

Spirit-Filled and Learning from History

Parents: Ever been accused of something you didn't say or do? It's a terrible situation to be in! Let's take a look at an early Christian who faced opposition and untruths told about him. Instead of only defending the truth about himself, Stephen used the opportunity to point the people to God's truth and the promises He fulfilled.

Read: *Acts 7: 1-8a Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?" To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.' "So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Harran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. He gave him no inheritance here, not even enough ground to set his foot on. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. God spoke to him in this way: 'For four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.'*

Discuss: Has anyone ever told others that you said something you didn't say? How did that make you feel?

Some people said that Stephen was speaking against God's teachings. How did Stephen respond when the priest asked, "Are these charges true?"

- a) Said no way, he wasn't talking against God
- b) Said yes, it was true, he was talking against God
- c) Replied with the truth that is written in the Bible

Who did Stephen tell them about? *Abraham* What did Stephen say God promised to Abraham? *That he and his descendants would possess the land.* Why might that have been hard for some to believe? *Abraham didn't have a child at that time*

How can we point others to God and His promises? *Share His Word, follow His teachings, etc.*

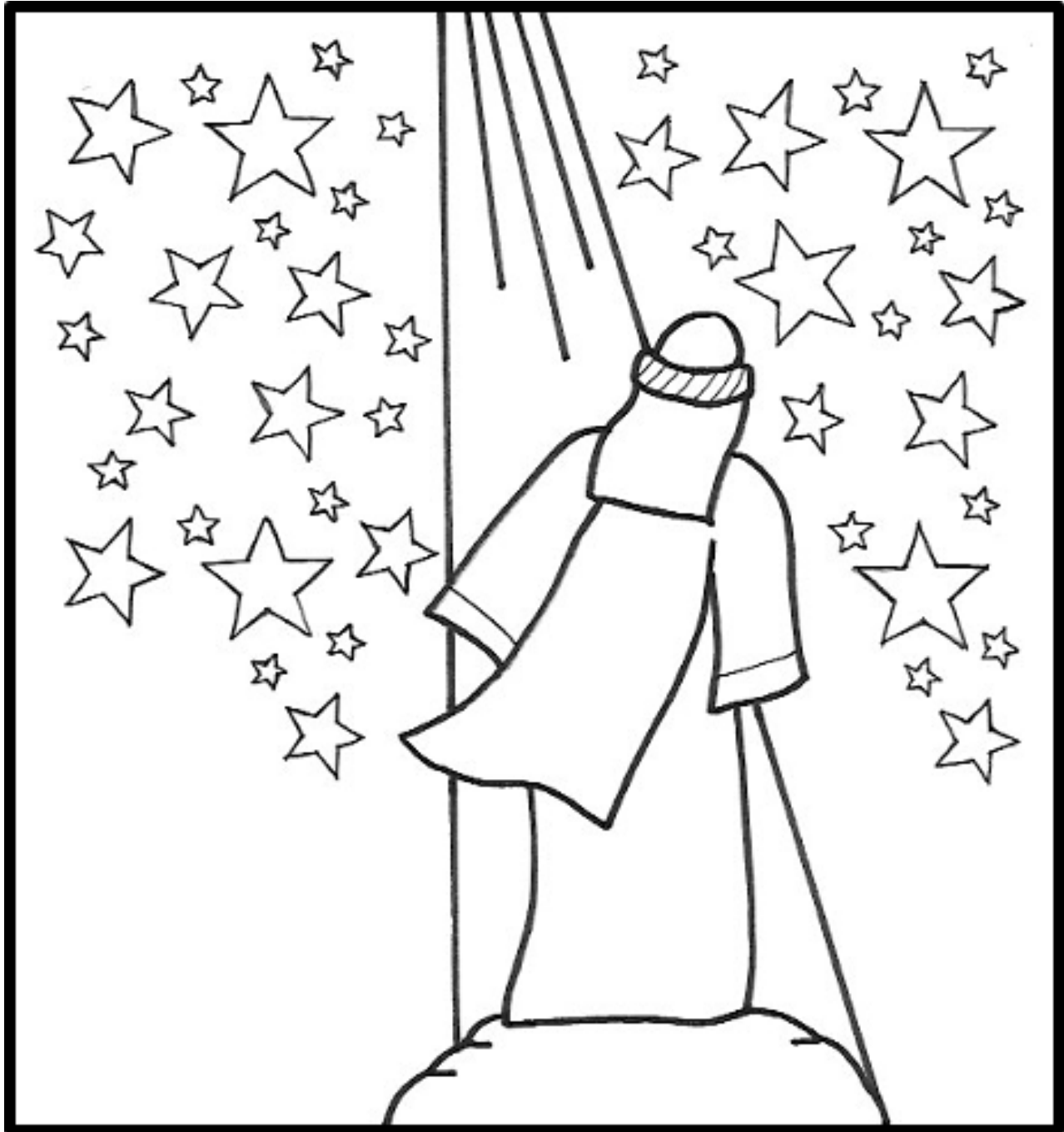
Key Point: We Praise You God for Your Teachings

We Praise You God (Hands up in praise)
For Your Teachings (Pull hands down and together, open like a book)

Family Activity: Let's make a visual reminder that God always keeps his promises. Find a verse from the Old Testament with one from the New Testament showing how it was fulfilled or choose one of the three pairs of Scripture listed—Isaiah 9:6 & Luke 2:7, Genesis 12:3 & Galatians 3:8, or Zechariah 9:9 & Matthew 21:7). Print the star template and cut it out. Add your verses and creative touches with color and glitter.

Prayer: Dear God, we are grateful for Your Word and how it shows us that You always keep Your promises. Help us take time to read the Bible each day. Forgive us when we say we are going to do something and we don't. Help us deliver our word like you do. We thank You and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Pay close attention to what you say you're going to do this week. Pray for help to make your actions reflect your words.



“Then He brought him (Abraham) outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’” Genesis 15:5

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Old Testament-

New Testament-
