



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.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Identify the three promises about Jesus in the book of Genesis.
- Give details about how each of the promises was fulfilled.
- Describe the importance of each promise.
- Explain why we need each of these promises.

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



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

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 children” (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.



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.



Props of Promise, Part One

Divide the class into five or six groups. Provide each group with the following props: a large seed, a globe, and a crown and/or scepter. Ask each group to prepare a short skit to reenact the Christmas story using the props. Purposefully leave the directions vague. Set a timer for 10 minutes, and allow the students to be creative, since the

props are unfamiliar to them. Allow each group three minutes to perform its skit in front of the class. Afterward, ask the students what additional props would have made it easier to act out the nativity. Some items students might list include a baby, straw, swaddling clothes, a star, gifts, and animals. Use this activity to introduce the three promises God made in Genesis and describe how each was fulfilled in the advent of Jesus Christ. Emphasize that there is more to the Christmas story to celebrate than simply the birth of a baby, and that is what we will study in today's lesson. (Please note: This activity will be continued at the end of the lesson.)

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 to use during worship time. 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

Reading of the Text

Read Genesis 3:15; 12:1–3; 49:10.

Introduction

Christmas is a time of celebration. We celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We often think about Christmas trees, angels, and a manger scene. But we have to ask why we need Christmas. Why do we celebrate it? The reason goes all the way back to Genesis. In today's lesson, we will look at three passages in Genesis that point to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What did Satan promise to Eve if she ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge?

Answer: He promised her that she would be like God, knowing good and evil. He told her that she would not die. He suggested that God was a liar and that Eve would not be punished for her sin as God said.

LOQ: What did Eve do?

Answer: She saw that the fruit looked good to eat and could make her wise. Then she ate it. She gave in to the temptation and thought in her heart that she could indeed be like God. She believed the lie of the serpent, who was Satan.

LOQ: What did Adam do?

Answer: Adam also took some of the fruit and ate it. Eve was deceived, but Adam heard God's commands and decided to rebel.



LOQ: What happened to Adam and Eve?

Answer: First, they were ashamed of their nakedness. They made clothes from fig leaves. Second, they hid from God's presence. They could no longer have face-to-face fellowship with Him. This was the greatest problem for man. Third, they were each cursed in judgment. Eve would have great pain when she had babies. Adam had pain and toil when he farmed the land. Fourth, they did indeed die. It may not have been right away, but they both died. Even worse is the fact that because of their sin, we are spiritually separated from God. Unless He saves us, we all will die and spend eternity in hell.

LOQ: What happened to Satan?

Answer: He was given a promise. One day, one of Eve's descendants would destroy him. Eve's "Seed" would crush Satan's head. That means that He would destroy Satan and his work.

LOQ: What does this promise have to do with Christmas?

Answer: Jesus is the One who will fulfill the promise. He is the promised "Seed" who will crush Satan's head. When we think about Christmas, we should celebrate the fact that Jesus came to destroy the work of Satan.

LOQ: Has Satan been destroyed yet?

Answer: No, but he will be. Jesus came and died to pay for sin. When a person trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior, he is no longer under Satan's rule. And one day, Jesus will stop Satan's work completely and will throw him into the lake of fire (Rev. 20).

LOQ: All along, God had a plan to redeem men. The world struggled in sin after the fall and still does today. So God called a man named Abram to go to a new land. He called him away from his idolatry. He also made him a promise. What is the promise?

Answer: He promised to give him a land, to make him a nation, and to make him a blessing.

LOQ: What was that blessing?

Answer: "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). That blessing was answered in Jesus Christ. Anyone who has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved. That is the best blessing anyone can have. Today, missionaries go all over the world telling people about Jesus Christ. Everyone who believes the message of Christ receives that blessing. Christmas, then, is the celebration of the coming of the blessing to save people from their sin. It is part of the fulfillment of Genesis 12:3.

LOQ: There is one more promise in Genesis that has to do with Christmas. This promise is in Genesis 49:10. In Genesis 49, Jacob is about to die. God puts it on his heart to make a prophecy or prediction about each of his children. One of those predictions affects all of us today. What did God promise Judah?

Answer: Judah was given the promise that one of his descendants would one day rule over the world. This ruler would give the laws for the whole world to follow, and the whole world would obey. The same promise was given to David nearly 800 years later. David came from the family of Judah. Jesus came from the family of David.

LOQ: What does that promise have to do with Jesus?

Answer: Jesus will be the fulfillment of that promise. When He came to earth, many people realized that He was the promised King spoken of in Genesis 49:10. He is the King of heaven and earth right now. For a time, He allows sinful man to rebel, and He even lets Satan rule the earth. But one day that will end.

Summary

Christmas is a time of celebration because of the coming of Jesus. It is not just about a baby. We celebrate the fact that Jesus has the power to overcome the work of Satan. We celebrate the fact that faith in Jesus is the blessing that was promised to Abram. We also celebrate the fact that Jesus is the promised King who rules in heaven and will one day rule on earth.

Application

There are three important applications from this lesson. The first is to check your life and your heart to see if you are following the desires of Satan or the desires of God. If you have not submitted to the lordship of Christ, you will be crushed, just as Satan will be. Jesus came to destroy Satan's work and all those who work with him. Jesus is also the promised King, whom the whole world will one day obey. Will you obey from the heart or from fear? Jesus is Lord. The second application is the opposite. Anyone who trusts in Christ is part of the blessing of Abraham. Have you trusted Christ as Lord and Savior? The third application is worship. You should worship the One who is King of heaven and earth and has the power over Satan.

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.



Classroom Promise Board, Week One

This activity may be used for the next four weeks. Use a piece of poster board 24 x 30 inches or larger. Write "Christmas Promise Board" across the top. Write the following words in large letters on the board: Passage, Promise, and Person. Space the words evenly down the side of the board so there is room between them. Place several Velcro stickers in the empty spaces. These will allow you to attach and remove different items each week. This week, write the following references on separate pieces of 4¼ x 5½-inch cardstock, and then place Velcro on the back: Genesis 3:15; Genesis 12:3; and Genesis 49:10. During class, place these cards in the Passage section. On more pieces of the same size cardstock, write "Destroy Satan," "Bless the families of the earth," and "Rule the earth." During class, place these in the Promise section. Again, on the same size pieces of cardstock, write, "Satan," "Abraham," and "Judah." During class, place these in the Person section. Use this board to teach each week and to review past lessons.



From Adam to Judah

Make a copy of the family-tree diagram on a transparency. Use the diagram to ask review questions about the main characters listed in the line of the Messiah, beginning with Adam. Use a colored pen to trace the line of Messiah from Adam to the tribe of Judah so the students can visualize the promise of Genesis 49:10.

Praise and Worship

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Joy to the World!

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Praise the Name of Jesus

Trust and Obey

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.



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.



Props of Promise, Part Two

After you have taught the entire lesson, the students should have a better grasp of how the three props relate to the promises given in Genesis and fulfilled by Christ. Instruct the same groups to prepare a second skit, using the same props.



"God Promises to Send a Messiah, Part One"

Use this work sheet to review the lesson with the students. It is located at the back of this lesson.



Journal Page: "God Fulfills Ancient Promises"

Give the students a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. They can work on the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

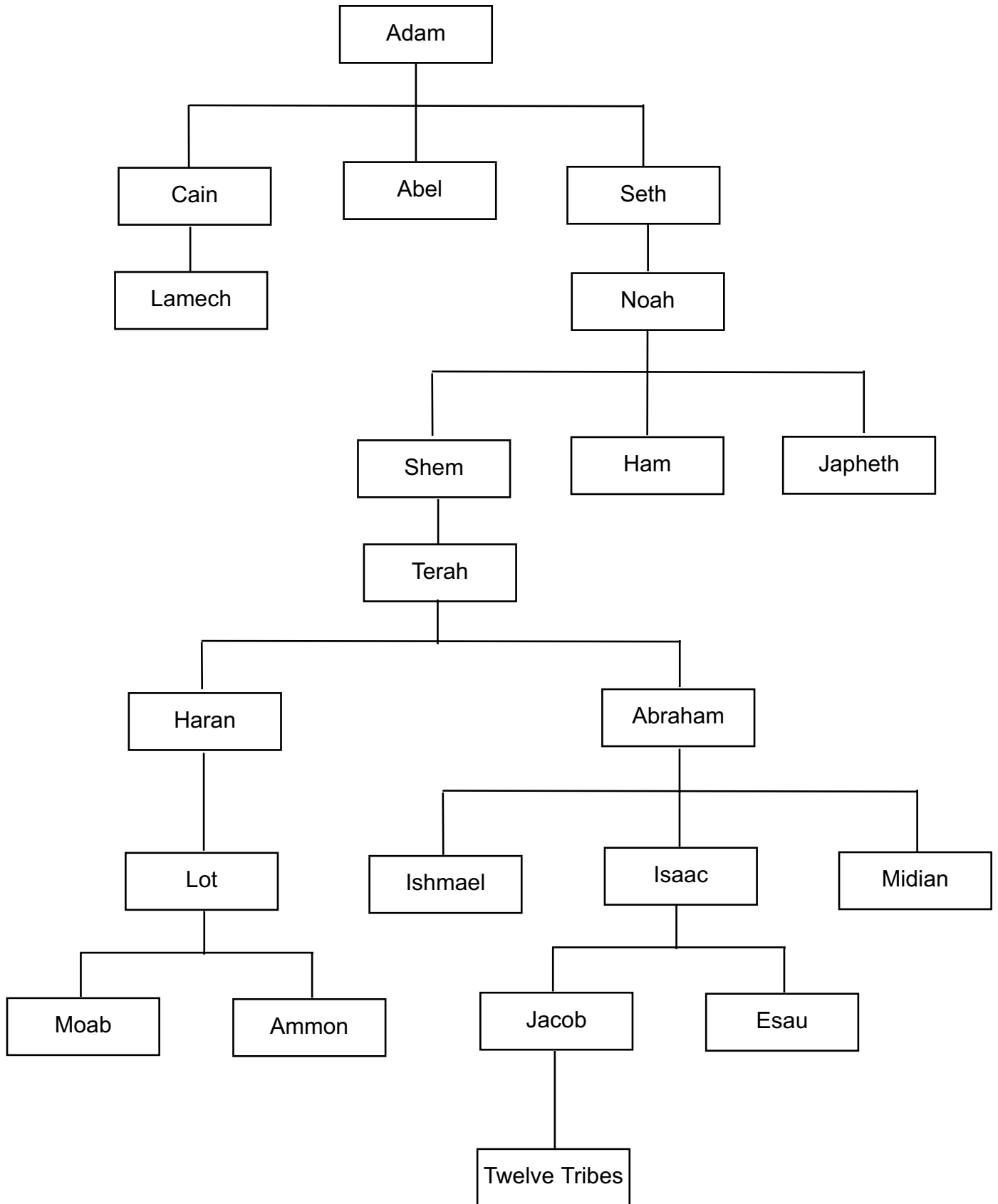
Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



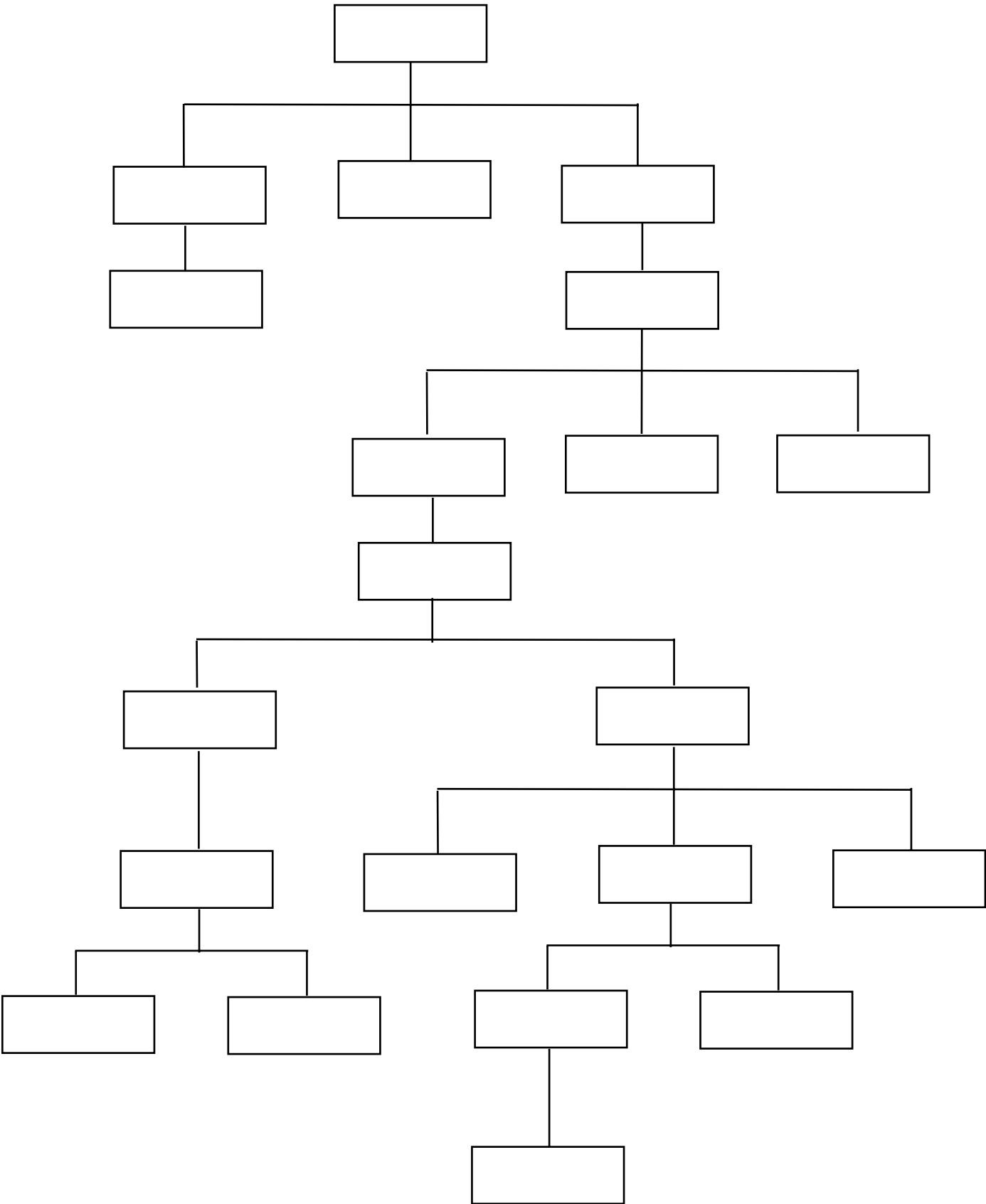
MEMORY VERSE

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

From Adam to Judah



From Adam to Judah



God Promises to Send
a Messiah,
Part One



Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; 49:10

Name _____

1. In Genesis 3:15, what did God say would happen to Satan? _____

2. What is one reason that Jesus came to earth? See 1 John 3:8. _____

3. What did God promise to Abram in Genesis 12:3? _____

4. Look up Galatians 3:8. Finish the verse. "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all _____.'"

5. What does God promise Judah in Genesis 49:10? _____

6. What does that promise have to do with Jesus? _____

God Fulfills Ancient Promises

After Adam and Eve's fall into sin, God promised to send a Savior. This promise was fulfilled through the birth of Jesus Christ. In the book of Genesis, there are three promises that point to the coming of Jesus. In the Promise section, write the promise God made. In the Fulfillment section, write how the promise will be or has been fulfilled. These answers will help you understand how Genesis points to Christ.

Promise One: Read Genesis 3:15 and Romans 16:20.

Promise

Fulfillment

Promise Two: Read Genesis 12:3 and Galatians 3:8.

Promise

Fulfillment

Promise Three: Read Genesis 49:10 and Matthew 28:18.

Promise

Fulfillment

God Fulfills Ancient Promises

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Promise

Fulfillment

Promise Three: Read Genesis 49:10 and Matthew 28:18.

Promise

Fulfillment

After reading these promises from Genesis, I know that God is

God sent Jesus to earth to _____

Because God keeps His word, I _____

I should celebrate Christmas for these reasons: _____

Below are some ways I can praise God for fulfilling His word.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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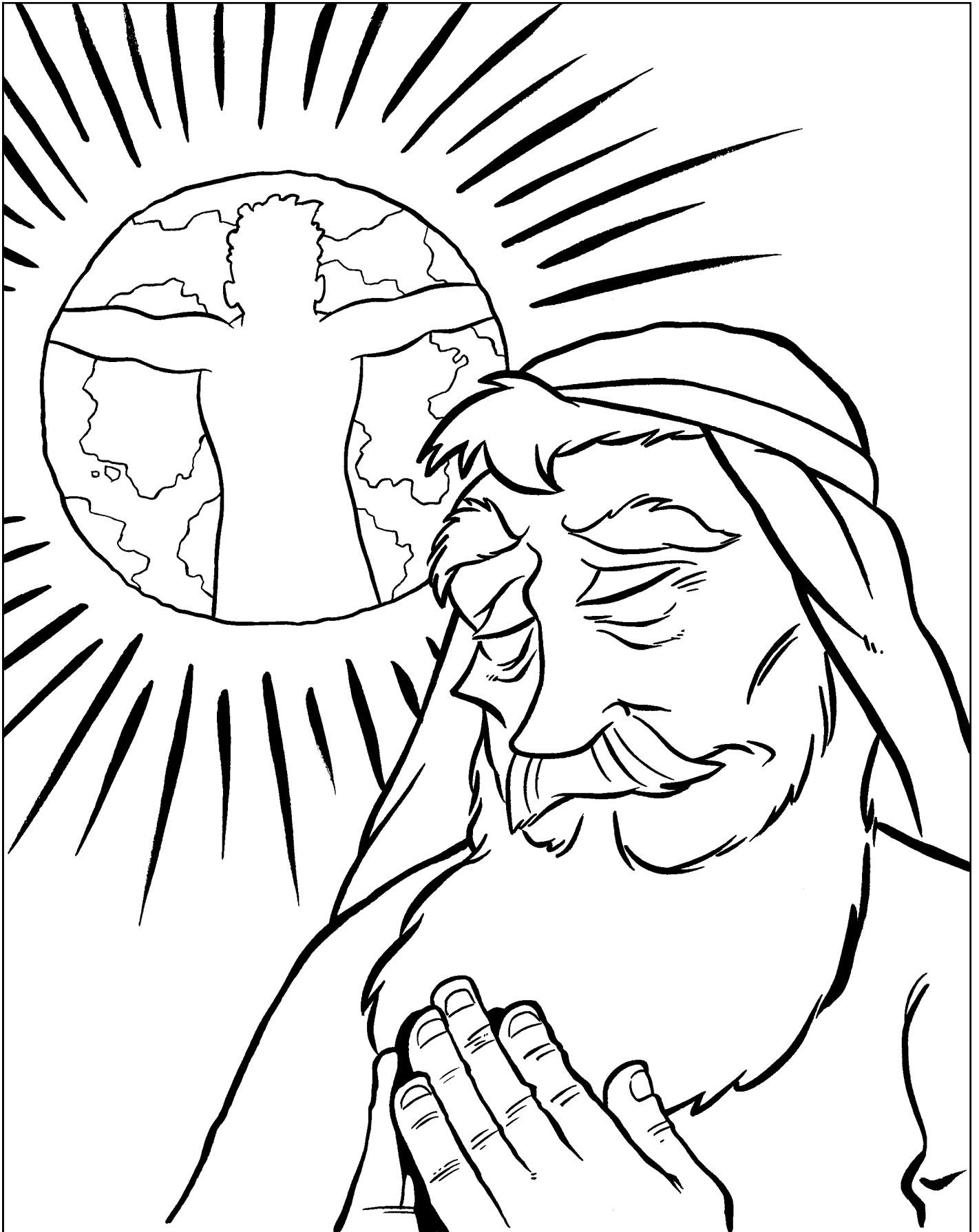
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Because God keeps His word, I _____

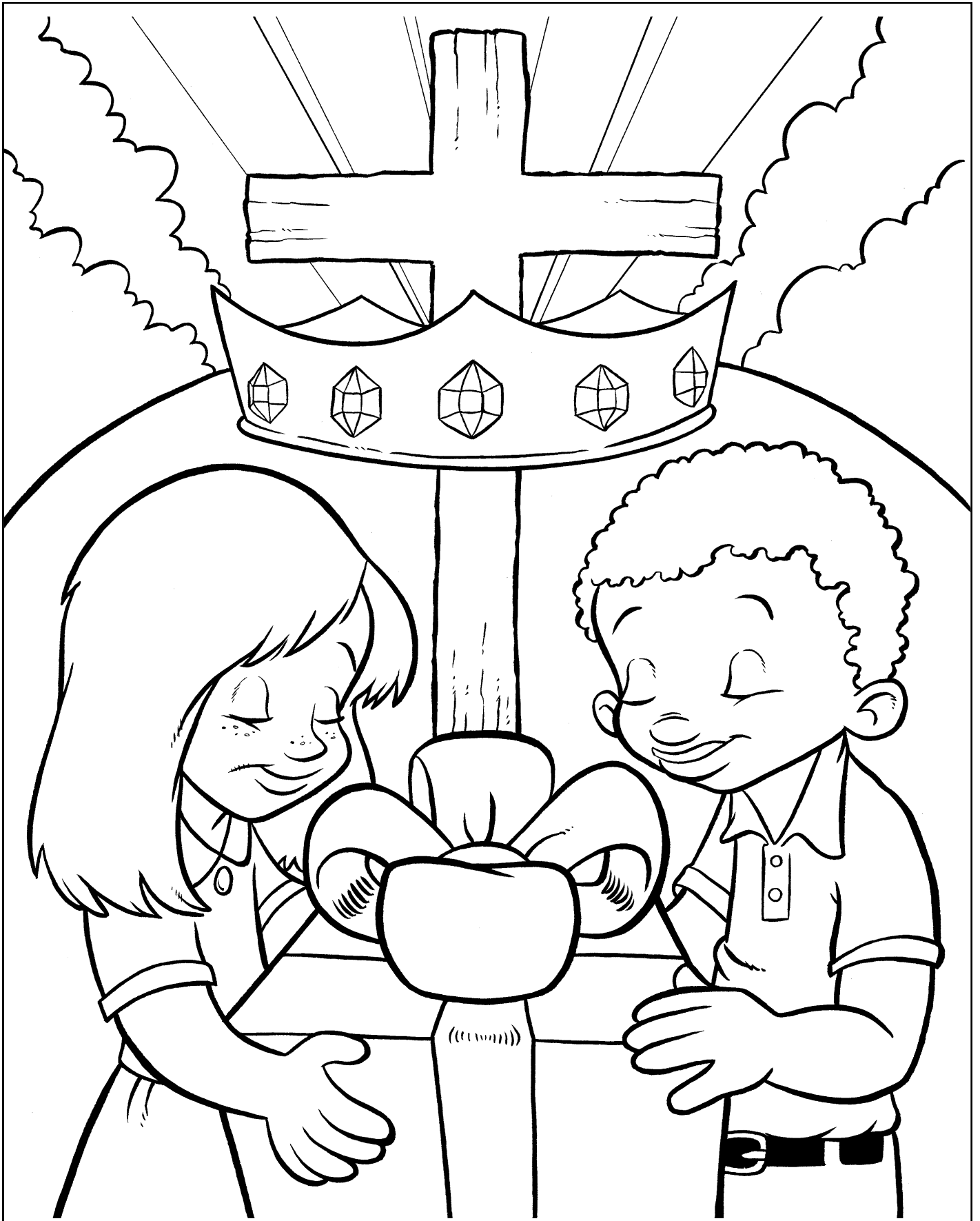
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Below are some ways I can praise God for fulfilling His word.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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.

