

# 12 FATHER OF NATIONS

**KEY TEXT:** GENESIS 17:1-10,15-19

## CENTRAL truth

We want God’s promises to “cook” quickly, like a microwave—but most often, God takes a slow cooker approach. Today we’ll hear God repeat His promises to Abram, and the beautiful aroma of His anticipated work fills the air as God makes a covenant with Abram. It’s a delicious reminder that **God always keeps His promises.**

## key question

**Why do you think God gave Abraham such specific instructions about how to keep their covenant?**

The idea of “earning” God’s favor is often compelling to us. (The “Now What” questions are an opportunity for students to reflect on why this is.) But the gospel teaches us that there’s nothing we need to do except to look to Jesus. Through Jesus, God upheld both ends of the covenant—because we couldn’t. But even before Jesus, Abraham’s story points to the good news of Jesus. Remember, Abraham didn’t live perfectly, but when he believed God, it was “credited to him as righteousness” (Gen. 15:6). What we do matters, but we should do it as an expression of our belief in God and an overflow of what He has done for us and what He has promised us.

## keep in mind

- On the surface, today’s text may not seem to be easily applicable to students’ lives, and yet, they understand the struggle to believe God’s promises when He seems to be so slow in keeping them! Today’s text proves that God isn’t slow but using the process of waiting to form us into people who believe Him against all odds.
- Today’s text mentions circumcision. This can be an awkward topic, yet it is a foundational sign of God’s promise in the Old Testament that helps us better understand the New Testament and baptism! We don’t want to overlook the parts of God’s Word that make us uncomfortable. It will serve students well if you courageously lead these conversations. Honestly admit that it may feel weird or uncomfortable, and invite them to see what the weird stuff can teach them about God. See today’s “Give An Answer” section for help with this topic.

## application

**What has God provided as ways for us to remember His promises?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Abraham’s story of waiting and trusting God’s promises can encourage students to wait and trust, too. God’s Word and God’s people have been given to us as ways to hear God’s promises repeated!

**FOR THE LEADER:** Leaders can encourage students to make reading God’s Word and being with God’s people a priority. This is how they will remember His promises, even when those promises seem slow in being fulfilled.

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