

# Open Bible Stories — God's Covenant with Abraham

---

## Introduction

### Key Idea

The story of God's covenant with Abraham teaches us about God's promised plan to restore blessing to his fallen world.

### Core Belief Verse

*"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." — Galatians 3:29*

## God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

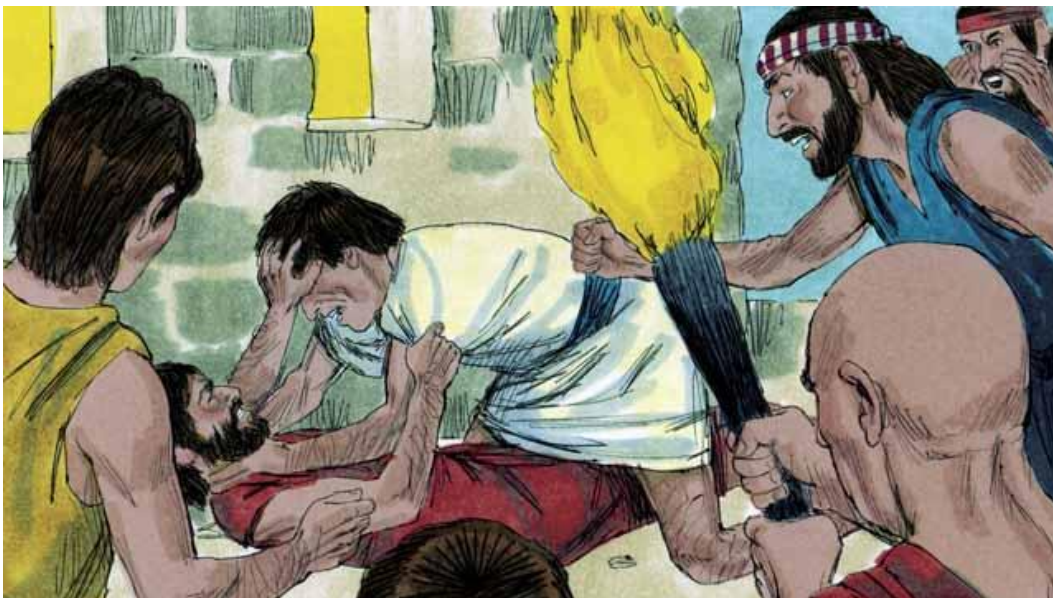
God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

## The Story: God's Covenant with Abraham

---

04-01



Many years after the flood, there were again many people in the world, and they still sinned against God and each other. Because they all spoke the same language, they gathered together and built a city instead of spreading out over the earth as God had commanded.

04-02



They were very proud, and they did not want to obey God's commands about how they should live. They even began building a tall tower that would reach heaven. God saw that, if they all kept working together to do evil, they could do many more sinful things.

04-03



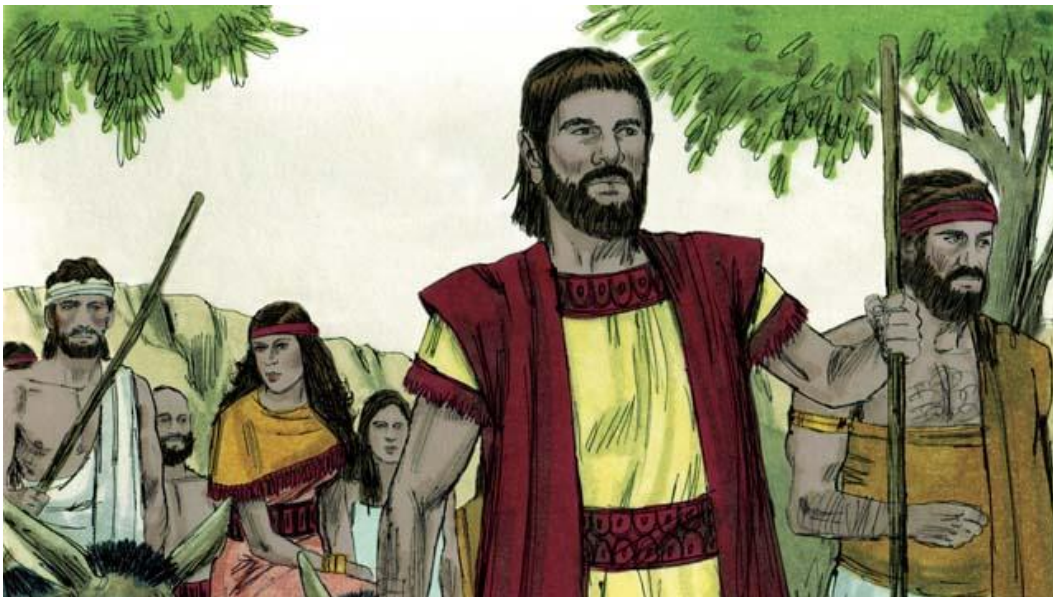
So God changed their language into many different languages and spread the people out all over the world. The city they had begun to build was called Babel, which means "confused."

04-04



Hundreds of years later, God spoke to a man named Abram. God told him, "Leave your country and family and go to the land I will show you. I will bless you and make you a great nation. I will make your name great. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All families on earth will be blessed because of you."

04-05



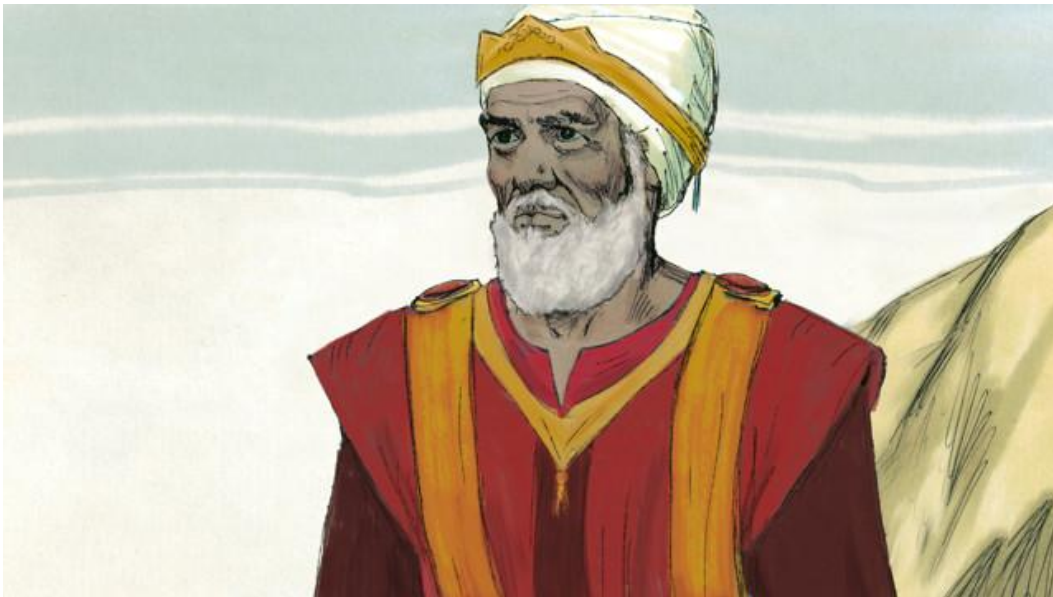
So Abram obeyed God. He took his wife, Sarai, together with all of his servants and everything he owned and went to the land God showed him, the land of Canaan.

04-06



When Abram arrived in Canaan, God said, "Look all around you. I will give to you all this land, and your descendants will always possess it." Then Abram settled in the land.

04-07



There was a man named Melchizedek who was a priest of God Most High. One day, after Abram had been in a battle, he and Abram met. Melchizedek blessed Abram and said, "May God Most High who owns heaven and earth

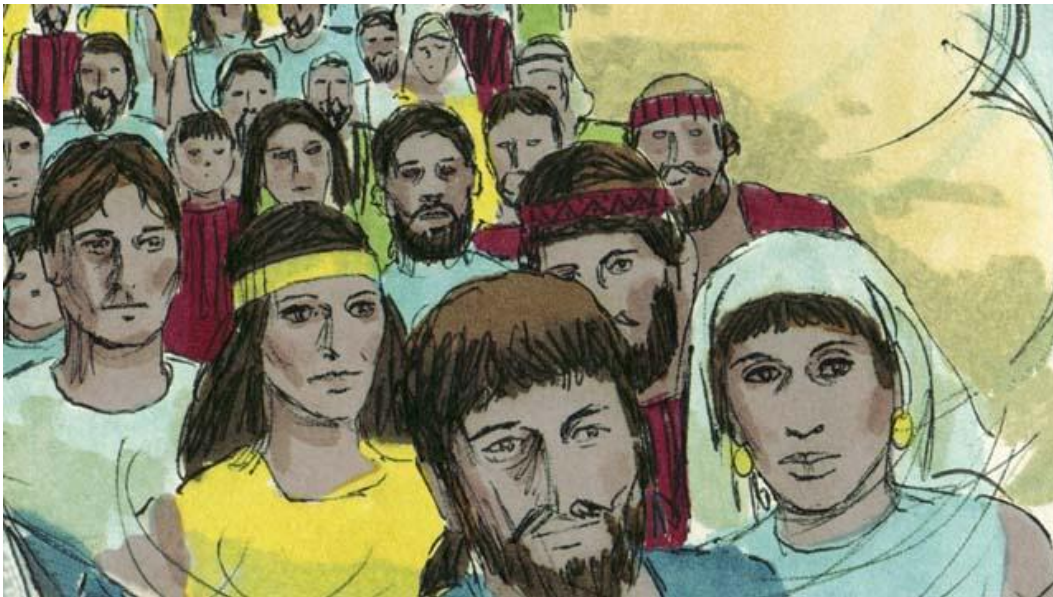
bless Abram." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had won in the battle.

04-08



Many years went by, but Abram and Sarai still did not have a son. God spoke to Abram and promised again that he would have a son and as many descendants as the stars in the sky. Abram believed God's promise. God declared that Abram was righteous because he believed in God's promise.

04-09



Then God made a covenant with Abram. Normally, a covenant is an agreement between two parties to do things for each other. But in this case, God made a promise to Abram while Abram was in a deep sleep, but he

could still hear God. God said, "I will give you a son from your own body. I give the land of Canaan to your descendants." But Abram still did not have a son.

*A Bible story from: Genesis 11–15*

## **One Body, Many Members — Enjoying God's Design of Christian Community**

- **Key Idea:** Celebrating the unity and diversity of God's people
- **Key Passage:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- **Main Session:** OBS 4 (Covenant with Abraham)

### **Recite the Core Belief Verse** (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*"Then if you are Christ's, you are Abraham's descendants, and heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:29"*

### **Read the Passage** (5 minutes)

God forms believers into a community called the church. The church is like a person: one body made up of many parts. God wants his people to be unified and united (to function as one) and celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of individual members (who use their unique giftedness for the good of the community). In order to understand God's design of Christian community, read the passage below.

*"12 For as the body is one and has many members and all are members of the same body, so it is with Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bound or free, and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not a single member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Since I am not the hand, I am not part of the body," it is not any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body," it is not any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But*

*God arranged each part of the body as he designed it. 19 If they were all the same member, where would the body be? 20 So now they are many members, but only one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you." Nor does the head say to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 But the members of the body that appear to be weaker are essential, 23 and the parts of the body that we think are less honorable, we give them greater honor, and our unpresentable members have more dignity. 24 Now our presentable members have no need to be treated with dignity, for they already have dignity. But God has joined all the members together, and he gave more honor to those that lacked it. 25 He did this so there may be no division within the body, but that the members should care for one another with the same affection. 26 So when one member suffers, all the members suffer together; or when one member is honored, all the members rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. — 1 Corinthians 12:12-27"*

**Explore the Idea** (10–15 minutes)

The above passage introduces us to God's design for Christian community. Use the following questions to learn what it means for your group to function like one body made up of many members.

1. How does this passage describe what it means to be a part of the church community?
2. What are some challenges of being a part of a community that acts as one body and is made up of different individual members?
3. How can a Christian community encourage the unity of the whole group and also celebrate the unique giftedness of diverse members?
4. What are ways your community can realize God's vision for being one body made up of many parts?

**Envision the Community** (5–10 minutes)

Think about what it would look like for your community to remain unified and also celebrate the uniqueness of each member. Imagine what the fruit might be to work in such a God-honoring community. By God's help, if our community acts as one body with many members, then the result would be...

**Pray to God** (5 minutes)

Christians can only enjoy the unity and diversity of Christian community with God's help. It is not possible to maintain Christian community in our own human strength. Spend time praying as a community that God would help you realize the vision of the above passage and work together as a body.

**Sing a Song** (3–5 minutes)

Reflect on what it means to be a Christian community. Sing a song that celebrates God's work in forming God's people together as a unified body.

## **Movement 1: Understand the Story**

---

*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### **Observation Questions**

04-01

After the flood, did people follow God's commands?

No. People continued to sin.

How many different languages were there in the world at that time?

There was only one language.

Instead of spreading out over the earth, what did humans do?

Humans gathered together and built a city instead of spreading over the earth.

04-02

Why did people not follow God's commands?

People were proud and did not want to follow how God told them to live.

What did the people work together to do instead of spreading out over the earth?

They started to build a tall tower that would reach heaven.

What did God think of the tower humans were building?

God thought building the tower was evil and if they kept working together they would do even more sinful things.

04-03

What did God do to cause the people to spread out all over the world?

God changed their language into many different languages.

What was the name of the city that they were building?

The city was named Babel.

What does the name Babel mean?

Babel means 'confused.'

*04-04*

What did God tell Abram to do?

God told Abram to leave his country and family and go to another land.

What did God promise to do for Abram?

He promised to give Abram all the land he could see, to make his name great, to make his descendants a great nation, and to bless all the families on earth through him.

*04-05*

How did Abram respond to God's command?

Abram obeyed God.

To which land did Abram go?

Abram went to the land of Canaan.

*04-06*

What promise did God make to Abram about Canaan?

God would give Canaan to Abram and his descendants would always possess Canaan.

Where did Abram settle?

Abram settled in the land of Canaan.

*04-07*

Who was Melchizedek?

Melchizedek was the priest of God Most High.

When did Abram and Melchizedek meet?

Abram and Melchizedek met one day after Abram had been in battle.

What did Melchizedek do for Abram?

Melchizedek blessed Abram.

What did Abram give to Melchizedek?

Melchizedek gave him a tenth of all he owned.

04-08

What did God promise Abram after he had lived in Canaan for many years?

Abram would have a son and as many descendants as the stars in the sky.

What did Abram think of God's promise?

Abram believed God's promise.

Why did God say Abram was righteous?

God said this because Abram believed God's promise.

04-09

How did God make his promise to Abram?

God made a covenant with Abram.

What is a covenant?

A covenant is an agreement between two parties.

When did God make his covenant with Abram?

God made a covenant with Abram while Abram was in a deep sleep.

What did God promise to Abram in this covenant?

God promised he would give Abram a son, many descendants, and the land of Canaan.

## **Movement 2: Theological Questions**

---

### **What Does This Story Teach Us?**

1. How are humans sinful and disobedient to God? What are ways this story shows us ways in which people are sinful?
2. How much can we trust God's promises? What kinds of promises does God give in this story that teaches us about God's promises?
3. What does it mean to believe (or trust) in God's promises? What does Abram teach us about the nature of faith?

## **Movement 3: Live It Out**

---

### **Personal Implications & Applications From The Story**

*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

1. How can you see pride and disobedience in your own life?

2. How hard do you think it would be to follow God's command to Abram?  
Why is it hard to trust God's promises?
3. Have you put your trust in God's promises? How do you know?
4. Think about this week. Where does "God's Covenant with Abraham" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now:  
The story of God's covenant with Abraham teaches us about God's promised plan to restore blessing to his fallen world.

## **Movement 4: Retell the Story**

---

*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "God's Covenant with Abraham" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

### **Church Ministry**

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

## **Movement 5: Share It**

---

*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "God's Covenant with Abraham" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

### **Mission Engagement**

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.