in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

Dismiss the group with these words from the Prayer Book:

- The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The children respond:

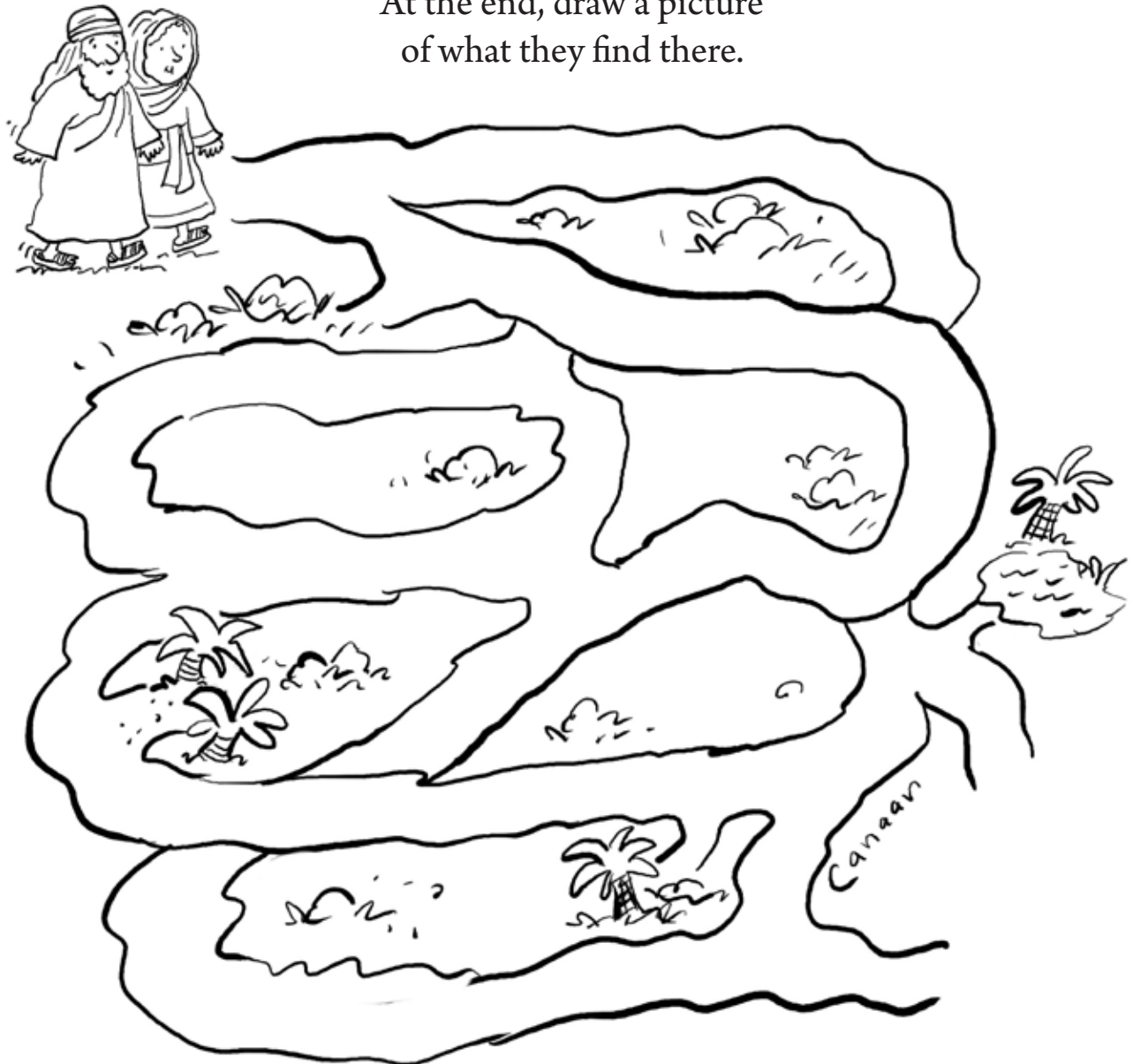
- And also with you.



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

GATHERING ACTIVITY: MAZE TO CANAAN

Help Abraham and Sarah get to Canaan.
At the end, draw a picture
of what they find there.





WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

SAND ART

for Elementary, Intermediate

Children create a desert scene like one Abraham and Sarah may have seen on their journey.

Materials:

colored sand
pencils
optional: paper cups for glue
dark construction paper, 9" x 12" (dark blue or black are best)
large containers, or paper with edges built up, to hold excess sand
optional: poster board for framing

glue
paint brushes

Preparation:

Put colored sand into small jars. Have at least jar of each color for every two children. Glue can be poured out into small paper cups, if children use paint brushes to spread the glue.

Directions:

Give each child a sheet of construction paper, which will be the background for the picture. Hand out the jars of colored sand and the glue.

1. Children will outline a picture on the paper and decide what colors of sand to use for each part of the picture. Desert scenes would be fitting for sand art: cactus, sand, desert flowers, blazing sun. However, let children decide what kind of picture they want.
2. Tell children to use one color of sand at a time. Spread the glue thinly on everything that will be a particular color (for example, everything that will be colored red). Be sure that the glue is evenly spread across the shape.
3. Sprinkle or pour the sand onto the paper, making sure that the entire glued area is covered with sand. Let sit for a minute.
4. Carefully pour any excess sand into a large container or onto a piece of paper. This excess sand can then be poured back into the sand jar.
5. Continue spreading glue and applying sand to the paper, one color at a time. Make sure that the sand is allowed to sit on the glue for a minute before pouring off the excess.
6. When the picture is finished, let the glue dry completely, or at least sufficiently to be able to carry the picture. Children may have to wait until the following week to bring their picture home.
7. For a nice touch, and to keep the picture flat, add a frame made out of poster board. Cut one piece of paper to measure 9" x 12" and glue this to the back of the picture, making a stiff background. Cut another piece of poster board to measure around 10" x 13", with the inside cut to 8½" x 11½". Glue this around the front side of the picture for the frame.



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

CAMEL PACKS

for Preschool, Primary, Elementary

The children make a camel and load it with items for a desert journey.

Materials:

large sheet of construction paper, 11" x 17" (1 per child), any color
picture of camel (p. 11), 1 per child
magazines or store sale catalogs (at least 1 or more per child)
glue
scissors
crayons

Preparation:

Make one copy of the camel picture for each child.

Directions:

Give each child a piece of construction paper and a picture of the camel and invite them to make the picture as follows:

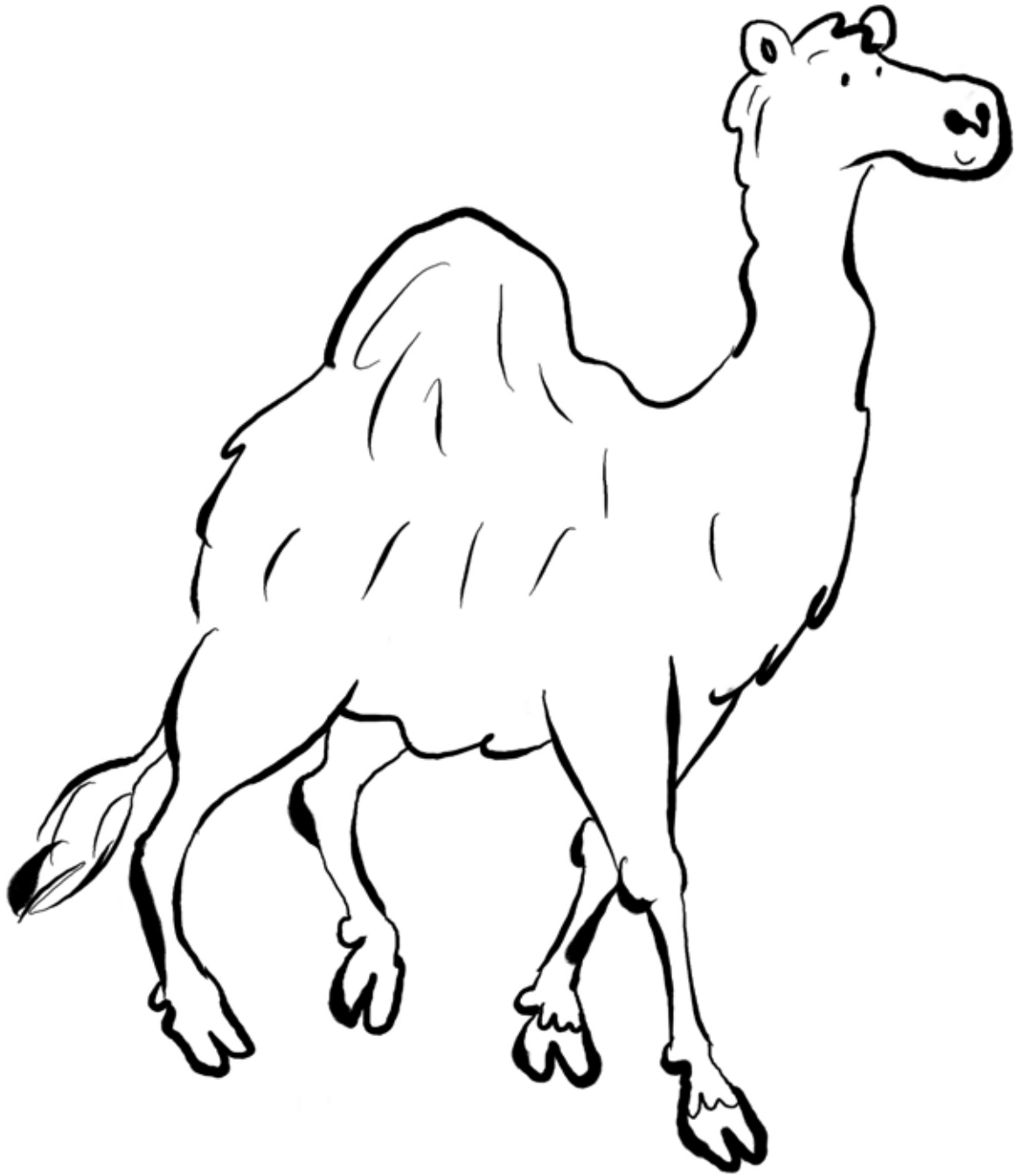
1. Color the camel and cut it out.
2. Glue the camel to the construction paper.
3. Look in the magazines or catalogs to find items that Abraham might want to pack for this journey to Canaan. They can cut out these things and glue them to the top of the camel's back. Let them pick silly things!

Variations:

For a more "realistic" camel, copy it onto card stock paper or brown construction paper. Cut a piece of "fun foam" or thick cardboard and glue this between the construction paper background and the camel for a 3-D effect.

Or cut the camel design out of a sheet of "fun foam."

Older children can draw items that the camel may hold, rather than cutting things out of the magazines. You may challenge them to think of things that might have actually been taken by Abraham during his time, such as water bags, desert clothes and food.





WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

GOD CALLS US, TOO

for Preschool, Primary, Elementary, Intermediate

In this game, the children try to keep the balloon(s) afloat while responding to the leader's call.

Materials:

balloons (for a small group or for preschoolers, use only one balloon; two for older children)

Preparation:

Blow up the balloons.

Directions (younger children):

1. Invite children to form a circle. You can be in the center.
2. Tell them that you will toss the balloon into the air and call out a name. When they hear their name, they are to hit the balloon back to you. Tell them to try to hit it before the balloon touches the floor.
3. Throw the balloon up and call one child's name. When they hit it back to you, call out another name. Be sure that all names are called.

Directions (older children):

1. Have children form a circle and number off. Stand in the center of the circle.
2. Tell them that you will toss the balloon into the air and call out a number. When they hear their number, they are to hit the balloon back to you before it touches the floor. You can then call out another number.
3. Alternatively, stand as part of the circle. Toss the balloon into the air and call out a number. When they hear their number, they are to hit the balloon up into the air before it touches the floor, and call out another number. The child of the next number called must then call out another number and hit the balloon into the air. Make sure they hit the balloon towards the center of the circle.
4. For a more raucous time, use two balloons!

What is the point?

We are all called by God. And as we are called, let us respond to God's call just as quickly as we responded to our names being called in this balloon game!



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

SPIRAL STARRY MOBILE for Intermediate

Children create stars that move and spin like those that fill the night sky.

Materials:

scissors
clear plastic lacing
pencils
optional: glue
Fun foam, various colors (poster board may be used, but it's not as fun or pretty)
spiral pattern (p. 14)

hole punch
beads
optional: glitter

Preparation:

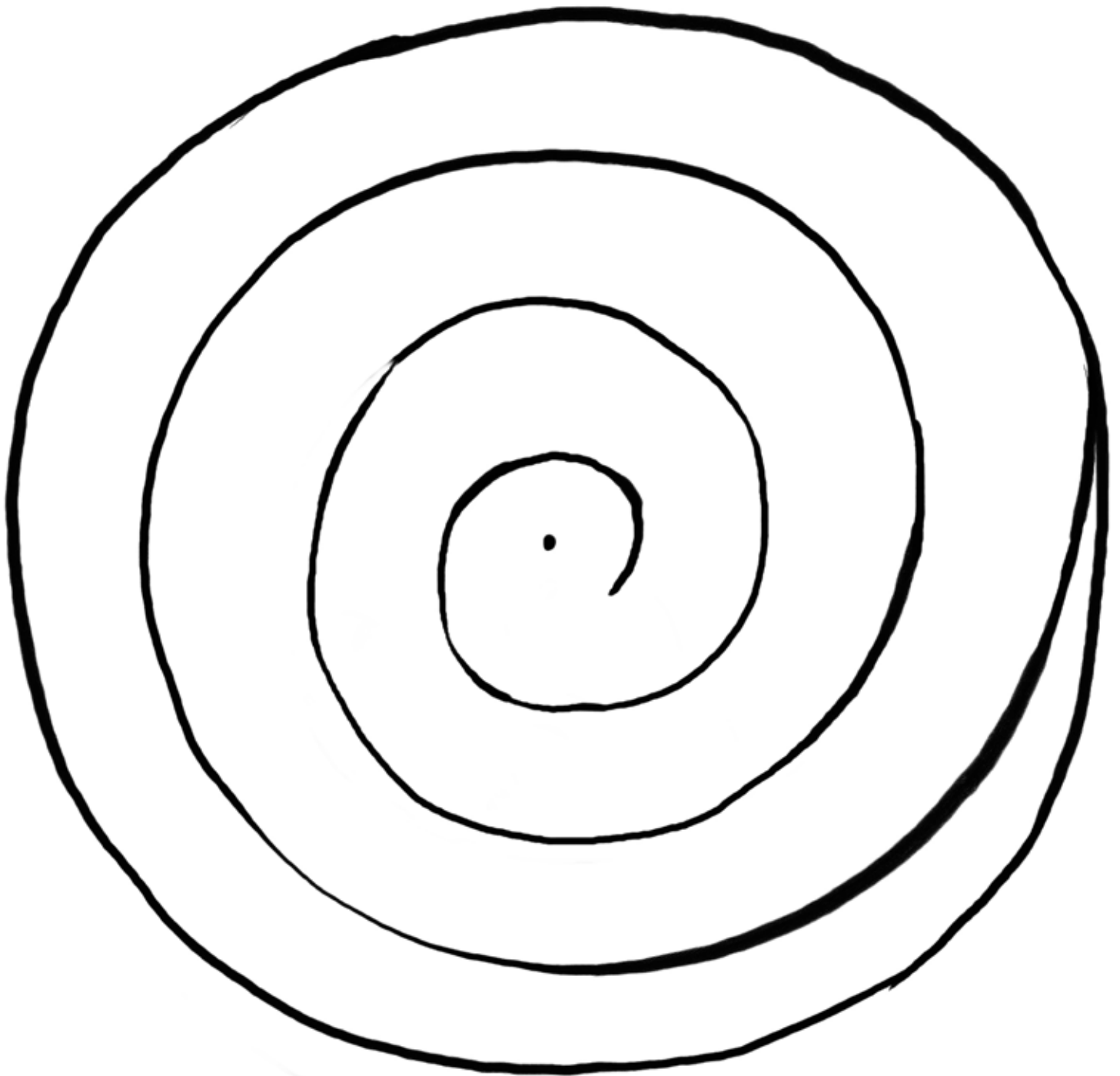
Make a copy of the spiral pattern for each child.

Directions:

Give each child one sheet of fun foam or poster board and a copy of the spiral pattern. Invite them to make the mobile as follows:

1. Cut a spiral, using the pattern on the next page.
2. Punch a hole in the spiral where indicated, using a hole punch or (being careful) scissors.
3. Cut a length of plastic lacing for the hanging thread. Thread the lacing through a bead and pull the ends so that they are even. Then thread the ends through the hole that is in the center of the spiral, making sure that the bead is on the underside of the paper. Tie the ends of the lacing together.
4. Cut out star shapes from foam or poster board. Cut or punch a hole in the top of each star. If desired, sprinkle glitter on the stars for a sparkly effect.
5. Cut short lengths (8" or so) of lacing for each shape.
6. For each star, thread the lacing through the hole in the star and pull the ends even. Then punch small holes along the spiral. Thread both ends of a star's lacing through one of the holes in the spiral, from the underside, so that the star hangs under the spiral.
7. Thread both ends of the lacing through a bead. This bead will be on top of the spiral. Tie the ends of the lacing into a knot, which will prevent the lacing from slipping through the bead and hole in the spiral.







WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

MIRRORING GOD

for Primary, Elementary, Intermediate

In this game, children imitate their partner's movements.

Directions:

Have children form pairs, and assign one child of each pair to be the *original* and one to be the *mirror*. Invite them to play the game as follows:

1. The *original* is the one who originates the movement, just as God originates life and the good life that we are to live. The *mirror* is to try to copy the *original* exactly.
2. Have the *original* and the *mirror* face each other, as in a mirror. Tell the *original* to move *slowly*. The *mirror* is to follow those movements.
3. If you have a helper or co-teacher, show the younger children how to do this.
4. After a minute, have the *original* and the *mirror* switch roles.

What is the point?

Abraham followed God, not only by going where God told him to go, but also by acting as God wanted him to act. Just as we tried to mirror our *original*, so should we try to “mirror” God's righteousness.



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

ABRAHAM'S MAP for Preschool, Primary

The children create some of the sights from Abraham and Sarah's journey.

Materials:

felt squares or construction paper, brown or tan (background for picture)
green paper
landscape pictures (p. 17)
Abraham and Sarah pictures (p. 17)
crayons or markers
scissors
optional: glue

Preparation:

For preschool children, cut tree and bush shapes from the green paper, or outline these shapes. Make a copy of the people and the landscape for each child.

Directions:

Give each child a felt square or piece of construction paper for the background and a copy of the pictures of Abraham, Sarah and the landscape.

1. Invite the children to color the pictures, then cut them out. They may also draw and cut out other pictures to put on the "map."
2. Glue the landscape pictures (bushes and trees) to the background page.
3. The pictures of the people may be left unglued, so they can move around on the map. Alternatively, they can be glued onto the picture.





WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

ABRAHAM AND SARAH'S MAGNET DESERT

for Elementary, Intermediate

Children create a desert scene and move Abraham and Sarah along their journey to Canaan.

Materials:

box lid, 1 per child (any size)
button magnets (found at craft stores)
craft sticks
wooden “people” shapes (found at craft stores)
markers
construction paper, various colors
scissors
glue
optional: sand

Directions:

1. Invite the children to use markers to put faces and clothes on the “people.”
2. Have the children glue a button magnet onto the bottom of each “person” and let dry. Be sure that the bottom of each magnet points in the same “orientation” (north or south).
3. On the box lid, outline a path or trail for Abraham and Sarah. The rest of the lid can be used for “landscaping.” The path may be a single trail or a series of paths, or even a maze.
4. If you are using real sand, have the children spread glue onto parts of the box lid that they want to be the “desert.” Sprinkle or pour sand onto the glued area and allow a minute to dry. Pour off the excess. Be sure to leave the trails free of sand.

5. From the construction paper, cut desert shapes such as cactus, palm trees or other plants and glue them onto the desert. Older children may cut shapes that can be glued standing up for a 3-D effect. Other things that may be added to the desert are animals (scorpions, lizards, camels), a river or pond, even a sign that reads “To Canaan.”
6. Glue a button magnet onto the end of a craft stick and let dry. *Make sure that the magnet is positioned so that it attracts rather than repels the magnets on the people, when the magnet is on top of the craft stick.* Children put a magnetized wooden figure on the trail of the map. They move these figures by putting the magnetized craft stick underneath the box lid and letting the magnets attract each other. The people appear to be moving by themselves. Move the figures along the paths, using the magnets.

Variation:

Older children may imagine this landscape to represent the journey of their own lives. How do we follow God as Abraham did, and what are the obstacles of our lives?

They can then make “road signs” that represent obstacles or life’s directions, such as “Baptized here” and “Church” and “Music,” and for obstacles “Bad language” or “Getting even with people.” They can also decorate their landscapes with appropriate symbols (rivers or water for life-giving parts of their lives, the infamous “dried water hole with skull” for the destructive parts).



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

CONSTELLATIONS

for Primary, Elementary

Children make a night sky full of shiny stars.

Materials:

- gold foil paper
- black or dark blue construction paper
- large safety pins
- foam or thick cardboard to help with poking the holes
- glue
- markers
- optional:* glow-in-the-dark pens or paints
- optional:* pictures of constellations

Directions:

Distribute a piece of foil and a piece of construction paper to each child. Invite the children to make the night sky as follows:

1. Cut the gold foil to the same size as the construction paper.
2. On the bottom part of the construction paper, draw the ground or other simple scenery using the markers or the glow-in-the-dark pens or paints. Leave most of the paper free for the “sky.”
3. Using the large safety pins, carefully poke holes into the construction paper. Put foam or thick cardboard underneath the paper so that when you poke the holes, the pins go through the paper and into the foam or cardboard. This makes the holes easier to poke without the pins hitting the hard work area.
4. Use constellation pictures as a guide or to poke holes freely. Poke a lot of holes! God promised Abraham and Sarah descendants “as numerous as the stars in the sky,” giving him the gift of millions and billions of descendants! The more holes, the brighter the picture!
5. Carefully, on the back outer edge of the construction paper, apply a line of glue. Then glue this to top of the gold foil paper, so that the gold shows through the poked holes.



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

STAR MOBILE for Preschool, Primary

This is another way for children to create a starry sky.

Materials:

- star patterns (p. 22)
- coat hangers
- pillow filling or cotton balls
- glitter or glitter glue
- glue
- markers, watercolors, paints or crayons
- scissors
- yarn
- tape or stapler

Preparation:

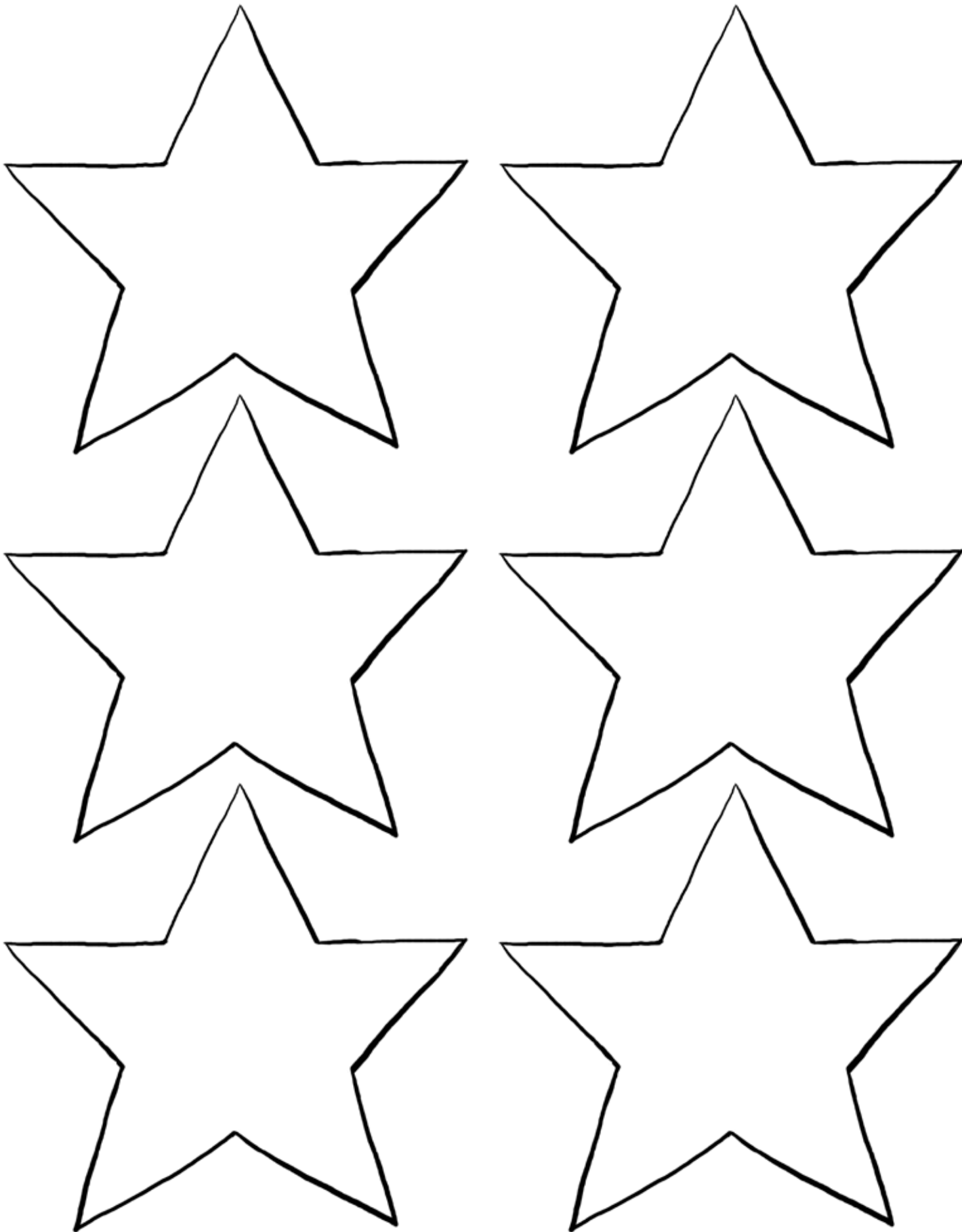
Make a copy of the star patterns for each child.

Directions:

Distribute the star patterns to each child. Invite the children to assemble their mobile as follows:

1. Cut out the stars. Decorate with markers, watercolors, paints or crayons.
2. Spread glue on stars and sprinkle glitter on them. You may use glitter glue instead, but this tends to go on heavily.
3. While the stars are drying, prepare the coat hanger. Tie several lengths of yarn to the bottom of the hanger, of varying sizes.
4. Glue pillow fluff or cotton balls onto the bottom of the hanger for clouds.
5. Tape or staple the stars to the yarn.







WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

BANANA COMPASS for Intermediate

This activity is adapted from *Magnetic Magic: Magic Tricks Done with Magnets*, written by Paul Doherty and John Cassidy (Klutz, 1994).

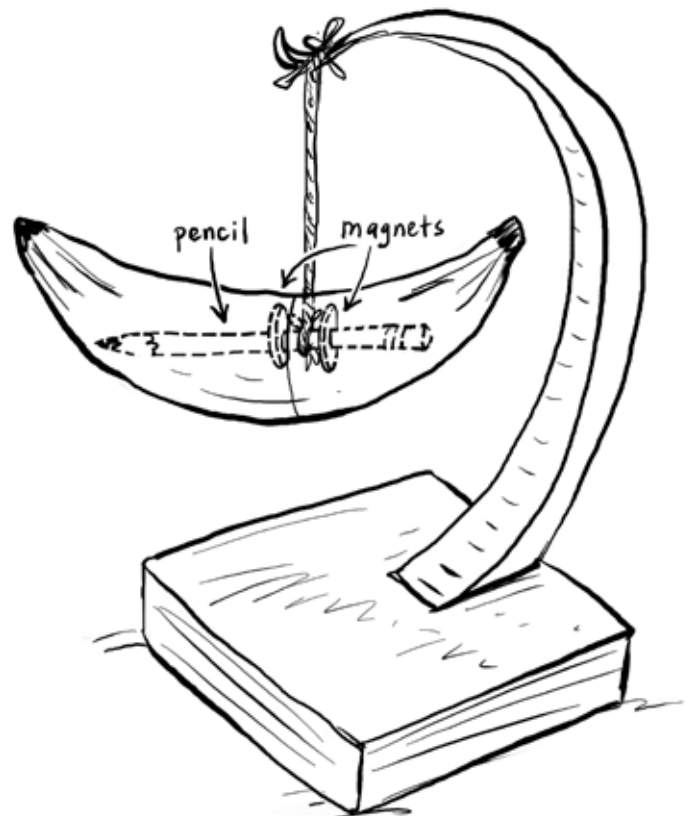
God points our direction to us, like a faithful compass. Here is a fun and wacky compass that really works! It will point to the magnetic north. This is a project for learners to work on together.

Materials:

- banana
- pencil
- scissors
- string or thread
- banana hanger
- two donut magnets (with holes in the center)

Directions:

1. Tie a pencil to the end of a 3"-5" length of string.
2. Tie the other end of the string to the banana hanger so that the pencil hangs balanced from the hanger.
3. Thread the pencil through the donut magnets, one on each side of the string where it wraps around the pencil.
4. Cut a banana in half. Poke each end of the pencil through each half of the banana so that it looks like you have a whole banana hanging from the banana hanger.
5. Let your banana compass find its orientation, and it will point north!





WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

PINHOLE PLANETARIUM for Elementary

Children create a miniature planetarium.

Materials:

- 30 oz. empty can, without the lid, 1 per child
- large nail
- hammer
- white paper
- brown and green construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers

Directions:

Distribute cans and paper to the children. Invite each child to make a planetarium as follows:

1. Cut the paper to fit around the can.
2. Draw a desert scene on the paper and glue it to the outside of the can.
3. Make one or two small trees from the construction paper. Lay the can on its side. Cut out and glue to the inside *side* of the can (not the flat bottom).
4. Use the nail to hammer holes into the bottom of the can.
5. Look into the can. You will see a nighttime scene of trees with the starry night above the horizon!





WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

MORE SAND ART for Elementary, Intermediate

Children use sand to create a textured painting. When you travel through the desert, like Abraham and Sarah did, sand gets in *everything*!

Materials:

- poster paint
- paintbrushes
- 8½" x 11" pieces of poster board or cardboard
- clean, dry sand
- plastic knife
- pencil

Preparation:

Mix poster paints with sand to make the sand paint. Make sure that the paint is thin enough to spread with a paintbrush.

Directions:

Distribute the materials to the children. Invite each child to make sand art:

1. Draw a simple picture on the poster board with a pencil.
2. Use the paintbrushes to paint, or a plastic knife for thicker application. The knife can make waves in the water or squiggles in the land.