

God's Threefold Promise to Abram Guided Discussion

TEACHER RESOURCE

Directions: Using the Genesis readings as a reference, work through the following questions together with your students and complete the graphic organizer.

1. What are the three promises God makes to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3?

The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will find blessing in you."

- ▶ He will make of Abram a great nation and bless him. In order to be a nation, you need land. So let's call this first promise "**Land/Nation.**"
 - ▶ He will make Abram's name great. To have a "great name" means to be a dynasty. A dynasty is a line of kings. So let's call this second promise "**Name/Dynasty.**"
 - ▶ He will bless all the families of the earth through him. Let's call this third promise "**Worldwide Blessing.**"
 - ▶ **Add the three promises to the graphic organizer together with your students.**
2. What promise is God affirming and raising to the level of a covenant in Genesis 15:18?

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

 - ▶ God is affirming and raising to the level of a covenant His first promise to Abraham, "**Land/Nation.**"
 - ▶ **Add Genesis 15:18 to the graphic organizer together with your students.**
 3. What covenant later in salvation history fulfills this promise?
 - ▶ God's covenant with Moses in which God promises Moses that He will lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, where they will become a great nation.
 - ▶ **Add Mosaic Covenant to the graphic organizer together with your students.**

4. What promise is God affirming and raising to the level of a covenant in Genesis 17:6?
- I will make you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings will stem from you.
- ▶ God is affirming and raising to the level of a covenant His second promise to Abraham, **“Name/Dynasty.”**
5. What covenant later in salvation history fulfills the promise from Genesis 17?
- ▶ God’s covenant with David, in which God promises David that he will be son to Him and that he will be the first in a line of great kings, a dynasty.
 - ▶ **Add Davidic Covenant to the graphic organizer together with your students.**
6. What promise is God reinforcing and elevating to the level of a covenant in Genesis 22:17-18?
- I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants will take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth will find blessing, because you obeyed my command.
- ▶ God is affirming and raising to the level of a covenant His third promise to Abraham, **“Worldwide blessing.”**
7. What covenant later in salvation history fulfills the promise from Genesis 22?
- ▶ The New Covenant in Jesus Christ, by which Jesus, the Son of God, fulfills all the previous covenants in salvation history and blesses the world with salvation from sin, won by His sacrifice on the Cross, His Resurrection from the dead, and His Ascension into Heaven.
 - ▶ **Add New Covenant to the graphic organizer together with your students.**
8. Why does it make sense to say that the promises made to Abraham begin God’s plan of salvation?
- ▶ The covenants before God’s covenant with Abraham began to prepare God’s people for salvation. Every covenant that follows the covenant with Abraham is a result of a promise God made to Abraham. Therefore, this covenant points the way forward to salvation, which is ultimately accomplished in Christ.