

Understanding the Home Guide

The Lesson

Goals section identifies the key desired outcomes of the chapter.

The Parent

Preview section offers steps parents can use to prepare for the lesson.

The **Get Ready!** part of the lesson begins with an opening prayer and an activity that will spark interest in the lesson focus.

The **Discover!** part of the lesson involves a short reading to support understanding.

The **Dive In!** part of the lesson involves direct use of *The Catholic Children's Bible* and learning through a key Bible story.

The **Go!** part of the lesson invites the child to recall what they learned and closes the lesson with a fun activity and a prayer.



God Makes a Promise

Scripture Focus: Genesis 17:1, 3-8

Lesson Goals

- to define the word covenant as a serious agreement between God and people
- to explain that God made a *covenant* with Abraham
- to state that because of Abraham's faith, he became the father of the Jewish People

Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 44 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 17:1, 3-8).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Ask** your child to think of a promise he or she can make to God. Pray a short prayer together, thanking God for his love, offering the promise, and asking for help in keeping it.
- Tell** your child that today's lesson explores a solemn promise made between God and Abraham in the Old Testament.

Discover! (20 minutes)

- Read** with your child the article "The of Faith" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.
- Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 1 activity booklet. *Answers: 1. agreement, 2. faith, 3. Canaan, 4. Jesus, 5. Church*

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- Read** the Featured Story on page 44 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 17:1, 3-8).
- Ask** your child these questions:
 - What was Abraham's name before God spoke to him? (*Abram*)
 - What is God's promise to Abraham called? (*a covenant*)
 - What did God promise Abraham? (*God promised to make Abraham the "ancestor of many nations" [verse 5] and that some of his descendants would be kings.*)

Read the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 45 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

- Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 1 activity booklet. *Answers: 1. obey, right; 2. covenant; 3. Abraham; 4. ancestor; 5. descendants, kings*

Go! (10 minutes)

- Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.
- Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- Invite** your child to place sticker 1 in the appropriate space on the folder.
- Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.



The reading on this page relays important information related to the lesson.



The Promise of Faith

Family members make promises to each other all the time. You might promise your parents that you'll take out the trash. They might promise to buy your favorite food for your school lunches.

daughters of Abraham. Jesus himself was descended from Abraham. We are all connected because we are part of God's family, the Church.

The **Key Words** section highlights any words in the reading that may need additional definition.

In today's reading, you learned about a **covenant** God made with Abraham. How is a covenant different from a promise? In a covenant, two sides—two people, or God and us—agree to do something. Unlike the everyday promises you make in your family, a covenant is a **solemn** agreement that binds both sides to keep their promises. Because of this covenant with God, Abraham became the father of the Jewish People—and because of it, he is our father in **faith**. Even his new name reflected this covenant, because Abraham means "father of many nations." We are all sons and

What is faith? Faith means we follow God at all times, even when we don't understand his ways. Abraham is our father in faith because he also obeyed and believed God when God asked him to—even when it wasn't easy. When God made this covenant, Abraham and his wife, Sarah, did not have children, and they were told it was not possible for Abraham to become the father of many nations.

The **Review** section offers several questions that reinforce key concepts from the lesson. Answers are provided.

God always keeps his promises. If you can have faith he knows what promises can you make to God?

Key Words

- covenant** A solemn agreement in which both sides make promises to each other.
- faith** Following God at all times, even when we don't understand his ways.
- solemn** Serious.

Review

1. How is a covenant different from just a promise?
2. What is it called when we follow God when we don't always understand why?
3. What are we part of that connects us together?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the We Know and Live Our Faith resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Covenant with Noah" + activity, pages 18–19
- "The Covenant with Abraham," page 20

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

1. In a covenant, both sides make promises to each other. It is a serious agreement. 2. Faith. 3. God's family, the Church.



The **We Know and Live Our Faith** resource provides additional content that can be used to support the lesson.