

Aim of lesson

Last week's lesson studied the promises to Abraham and David - some fulfilled and some as yet unfulfilled. This week we consider how we can be included in these promises, particularly those to Abraham.

Bible background

Matthew 22:31-32; Luke 13:28-29; John 8:56; Acts 7:5; Romans 4:13-24; Hebrews 11:11-16; Hebrews 11:17-19; Hebrews 11:39-40; Galatians 3:8-9; 16-18; Galatians 3:27-29; Acts 3:25

Preparation required

Read through the notes and decide how the young people will work through their notes. They could share the references between them, discuss them before they write, etc.

Suggested outline of lesson

Abraham himself is mentioned a number of times in the New Testament - Why is this? What is to be learned from these references?

Using their notes, the young people can read the references given and fill in what they understand by them (encourage them to give their own answers and not to be afraid of making 'mistakes'). Discussion could then take place on their answers.

Matthew 22:31-32	Abraham will be raised from the dead
Luke 13:28-29	Abraham will be in the kingdom
John 8:56	Abraham looked forward to seeing Jesus' day
Acts 7:5	Abraham never inherited the land then, it was to happen in the future
Romans 4:13-24	Inheritance will be through faith not by simply keeping the law. The promise is not restricted to the land of Canaan but to the whole earth.
Hebrews 11:11-16	They looked forward with faith to the promise of a new land
Hebrews 11:17-19	Abraham believed God could raise the dead
Hebrews 11:39-40	The promise is still to be inherited
Galatians 3:8-9, 16-18	The promises to Abraham form 'the gospel', and his seed will inherit the kingdom. These verses show how important the promises are.
Galatians 3:27-29	We can all be part of the kingdom if we belong to Christ
Acts 3:25	Note how in verse 26 Peter interprets the promise that was made to Abraham. The promise is to 'all peoples' - Jews and Gentiles - and the blessing is brought about by the work of the Lord Jesus, who came first to the Jews.

Relevance to our lives

Having learnt that we can trust God to keep his promises, the fact that we can be included in them gives us a wonderful hope for the future.

Prayer

Almighty God, as we learn more about your plan and purpose for the earth we pray for strength to follow Christ's example as true believers, and for faith that we can all be part of his kingdom as promised to Abraham so long ago. Amen

Other suggestions for activities

1. The class might consider the parable of the vineyard (Luke 20:9-19) and discuss how it illustrates this lesson.
2. The young people might also like to think how we keep promises.
3. Look at Genesis 15:1-6 and get the young people to put themselves in Abraham's position. God had promised him something that seemed impossible, but he believed it would happen, and for that reason he was saved. Emphasise that this is exactly what God wants of us.