

# The People of the Promise



*I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

– GENESIS 12:2

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

Abraham and Sarah were called from their homes to a cloudy future. They had next to nothing—no land, and no people to their name. They couldn't have children of their own. The only thing they really had was the promise of God. God promised them they would have a son and all the families of the world would be blessed through them. Because of this couple's faith, a child was born and through their descendants Christ came to the world. We are heirs to this same promise. God is still calling us to venture out in faith, live boldly and bless the world.



## SHARE

highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion.



## READ

and highlight the theme verse, Genesis 12:2, then connect it to one or more of the following texts:

- Genesis 15:5
- Hebrews 11:8
- Galatians 3:29
- Matthew 5:14-15



## TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

### A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art. What do you see in the art? Where are you in the art? How might the art apply to the theme verse?

### B. ROLE PLAY

1. Your best friend's family is moving 1000 miles away. The kids in the family are depressed and afraid about the move. What do you say?
2. A friend's mother just died from cancer. "I think God has abandoned me," she says. What do you say to her? Where is God in all of this?

## C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Have you ever had to leave something familiar and comfortable, and move into something you didn't know? Have you ever had to move to a new city, change schools, change homes or parents, or friends? What was it like? *Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.*
2. Have you ever felt God calling you to go somewhere, do something to help someone, or say something to defend someone? Describe the situation. *Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Share your own story. If students can't think of situations, ask them if they have ever witnessed someone being mistreated. Have they seen garbage thrown on the highway? Do they have friends who don't go to church? In each of these situations, God may be tugging at their hearts to do or say something. Are they listening?*
3. When you are in trouble, are you more likely to pray: "God, get me out of it," or "God, get me through it"? Why? Which prayer will result in more personal growth? Why? *Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. The second prayer leads us to peace in tough times and personal growth.*

## D. TERMS OF THE WEEK

Review these key terms and write definitions.

**Abraham (Abram):** Father of Isaac and the Jewish people, chosen by God to follow the promise.

**Covenant:** A binding agreement between God and God's people.

**Blessing:** The ceremonial passing on of God's promised favor from father to son.

**Isaac:** Child of the promise, given to Abraham and Sarah in old age. Means "laughter."

**Sarah (Sarai):** Mother of Isaac and the Jewish people, chosen by God to follow the promise

## E. QUOTATIONS

choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

*Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.*  
– St. Augustine

*Promise yourself to live your life as a revolution and not just a process of evolution.*  
– Anthony J. D'Angelo

*The future is as bright as the promises of God.*  
– Unknown

*The only known cure for fear is faith.*  
– Lena Kellogg Sadler

## F. WRAP UP

Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about



## PRAY

for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer.



## BLESS

one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. Ask for their blessing as well!