

Abram's Promises!

Gen 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country,

From your family

And from your father's house,

To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Concepts to be taught:

* Many years have come and gone. Many wars have come and gone. The boundaries of the land God gave to Abraham as the home of his nation, and the boundaries of Israel today are very different. "The Land" is still a major issue in the Middle East today.

* Look at verse 3. God has not changed His mind about those words. Those (individuals, countries) who BLESS Israel will be blessed. Those (individuals, countries) who CURSE Israel will be cursed.

The following activities will help the children to see and understand the importance of our prayers for this nation. Israel is important to God. God's promises to Abraham, the Father of this Nation, are as true for the Israelites today as when they were spoken years ago. And if we are believers in Christ Jesus, Israel is our spiritual "homeland". Jesus, our Messiah, is a Jew. Because the Jewish people as a nation rejected Him, the doors for salvation were opened up to non-Jewish people. What a blessing for us to be included in the heritage of this great nation as "seeds of Abraham". Now more than ever, we must pray for the Jewish people to receive their soon coming Redeemer.

Blessings or Curses?

This game will allow the children to travel through Old Testament events and see firsthand that those who “blessed” Israel (their leaders, armies etc), receive a blessing. If they turned their backs on Israel, their consequence was not a good one.

DO AHEAD OF TIME

The children will play in groups of twos, so copy enough of the game board sheets according to the size of your class. Give each child a small baggie with beans in it to use as markers.

Make copies of the blessing and curses game cards according to the number of children that are playing. There are 20 cards to be used for the game: 10 blessing cards and 10 curses. The cards should be copied on the same color paper so the children can not tell the difference between the card topics. Shuffle the cards, divide them and place them on the game board sheet.

THE CHILDREN NEED THEIR BIBLES TO PLAY THIS GAME. As they pick their cards, they will see red words that say “**READ WHAT HAPPENS**”. This is the Scriptural reference that leads the children to see if their card event ends up a blessing or a curse. **EVEN IF THEY KNOW THE END OF THE STORY, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THEY READ THE VERSES ALOUD.** The other player may not know the event. Additionally, it is good for the kids to see and hear God’s words that prove when dealing with Israel, there will be a good or bad ending.

TO PLAY

Tell the children to place one bean on the end of their column that leads to Jerusalem. The children will take turns picking a card and reading the consequence. If the ending is a “blessing”, they can move their bean up one space to the, if a curse, they go back one space. Blessings move forward, curses are penalized by losing ground.

If the children go through all the cards, simply shuffle and start over. The more they read those verses, the more the chance of “hiding them in their heart”.

If they reach Jerusalem, have them keep their bean on the blue cross shapes that are surrounding the city. They can keep playing until they fill the city wall with protectors.

If you have limited time, you need to make sure that the class has time to pray.

PRAYER TIME

If God's Word never changes, we need to have a discussion about what verse 3 means for the (your country) today.

Does it make a difference if (your country) does not "bless" Israel? Have a group talk and share together. What are some of the things that happened to people in our Bible game when they did NOT help Israel? What happened if they did?

List these things on the board and ask the class, "Could something like this happen to our country if we turn our back on Israel today?"

Pray for our nation, for our leaders, for individual hearts that we NEVER turn our backs on Israel.

If you have time, make the craft entitled "Bind us together"

