



Camping: 4-Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

In a world of constant noise, screens, and distractions, this summer series invites kids to "unplug" and discover how getting away from it all can bring us closer to God. Through powerful Bible stories of outdoor encounters with God, children will learn that sometimes we need to step away from everyday life to really experience His presence. Just like camping helps us appreciate nature by leaving behind our usual routines, these lessons show how finding quiet moments with God can transform our faith and our lives.

Main Idea: Get outside and get closer to God!

Gospel Connection: The ultimate way God made Himself known wasn't through a burning bush or shining mountaintop—it was through Jesus dying on a cross for our sins and rising again. Every miracle in this series points to the greatest truth: God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a forever relationship with Him, and when we trust in Jesus' sacrifice, God forgives our sins completely and welcomes us into His family.

4-Week Lesson Overview

Week 1 – Only God Can Count That High

- Bible Story: Abraham Counts the Stars (Genesis 15:1-6)
- Main Idea: God keeps His amazing promises, even when they seem impossible
- Summary: God told Abraham to look up at the sky and count the stars. There were too many to count! God promised Abraham a big family, even when it seemed impossible. This week, we learn that God always keeps His promises, and we can trust Him!

Week 2 – When God Starts the Campfire

- Bible Story: Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
- Main Idea: God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- Summary: One day, Moses saw a bush on fire, but it didn't burn up! Then, he heard God's voice. God had a special job for Moses. This week, we learn that God speaks to us in special ways and has a plan for us too!

Week 3 – The Ultimate Survivor Test

- Bible Story: Jesus in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)
- Main Idea: God's Word helps us stand strong against temptation
- Summary: Jesus spent time alone in the wilderness, and the devil tried to trick Him. But Jesus used God's words to stay strong! This week, we learn that God's Word helps us make good choices and stand strong!

Week 4 – Miracle on the Mountaintop

- Bible Story: Jesus on the Mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-13)
- Main Idea: Jesus reveals His true glory as God's Son
- Summary: Jesus took His friends up a big mountain, and something amazing happened—His face shined bright like the sun! This week, we learn that Jesus is God's Son, and He is full of light and love!





THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STORE

You love children's ministry, but some days, *it feels like too much.*

You're pulled in every direction—lesson prep, volunteers, tight budgets—and wondering if all your effort is really making a difference.

But children's ministry should be joyful, not stressful. That's why we create Bible-centered, ready-to-use curriculum for small churches like yours.

✅ No complicated prep

💡 Just fun and Biblically solid lessons that kids love

🏰 And volunteers can actually teach with confidence

Because when teaching is simple, ministry becomes joyful again.

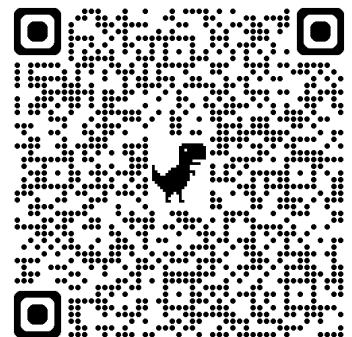
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Step #2 📝 Help shape the future – [5-minute survey](#)

Step #3 📖 Upgrade to NEW curriculum – [Click here](#)

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Thank you for serving God's children. May He bless your ministry for His glory and the joy of the next generation.

Tony Kummer
Founder & Editor
[The Sunday School Store](#)
[Ministry-To-Children.com](#)



James 1:17 NIV

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.





James 1:17 KJV

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.





James 1:17 ESV

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.





James 1:17 NLT

Whatever is good and perfect is
a gift coming down to us from
God our Father, who created all
the lights in the heavens. He
never changes or casts a
shifting shadow.





Week 1 – Only God Can Count That High

Bible Story: Abraham Counts the Stars Genesis 15:1-6

Main Idea: God keeps His amazing promises, even when they seem impossible

Summary: God told Abraham to look up at the sky and count the stars. There were too many to count! God promised Abraham a big family, even when it seemed impossible. This week, we learn that God always keeps His promises, and we can trust Him!

Video Bible Stories: Use this link to access recommended Bible story videos and bonus content for this curriculum series. https://linktr.ee/Camping_lesson

Parent Connect: Print extra copies of this overview page to share with the families in your ministry.



Week 1 – Supply List

Introduction Game – Impossible Counting Challenge

- ☐ A large container filled with small items (e.g., dried beans, beads, or marbles)
- ☐ A smaller container for transferring items
- ☐ Paper and pencils for kids to write down their guesses

Object Lesson – Balloon of Blessings

- ☐ 1 large balloon (preferably a light color so the writing is visible)
- ☐ A permanent marker

Craft Activity – Jar of Promises

- ☐ Small jars (plastic or glass; one per child)
- ☐ Star-shaped cutouts (pre-cut for younger children)
- ☐ Markers or crayons
- ☐ Stickers or other decorations (optional)
- ☐ Glue or tape

Coloring Page and Word Search Puzzle (provided below, make 1 copy per child)



Introduction Game (5 minutes)

Impossible Counting Challenge

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ A large container filled with small items (e.g., dried beans, beads, or marbles)
- ☐ A smaller container for transferring items
- ☐ Paper and pencils for kids to write down their guesses

TEACHER: Welcome, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. This week, we're starting our exciting series called "Camping," where we're learning how getting outside can bring us closer to God. Today, we'll hear an amazing story about Abraham. God asked him to look up at the stars and count them—have you ever tried to count all the stars in the sky? It's impossible, isn't it? But God used those stars to remind Abraham of a big promise He made. Let's start with a game to help us think about that impossible sounding promise.

1. This container is FULL of tiny objects. Does anyone think they can count them all? Let's see how close you can get!
2. Everyone will have a turn to scoop out a handful of items into the smaller container. Then I'll have you guess how many you scooped and write it down.
3. Once everyone has taken a turn, I'll tell you how many objects are actually in the container.

TEACHER: Was it hard to count all those tiny pieces? Imagine counting the stars in the sky! That's what God asked Abraham to do, and then He made an incredible promise: that Abraham's descendants would be as countless as the stars. God always keeps His promises, even when they seem impossible.



Object Lesson (5 minutes) Balloon of Blessings

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ 1 large balloon (preferably a light color so the writing is visible)
- ☐ A permanent marker

TEACHER: In our story, God made a BIG promise to Abraham. He told him his descendants—his family—would be as many as the stars in the sky. That’s hard to imagine, isn’t it? Let’s use this balloon to help us think more about promises.

Hold up the deflated balloon.

Right now, this balloon is small and empty. It doesn’t look very exciting, does it? Sometimes when God makes a promise, it can be hard to imagine how big or amazing it will be. But let’s see what happens when we trust His promise. As God promised Abraham, He said his family would grow and grow. Every time we blow up the balloon, it gets bigger, just like Abraham’s descendants would!

Blow the balloon bit by bit. Pause and use the marker to write words like “Love,” “Grace,” “Forgiveness,” and “Faithfulness” on the balloon.

God’s promises aren’t just about Abraham’s family. They remind us of the blessings we receive when we trust God—like His love, His grace, and His forgiveness.

Finish blowing up the balloon, making it as big as possible without popping it.

Now look at this balloon—it’s HUGE! Just like Abraham couldn’t count all the stars, we can’t count all the blessings God gives us. His promises are bigger than we can imagine, and He always keeps them.





Bible Story (15-20 minutes)

Only God Can Count That High

Objective: After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Summarize Abraham's story of counting the stars
- Understand that God keeps impossible promises
- Apply the lesson of trusting God to their own lives

Main Idea: God keeps His amazing promises, even when they seem impossible

TEACHER: Have you ever tried to count all the stars in the sky? Today, we're learning about Abraham and how God used the stars to show him something amazing. Our main idea is: God keeps His amazing promises, even when they seem impossible.

[Look up with wide eyes and count dramatically on your fingers, starting enthusiastically then looking overwhelmed.]

The story of Abraham is in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Genesis shows us how God started His plan to save the world, and Abraham was a key part of that plan! God chose Abraham to begin a special family that would one day bless everyone.

READ: Genesis 15:1-3

Abraham was living far from his old home, and God had already promised to bless him. But years had passed, and Abraham and his wife Sarah still had no children. This made Abraham worried.



When God promised Abraham a reward, Abraham felt confused. "God, how can this work? I don't even have a child! Who will carry on my family?"

Have you ever waited a long time for something important? It's hard, isn't it?

Abraham waited for years and started to wonder if God's promise would ever come true.

[Tap your fingers on your palm to demonstrate waiting, showing increasing impatience with your facial expression.]

READ: Genesis 15:4-5

God wasn't upset by Abraham's questions. Instead, God did something to help Abraham understand.

[Stand up and motion for children to stand with you.]

Everyone up! Let's pretend we're Abraham. It's nighttime, and God has taken us outside. Look at all those stars! Try to count them with me: 1, 2, 3...

[Point up dramatically and move your finger as if pointing to stars in the sky.]

10, 11, 12... 20, 21, 22...

[Count faster and faster, then throw your hands up in playful frustration.]

We can't do it! There are too many!

That's exactly what God wanted Abraham to see. God promised Abraham would have more descendants than all those stars!

[Motion for children to sit back down and sit with them.]



Imagine how Abraham felt looking at all those stars!

[Make an exaggerated surprised face with mouth open and eyes wide.]

READ: Genesis 15:6

Even though God's promise seemed impossible, Abraham believed God. He trusted that if God said it would happen, it would!

The Bible says God "counted Abraham's faith as righteousness." Righteousness means being right with God. Abraham's trust made God happy.

[Hold up your pinky finger and link it with an imaginary person's pinky.]

Have you made a pinky promise before? Sometimes we break promises because we're human. But God never breaks His promises. Abraham trusted this completely.

READ: Hebrews 11:8-12

This tells us Abraham didn't just believe once—he kept believing God, even when things got hard. He left his home when God told him to. He and Sarah had a baby when they were very old—something that seemed impossible!

The Bible says Abraham's descendants became as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore!

[Sweep your hand across in a wide arc to show the vastness.]

Have you tried counting sand at the beach? Even more impossible than counting stars!

GOSPEL CONNECTION: Abraham's faith is important because it shows us what trusting God looks like. But there's an even bigger reason this story matters.



Remember that promise about Abraham's family blessing the world? That promise came true through Jesus! Jesus was born into Abraham's family many generations later. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again, He made a way for everyone to become part of God's family.

When we trust in Jesus, we become part of that huge family God promised Abraham—as countless as the stars!

SUMMARY: Today we learned how God showed Abraham the stars to help him understand an amazing promise. Even when it seemed impossible for Abraham and Sarah to have children, Abraham trusted God. And God kept His promise! Abraham did have a son, who continued the family line all the way to Jesus.

Our main idea is: God keeps His amazing promises, even when they seem impossible. This week, when something feels hard or impossible, remember Abraham looking up at those countless stars, and remember that God can do anything He promises!



Discussion Questions & Prayer (10 minutes)

TEACHER: Great job listening so well during the lesson today! Now let's talk about what we've learned. I have a few questions for us to think about together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think Abraham felt when God told him his family would be as many as the stars? Can you think of a time when you felt like something was too big to believe?
2. What are some promises that God has made to us? How do those promises help us trust Him when life feels difficult or confusing?
3. If you could ask God one question about His promises, like Abraham did, what would it be?

TEACHER: Thank you for sharing your thoughts and questions. God loves hearing from us, just like He listened to Abraham. Now, before we pray, does anyone have something they would like us to talk to God about? Maybe something you're thankful for or something you need help with?

Let's all pray together.

Dear God, thank You for always keeping Your promises, even when we don't understand how You will do it. Thank You for the story of Abraham and how he trusted You. Help us to trust You, too, even when things feel impossible. Please hear the prayer requests we shared today, and thank You for loving us so much. We love You, God, and we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Abraham Counts the Stars (Genesis 15:1-6)



Word Search Puzzle

ABRAHAM - BELIEVE - FAMILY - FAITHFUL - GOD - HEAVEN

HOPE - PROMISE - SKY - STARS - TRUST - VISION - WORD

O	A	E	V	F	N	N	H	O	P	E
B	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	Q	W	S
P	R	F	H	Y	U	T	A	S	P	V
Q	A	Z	O	F	Q	R	V	Q	K	L
P	H	L	D	U	S	U	E	M	U	P
V	A	F	U	R	V	S	N	F	R	R
W	M	Z	A	V	I	T	H	K	B	H
O	S	T	C	M	S	T	D	Q	C	E
C	S	I	O	G	I	K	N	G	G	L
W	O	R	D	A	O	L	Y	N	I	N
F	P	V	F	Y	N	D	Y	B	X	W



Word Search Answers



Craft Activity – Jar of Promises

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ Small jars (plastic or glass; one per child)
- ☐ Star-shaped cutouts (pre-cut for younger children)
- ☐ Markers or crayons
- ☐ Stickers or other decorations (optional)
- ☐ Glue or tape



TEACHER: Today, we're going to make a "Promise Jar." This jar will remind us of God's amazing promise to Abraham, that his family would be as countless as the stars in the sky. Each star we add to the jar represents a promise from God to us. Remember, our main idea is this: God keeps His amazing promises, even when they seem impossible.

1. To get started, take your jar and decorate it with markers, stickers, or whatever you like. You can draw stars, hearts, or designs to make it your own.
2. Next, take a few of these star-shaped papers. On each star, write or draw a promise from God that you've learned about today. If you need ideas, think about promises like God always loves us, God is always with us, or God forgives us when we ask.
3. Once you've written or drawn on your stars, fold them gently and place them inside your jar. You can add as many as you'd like!
4. When you take this jar home, you can keep adding stars whenever you think of another promise from God. It will remind you that just like Abraham couldn't count the stars, we can't count all of God's amazing promises to us.