



God Promises to Send the Messiah, Part One

Genesis 3:15; 12:1–3; 49:10



LESSON GOAL

Students will praise God for fulfilling His ancient promises.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- Many promises in Genesis are fulfilled in Christ.
- One of Eve's descendants will destroy Satan (Gen. 3:15).
- One of Abram's descendants will bless the nations of the earth (Gen. 12:3).
- One of Judah's descendants will rule the earth (Gen. 49:10).
- Those who put their faith in Christ receive the blessing promised to Abram.

KEY VERSE

"In you [Abram] all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).

APPLICATION

- Worship the Deliverer, Savior, and King.
- Confess your need for forgiveness, and place your faith in Jesus Christ.
- Obey the great King over all the earth.

NEXT WEEK

God Promises to Send the Messiah, Part Two
Read Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25; 2:1–12; and Micah 5:2.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your sons” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

At Christmas, we focus on the birth of a baby. We think of manger scenes, Christmas trees, singing angels, and a solitary star leading the wise men. Christmas is the celebration of the coming of the Messiah and Savior. So what does Genesis have to do with Christmas? The book of Genesis lays the groundwork for the celebration of Christmas by showing the origin of sin and demonstrating man’s need for a Savior. It also shows the promise and plan of God to provide a Savior and to rule over the earth.

God created man to serve and worship Him. He created the heavens and earth in perfection. The animals, plants, mountains, rivers, stars, and galaxies reflect the awesome goodness and wisdom of God. There is none higher, wiser, or holier than the Lord. No one ever has been or ever will be able to measure the heavens by the span of the hand as the Lord does.

Adam and Eve were created in a perfect form, in a perfect place, with the perfect purpose. In the lush and fruitful surroundings of the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had unhindered and intimate fellowship with the Lord. Their labor was fruitful and satisfying. Every morning, a mist would rise and water the fruit-laden trees. In the evening, the Lord Himself walked in His precious creation.

One day, this sublime relationship was threatened. The smartest of the beasts, the serpent, was possessed by Satan and came slyly to Eve. He drove a wedge of doubt and ambition into her heart. Eve took the tempting bait, hoping to have equal knowledge with God. She took the forbidden fruit and ate it. Adam rebelliously ate it, too.

Perfection was shattered. The people created in the image of God were now marred by sin. Eternal life was replaced by certain death and separation from God.

From the opening pages of Genesis, mankind has been in a plight caused by his own rebellion. But the Creator was not caught off guard. He was not shocked or dismayed. The Lord put into place the plan He had prepared in eternity past. Adam and Eve rebelled, but God promised to send a Person who would destroy Satan’s work.

The book of Genesis begins to unfold God’s plan to redeem sinful humanity and to bring about His original purpose. That purpose is to glorify Himself and bring good to His creation. Genesis contains many prophecies for the future of mankind. Genesis holds the seeds of God’s plan of salvation, from the destruction of Satan to the blessing of the earth under the rule of the Messiah.

Just how sinful was mankind? Genesis shows us that man was extremely sinful. In Genesis 6:5, we see that the thoughts and intentions of man were evil continually. God, in His justice, destroyed all but eight people of what could have been billions. Even after the flood, men again rebelled against God, and He scattered them over the earth. In the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the wickedness of the

Additional Reference Materials

*The MacArthur Study
Bible* by John MacArthur

people had grown so great that the Lord destroyed the cities completely. Mankind was and is in desperate need of salvation from sin.

The Lord promised many things in the book of Genesis. He promised to destroy Satan and the power of sin (Gen. 3:15). He promised to bless the families of the earth through the seed of Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 12:1–3). He promised that a great ruler would come from the tribe of Judah. That ruler would obtain the obedience of all the people on the earth (Gen. 49:10).

All three of those promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ destroyed the power of Satan, bringing an end to the power of death. Jesus Christ provides the blessing for all who believe in Him as Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ has ascended to the right hand of the Father and rules in heaven.

Still there is a sense of “already, but not yet.” Jesus has defeated Satan with His work on the cross but has not yet wiped out sin from the world. Jesus is bringing salvation to the peoples of the earth, but not all are saved. Jesus reigns in heaven but is not physically reigning on earth. For this, we wait for the final installment of the promises of Genesis.

Christmas is the celebration of the coming of the One who fulfills these three promises. It is the celebration of the birth of the Savior and Lord of the universe. It is the celebration of the fulfillment of great and precious promises. The world had waited thousands of years for these promises.

Abraham waited 25 years for the birth of Isaac. Joseph waited for 10 years in Egypt to be restored to his family. When these promises were fulfilled, there was incredible joy. So it is with Christmas. There is incredible joy as we remember the birth of Christ, the One in whom salvation from sin is complete.

THREE PROMISES FROM GENESIS

Defeat of Satan

Genesis 3:15 says, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” God cursed Satan for his deceit of Eve. That deceit resulted in spiritual and physical death for mankind. God promised to put “enmity,” or a strife-filled relationship, between Eve’s offspring and Satan. That continues to be the case. Satan is a murderer (John 8:44). He would bruise Eve’s “Seed” on the heel. The figure of speech means that Satan would strike at Eve’s offspring. He would hurt Him but not destroy Him. On the other hand, Eve’s offspring will crush Satan’s head, killing and destroying him. The “Seed” of Eve is none other than Jesus Christ. Satan saw to it that Jesus was murdered on the cross. But the Savior could not be held down by physical death. He rose from the dead, proving His power over Satan and sin. We wait for the day when Jesus returns to the earth and throws Satan into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). Then Satan’s “head” will be crushed. At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of the One who has the power and will to destroy Satan and all his works.

Blessing the Nations of the Earth

The greatest blessing any man can have is to have his sins forgiven. Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden, mankind has had no greater need. Despite the sinfulness of humanity, God raised up a man who would carry the promise of this blessing. That man was Abram. In Genesis 12:1–3, God called Abram from a life of idolatry to worship and follow the true God. The Lord gave him an important promise: “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). The New Testament shows that this blessing was salvation in Jesus Christ: “And the

Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed'" (Gal. 3:8). This promise is realized by faith in Jesus Christ. When Jesus came to earth as a baby, the promise began to be fulfilled. At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of the Savior. Faith in Jesus Christ is the blessing to the nations that God spoke of to Abram.

Rule of the Messiah

At the end of Genesis, we see another promise fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ. In Genesis 49, Jacob gives a blessing and prophecy about each of his children. In 49:8–12, he makes a promise to Judah. He promises that Judah's descendants will be kings over Israel. He promises that the scepter (the symbol of authority) will not depart from Judah (Gen. 49:10). Jesus came from the line and family of Judah. Well before God sent Moses and the Law, He promised a ruler for the people of Israel. This One would reign over the whole country. Even better, He would rule the world. Jesus Christ, God incarnate, rules from heaven now. And He will come back physically to rule on the earth (Rev. 20:4–6). At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of the great King.

Genesis is the book of beginnings. In it, we find important and direct ties to the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus was shown to be the promised one who would defeat Satan. Jesus is the blessing of salvation promised to Abram. Jesus is the promised Ruler of Israel who will also righteously rule the world. At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of the Savior, the fulfillment of the oldest promises of God. How should you respond? (1) Worship the Deliverer, Savior, and King. (2) Confess your need for forgiveness, and place your faith in Jesus Christ. (3) Obey the great King over all the earth. Give Him the worship that is rightfully His. That is why He created us.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



A Telescope of Time

Place three small pictures of the Christ child in different places in the room. Bring a telescope to class. Cover the outside with a piece of paper that says, "The Telescope of Time." Make the pictures big enough so that they will be clear when you look at them through the telescope. As you begin the teaching time, bring three students to the front of the class. Let each student tell what he sees when he looks through the telescope. In each case, he will see Christ. In today's lesson, we will learn about three promises that are given in Genesis and fulfilled in Christ.



Stomping a Snake

For this activity, you will need several pieces of bubble-wrap packaging and a 4-foot piece of butcher paper. Before class, cut the butcher paper lengthwise into three equal parts. Place pieces of bubble wrap in the paper, and roll it lengthwise to make the shape of a snake. Form one end into a head. Repeat for the two other pieces. Decorate the "snakes" however you wish. At the beginning of class, have

students take turns stomping on the snakes. Tell them that in today's lesson, there is a promise about destroying a snake, but this snake is Satan. Jesus came to destroy the work of Satan.



Blessing the Earth

Abram was given a promise that one of his descendants would bless the families of the earth. That descendant is Jesus. Before class, draw a picture of the earth on a piece of butcher paper. Cut out pictures of families from different nations, and gather cross stickers. Early in the class period, gather the students in front of the map. Review questions and verses from previous weeks. When a student answers a question correctly, let him tape a picture of a family or stick a cross on the picture of the earth. Discuss the promise made to Abram and how faith in Christ appropriates the promise.



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Story Stations

Set up three story stations around the class. These could be on tabletops or on the floor. Leave enough distance between them so the class can “travel” to each story station by following arrows on the floor. The story stations correspond to the three promises that point to Christ in this lesson.

Station 1: Defeat of Satan (Genesis 3:15). Display a snake.

Station 2: Blessing the nations of the earth (Genesis 12:1–3). Display a globe or map.

Station 3: The rule of the Messiah (Genesis 49:10). Display a crown.

Make enough arrows from construction paper to cover the distance between each story station. Gather the students near story station 1. Remind them that the book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible and that *Genesis* means “beginnings.” In Genesis, God makes many promises. Tell the students that they will learn three of those promises and how they point to a very special Person whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

Follow the arrow path, and travel with the students to each station. Spend a few minutes at each station discussing the promise of God, letting the students know that they will have to wait until the Bible lesson to hear more. After story station 3, prepare the students for the Bible lesson.



Gold Cardboard Crowns

As each student enters the classroom, fit him with a crown. At the beginning of the lesson, ask the students if they know about kings. Explain that in today's lesson, we are going to learn more about the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

For a long time, there was nothing but bad news—nothing but sad news. Ever since the devil tempted Eve and she ate the forbidden fruit, people were bad (sinful). The people of Israel were sad and mad. Most of the people did not want to please God. This was true all the way to the time when Jesus came.

Most of the people were not nice to others. They were bad and sad most of the time. God had not spoken to the people for 400 years. When He did speak, He told them to stop sinning. But most of them didn’t stop. Most of them didn’t want to stop. God sent a king to rule over them. The king was mean and harsh. He ruled from a city called Rome. If anyone disobeyed, the king’s soldiers would punish that person. The king made the people give him money. Most of the people did not want to obey God or the king in Rome.

The people of Israel should have known better. They should have known that God had made many promises. These promises should have given them hope. God was not mean and harsh. God wanted to bless them. He wanted them to worship Him. They should have known that God would send someone to take away their sin.

Some of the people did have hope. Some of the people knew that God had not forgotten them. Some of the people waited for someone special to come and take away their sinfulness. They waited and waited for things to get better. They never gave up. They believed the Bible. Whom were they waiting for? They were waiting for the Messiah. The Messiah would be the promised King. Jesus came as the Messiah. What would this Messiah do? We are going to learn about three things the Messiah would do. These three things come from the book of Genesis. Believe it or not, the book of Genesis has a lot to do with Christmas.

Do you remember what happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit that God told them not to eat? They were punished. Ever since then, we all have been sinful. Do you remember who tempted Eve to eat the fruit? That is right. Satan did. Ever since that time, Satan and mankind have been at war. Satan wants to destroy man. He wants us to go to hell and be punished by God. He wants to hurt us. He is our worst enemy. Well, even in the book of Genesis there was good news. God made a promise to Satan. That promise was that one day God would destroy Satan and his wicked works. How would He destroy Satan? He would send a man who was a descendant of Eve to destroy Satan (Gen. 3:15). And I bet you know who that man is. Yes, it is Jesus. Jesus came to destroy Satan and his works. This is one reason that Christmas is so exciting. We do not just celebrate a baby being born. We celebrate that the God-man, Jesus, came to earth to destroy our enemy, Satan. He came to deliver us from Satan’s power (Eph. 2:1–3). Jesus is the deliverer.

Christmas is a time to remember another special promise. Because we all are sinful, we will die. If God does not help us, we will also go to hell. The greatest

blessing a person can have is to be rescued from his sin. That blessing comes when a person trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior (Gal. 3:8). In Genesis 12:3, a great promise came to Abram. Long ago in Genesis, God already had a plan to save people from their sin. God said to Abram, "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Nearly 2,000 years before Jesus came to earth, God made this special promise. When we think of Jesus coming, we can celebrate the coming of a great blessing. The third promise in Genesis came to Judah, one of Jacob's sons. In Genesis 49:10, Judah was told that one of his descendants would be a king over all the nations. King David was a descendant of Judah, and he was a great king. But he did not rule over the whole earth. But I bet you can guess who is the great King. Yes, it is Jesus. When Jesus was born, God said He would be the great King. Right now, He is the great King of heaven and earth. One day, He will come back to earth and rule on it. He turned around all the sinful things that Satan did. He will turn around all the sinful things that men and women did. He will throw Satan into a great prison. Then all the nations will worship their great King. The baby in the manger was born to be the great King over all the earth.

There were three special promises given in Genesis that are fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus is the one who will crush Satan (Gen. 3:15). Jesus is the one who will bless the nations (Gen. 12:3). Jesus is the one who will rule the earth (Gen. 49:10). Praise Him for all three of these promises that were answered in Jesus.



Lesson Questions

Is Christmas just a celebration of the birth of a baby?

No; we celebrate the coming of the Messiah, the promised King.

Does the book of Genesis have anything to do with Christmas?

Yes.

What was the promise to Satan in the garden of Eden?

One of Eve's descendants would destroy him.

Who is that person?

Jesus.

What was the promise given to Abraham?

One of his descendants would bless the earth.

What would that blessing be?

Anyone who believes in Jesus would have eternal life.

What promise was given to Judah?

One of his descendants would rule the earth.

Who fulfilled that promise?

Jesus Christ.

What should you do?

Praise Jesus. Ask Him to save you from sin and Satan. Obey Him because He is ruler of heaven and earth.



Presentation Ideas

A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



A Telescope of Time

Place three small pictures of the Christ child in different places in the room. Bring a telescope to class. Cover the outside with a piece of paper that says, "The Telescope of Time." Make the pictures big enough so that they will be clear when you look at them through the telescope. As you begin the teaching time, bring three students to the front of the class. Let each student tell what he sees when he looks through the telescope. In each case, he will see Christ. In today's lesson, we will learn about three promises that are given in Genesis and fulfilled in Christ.

Praise and Worship

Joy to the World

Praise the Name of Jesus

Trust and Obey



God's Revealed Plan

In Genesis, we first begin
(Hold hands open like a book.)

To see Christ's triumph over sin.
(Hold up arms in V shape.)

God begins to show His plan
(Write on hand with finger.)

To rescue fallen, sinful man.
(Place hand on heart; shake head back and forth.)

The Lion of Judah, the virgin birth,
(Hold hands up like claws and roar; then pretend to rock a baby.)

Through Abram, blessing to men on earth.
(Make a wide circle with arms.)

This Christmas, spread the word abroad
(Hold hands at sides of mouth.)

That baby Jesus is King and God.
(Pretend to rock a baby; hold fist overhead, and then point overhead.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



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Take-Home Christmas Tree

For the next four weeks, we will be learning about the promises of Christ’s birth. As a way to remind the students of the true meaning of Christmas, we have included various ideas for crafts that could serve as ornaments. Have each student make a tree to put on a wall at home. They can decorate their trees with the ornaments they make each week.

Cut a large piece of green construction paper into the shape of a Christmas tree. Attach ten brads onto the tree, spread out evenly. The students can use these to hang their ornaments. After they have put the brads on the tree, glue the tree onto another piece of construction paper that is larger than the tree. At the bottom of the page, write, “Worshiping Christ at Christmas.”



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Promises Fulfilled Ornaments, Week One

Cut out colored construction paper in the shape of a Christmas ornament. Give each student a pair of preprinted verses, one with a prophecy and one with its fulfillment. The following are suggested verses:

Destroy Satan—Genesis 3:15 with Romans 16:20

Bless the Earth—Genesis 12:3 with Galatians 3:8

Rule the Earth—Genesis 49:10 with Matthew 28:18

Instruct the students to glue a verse on each side of their ornaments. Then supply the students with glitter glue, stickers, and markers or crayons, and have them decorate the ornaments. Finally, punch holes in the tops of the ornaments, and tie ribbons through the holes for hanging.



Messiah Sing-Along

Play Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” for the students while they do their craft. During transition time, divide the class into two groups. Play the chorus again briefly, and explain that we are going to sing along. Have the first group sing the “King of kings” and “Lord of lords” lines, and have the second group sing the “Forever and ever” and “Hallelujah” lines. Do not expect it to sound like the real thing. The fun is in the trying.



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Genesis Telescope

This craft illustrates that Genesis points to Jesus as the Messiah. Give each student a toilet-paper roll and stickers, markers, and pictures that represent different lessons they have learned from their study in Genesis. Have them decorate the toilet-paper roll. When they are finished, give each student a circle with a picture representing Jesus Christ. The circle should be 1¾ inches in diameter, with a half-inch border. Use glue or a rubber band to attach the picture of Christ to the toilet-paper roll, with the picture facing the inside of the roll. When the students look through their telescopes, they will see that Genesis points to Christ.

The following is a list of ideas to use for decorations.

Creation—sequins (to represent light), leaves, twigs, cotton balls (for clouds), sun, moon, stars, fish, birds, feathers, animals, man and woman stickers

The Fall—apple, serpent

The Flood—wood or boat, pairs of animals

Tower of Babel—words in many languages or jumbled letters

Abrahamic Covenant—scroll or contract, a sticker or picture of a baby to represent Isaac



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Three Promises

Give each student a piece of colored construction paper and a copy of the craft sheet at the end of this lesson. Allow students to color the pictures while you explain that Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises. Have students cut out the pictures and glue them to the piece of construction paper.



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The Rule of the Messiah

Give each student a crown made from construction paper and preprinted copies of Genesis 49:10a. Have the students glue the verse to the crown and then decorate the crown with items representing lessons from the book of Genesis. See the “Genesis Telescope” craft for decoration ideas. Staple each student’s crown to fit his head.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.

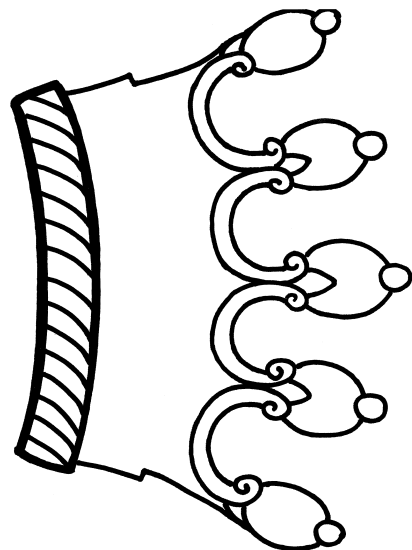
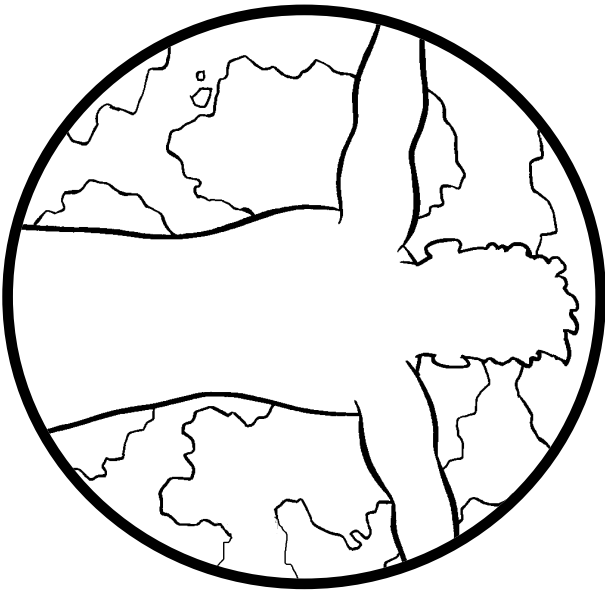
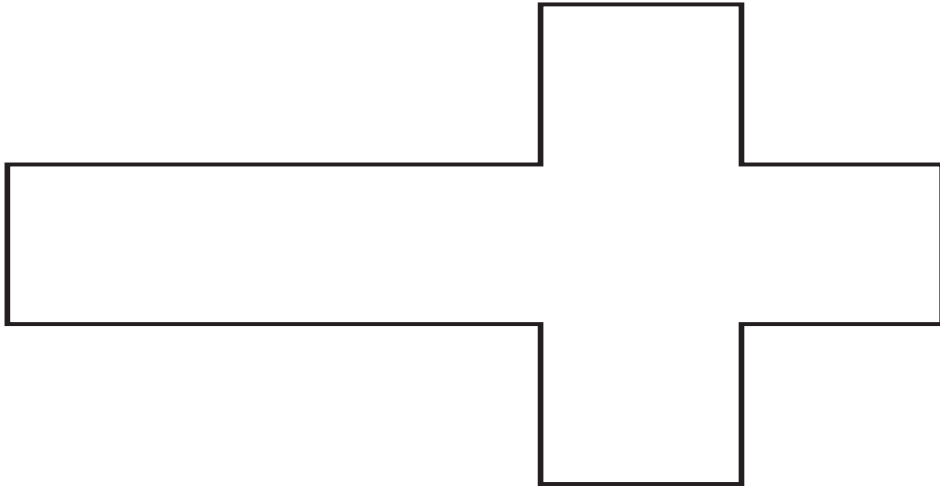


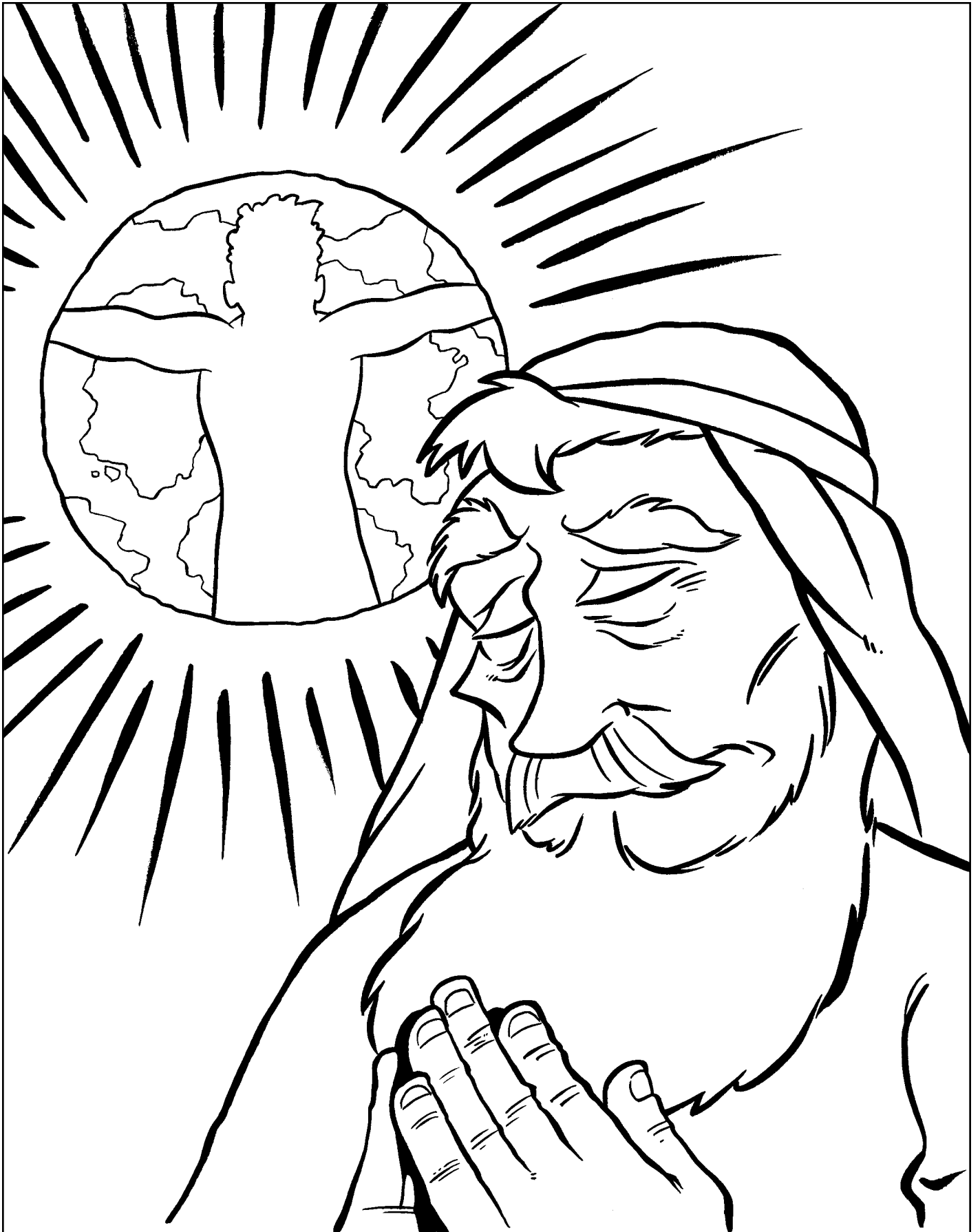
MEMORY VERSE

“In you [Abram] all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

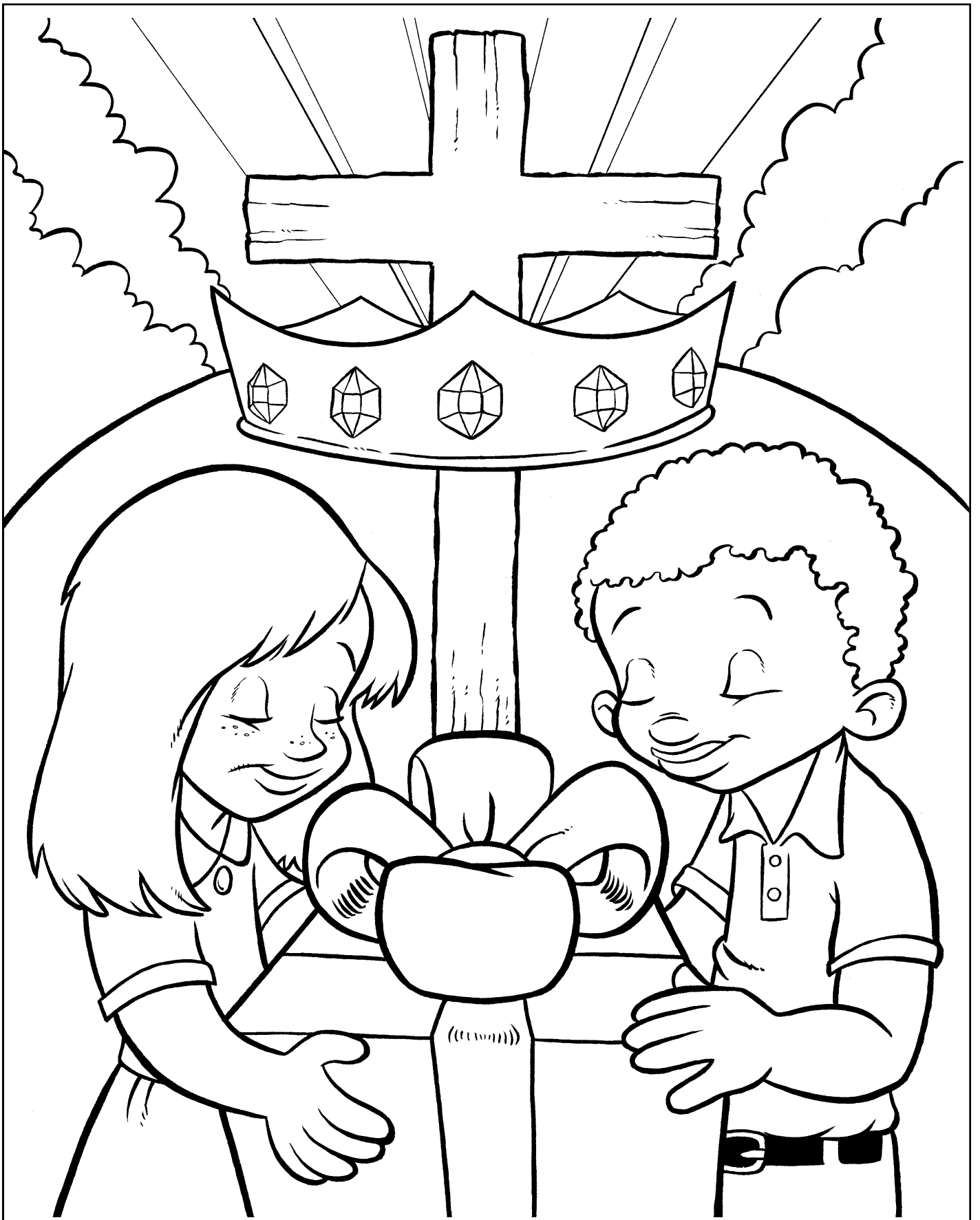
Three Promises

There were three special promises given in Genesis that are fulfilled in the coming of Christ. Jesus is the one who will crush Satan (Genesis 3:15). Jesus is the one who will bless the nations (Genesis 12:3). Jesus is the one who will rule the earth (Genesis 49:10). You should obey Jesus, who will fulfill all these promises.





God said to Abram, "In you all the families [nations] of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).



Jesus is the blessing that God promised to Abraham long ago. He is the one who would provide eternal salvation for people from every nation of the world.

