

## The Abrahamic Covenant

The purpose of Sunday School is to inspire class members to learn, teach, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ every day.

As we come to understand the Abrahamic covenant, we “know who we are and what God expects of us” (Russell M. Nelson, “[Covenants](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 88). We become more devoted as disciples of Jesus Christ, and through us, “all the nations of the earth [are] blessed” ([Genesis 18:18](#)).

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### Prepare

As you study [Abraham 1–2](#), [Genesis 12](#), and [Genesis 17](#) (including the Joseph Smith Translation of this chapter in the footnotes and the Bible appendix), consider asking yourself:

- As I prepare to teach, what can I do to understand and live the Abrahamic covenant more fully?
  - How has the Abrahamic covenant blessed my life?
  - What could class members do to deepen their understanding of the Abrahamic covenant?
  - What blessings of the Abrahamic covenant have class members received? What could they share about these blessings?
  - How will I inspire class members to learn, teach, and live the principles taught in these chapters?
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### Encourage personal and family scripture study

Each week you have the opportunity to encourage class members to have meaningful gospel study, individually and with their families. For instance, you could do one of the following to begin the class:

- Invite one or more class members to explain how they teach the gospel to their family. As part of this discussion, you could spend a few minutes showing class members the many resources available at the [Hastening the Work of Salvation](#) section of LDS.org.
  - Invite class members to share how they have acted on impressions they received during a previous class or during their study of the scriptures.
  - Ask class members to share and explain verses in [Abraham 1–2](#), [Genesis 12](#), or [Genesis 17](#) that they find particularly meaningful. You may invite several members to prepare for this ahead of time. This activity could take the majority of the time in class.
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#### Teaching in the Savior’s Way

One reason the Savior invited others to testify of truths they learned was so that the Spirit could touch their hearts.

“Whom say ye that I am?” He asked. As Peter responded, his testimony was strengthened:

“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” ([Matthew 16:15–16](#)). How can sharing the gospel strengthen the testimonies of class member?

Learn together and invite to act

Follow the guidance of the Spirit as you select one or more of these activities or create your own based on the needs of your class.

- **What is the Abrahamic covenant?**

Before class, you could invite a class member to learn about the Abrahamic covenant from *True to the Faith* and share with the class what he or she learns. Class members could also review and discuss [Genesis 12:1–3](#); [17:1–9](#), and [Abraham 2:8–11](#) and make a list on the board of the promised blessings and responsibilities the Lord gave to Abraham and how they relate to us. To better understand the relevance of the Abrahamic covenant in their lives, they could watch the video “[Special Witnesses of Christ: Elder Russell M. Nelson](#)” or read the statement by President James E. Faust in “Additional insights” (below) and share what they learn.

- **How can we obtain the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant?**

You could invite class members to sing a hymn such as “[Faith of Our Fathers](#)” and then to read [Abraham 1:2–4](#). What are the “blessings of the fathers” Abraham sought? What do the lyrics of the hymn urge listeners to do? Class members could read the scripture again silently, this time looking for specific blessings Abraham wanted to receive from the Lord and how he sought them. Invite class members to share what they find with another class member and to discuss what they can do to seek these blessings for themselves. Invite several class members to share what they discuss.

- **How do we help others receive the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant?**

A few days before class, you could ask three class members to prepare to share experiences from their lives: one experience with missionary work, another with temple work, and a third with gospel teaching in the home. Class members could discuss how these experiences relate to the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant as described in [Genesis 12:3](#) and [Abraham 2:11](#). Invite class members to search [1 Nephi 22:8–9](#) and [D&C 110:12](#) and share what they learn about how the Abrahamic covenant is being fulfilled in our day. Invite class members to suggest ways they will help individuals and families receive the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant.

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## Learning and living the gospel every day

Encourage class members to think about what they have learned and felt today. What do they feel impressed to do? For instance, they could:

- Share with their families something from today’s discussion.
- Continue studying this doctrine and act on what they learn.
- Share the gospel with someone or participate in family history and temple work.

During the coming week, you could send class members suggestions for home study from the additional learning resources at the end of the next outline you select. Encourage them to consider using one of the ideas listed under “Basic Scripture Study Strategies” or “Family Study Ideas” as they review these resources.

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### Additional learning resources

- [Genesis 26:1–5, 24; 28:1–5, 13–15; 35:9–12; 48:1–4, 20; Exodus 2:24–25](#)
- Elder Russell M. Nelson, “[Covenants](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 86–89
- Video: “[Special Witnesses of Christ: Elder Russell M. Nelson](#)” (3:26)
- [Hastening the Work of Salvation](#) section of LDS.org
- “Abrahamic Covenant,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 5–6
- Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “[All Men Everywhere](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2006, 77–80; in this talk, consider giving special attention to section V
- [The Pearl of Great Price Student Manual](#), 29–35

### Additional insights

- Why did Abraham flee the land of the Chaldeans?

“Abraham 1 reveals that Abraham’s father, Terah, had given himself to the worship of false gods and was willing to offer his own son as a sacrifice (see [Abraham 1:5–6, 17; Joshua 24:2](#)). Elder John A. Widtsoe, who was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, wrote: ‘The family of Abraham had turned from righteousness and had become idolators. Abraham therefore, himself a follower of God’s truth, preached righteousness to them but without avail. For his insistence upon the worship of the only true and Living God, he was persecuted and his life sought. So intense was the hatred of the idolators that it was only by the intervention of the Lord that he was saved from being offered up as a sacrifice to the idols of the people,’ (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, 398)” ([The Pearl of Great Price Student Manual](#) [Church Educational System manual, 2000], 30–31).
- What does it mean to be the seed of Abraham?

President James E. Faust said: “Scripturally it has a deeper meaning than being his literal descendants. The Lord made a covenant with Abraham, the great patriarch, that all nations would be blessed through him [see [Genesis 18:18; Galatians 3:8; 3 Nephi 20:25, 29](#)]. Any man or woman can claim the blessings of Abraham. They become his seed and heirs to the promised blessings by accepting the gospel, being baptized, entering into temple marriage, being faithful in keeping their covenants, and helping to carry the gospel to all the nations of the earth” ( “[The Key of the Knowledge of God](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2004, 52–55).