



READ: Genesis 15:1-6 (NIRV)

Some time later, Abram had a vision. The Lord said to him, "Abram, do not be afraid. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great reward." But Abram said, "Lord and King, what can you give me? I still don't have any children. My servant Eliezer comes from Damascus. When I die, he will get everything I own." Abram continued, "You haven't given me any children. So this servant of mine will get everything I own." Then a message from the Lord came to Abram. The Lord said, "When you die, what you have will not go to this man. You will have a son of your own. He will get everything you have." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then he said to him, "That's how many children will be born into your family." Abram believed the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's faith made him right with the Lord.

ENTER THE STORY:

Have you ever gone outside when it was dark, looked up at the skies, and tried to count the stars?

In our story today, God takes Abram outside and tells him to look up at the beautiful night sky, full of twinkling stars, and God tells Abram to try to count them if he can because that is how BIG his family will be.

It's impossible to count the stars, isn't it? Well, that's the point! God wanted Abram to know that he was going to have so many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and so on, that it would be impossible to count them.

Can I tell you a secret? There is a treasure buried deep within the word "offspring." In Genesis 3:15, God said that a "Serpent Crusher" would come from Eve's family and defeat the bad, evil serpent. But remember, we've seen this word before! The word offspring is actually referring to *ONE VERY SPECIAL MAN*. Isaac was Abram's first child, but this promise was SO MUCH bigger than Isaac!

Do you know who this special offspring God is promising to Abram might be? It's Jesus!

It's always been about Jesus!

As soon as God shared that special promise with Abram, the Bible tells us that Abram BELIEVED the Lord. Abram trusted God to keep his really BIG promise and God saved him because of his faith.

I have more good news! This BIG promise God made to Abram, that a special someone from his family would bless the entire world, that can be for US, TOO! When God showed Abram all those stars, he was including you and me and everyone that BELIEVES and TRUSTS in God. We can be a part of Abraham's family too because of Jesus Christ!

PRAY: *Lord, thank you for sending Jesus through Abram's family to bless the whole world. Please help us believe and trust in you just like Abram did! Help us see these stories with new eyes over the next few weeks as we celebrate the Advent of Jesus Christ as a baby. Amen.*