

# ABRAHAM



## THINK ABOUT IT:

How can you trust God?

## Introduction

Give each child a penny. Call attention to the motto *IN GOD WE TRUST*. Our leaders wanted a way to remind people that we should only put our faith and trust in God, not in people or things. It was decided to place *IN GOD WE TRUST* on coins that everyone used, so people would see it every day. Today all coins carry this important reminder.

## Message

1. Show the visual of Abraham and the stars.
2. Say, "Today we are going to hear about how God started the nation of Israel with a man who placed all his trust in God and we will learn how we can trust God."
3. Read Genesis 12:1-4, 15:5-6.
4. Ask, "Have any of you ever moved? What was it like? How did you feel?" Say, "I'm sure Abraham had some of those feelings as well. What we do know is he placed his trust in God, no matter how he felt."
5. Ask, "How can we tell someone is trustworthy?" (*They keep their promises*).
6. Say, "Over and over again in the Bible we read about God's promises to His people and how He kept those promises. Not one promise that God made was ever broken! Because of that, we can place our trust in God!"
7. Say, "Let's do a little experiment to see what trusting in God looks like." Ask for a volunteer who is willing to trust you and have that child come forward.
8. Hold up the bag of water and ask if they trust you to not get them wet. If the answer is no, find a volunteer willing to trust you.



## SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-4

Genesis 15:5-6

Proverbs 3:5-6



## MATERIALS

- Visual - Abraham/stars \*
- Bible for each small group leader
- Penny for each child
- Ziploc bag
- Sharpened pencil
- Towel
- Stick pretzels

\* Available in the Member Toolbox



## PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark Bible verses
- Fill the Ziploc bag 3/4 full with water

**IDEA!**

When twisting the pencil into the bag, simply hold the bag at the top. Don't put extra pressure on the bag by squeezing it!

**EXTRA TIME**

Continue the discussion about trust and promises. Share a time when you personally needed to place your trust in God. What was happening in your life? How were you feeling? How did things work out? Encourage the children to share times when they have (or could have) trusted God for the outcome of a situation.

9. Say, "Let's pretend that the water is something we're experiencing that makes us uncomfortable or uncertain about what will happen. The bag is God, and the pencil is us."
10. Hold the bag of water over the volunteer's head and slowly twist the sharpened point of the pencil through the bag (look for a wrinkle-free bulge in the bag). Continue twisting through the other side. Give the volunteer a hand for their trust!
11. Say, "I'm glad our volunteer trusted me to keep my promise, but even I might sometimes break a promise. God, however, will never break a promise. Just like the pencil and the water were held in place by the bag, God will hold us and every circumstance we have to go through."

## Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Read Proverbs 3:5-6.
2. Ask, "What are we not supposed to trust?" (*ourselves*)
3. Ask, "What does it mean when we trust ourselves instead of God?" (*we aren't listening to Him, we're being prideful*)
4. Ask, "How would our lives look if we thought about what God wants us to do before we speak or act?" (*we would be praying, reading the Bible, making good choices*)
5. Ask, "How can we trust God?" (*give Him our worries, listen to Him*)
6. Say, "God promises to make our paths straight when we trust in Him. He promises to never leave us and help us make good choices when we place our trust in Him."
7. Give each child a stick pretzel to hold during prayer time.
8. Explain that the pretzels are like promises—once broken, they are impossible to repair! Have the children break their pretzel and see if they can get it back together again. Since they can't, discuss how wonderful it is to know that God will never break His promises and we can be sure about putting our trust in Him.
9. Ask if any of the children have something they are feeling uncertain or unsure about that they would like the group to pray about.
10. Pray for the children to place their trust in God, and for God to keep His promise to be with them no matter what is going on in their lives.
11. Let the children eat their pretzels.