

Teacher's Supplement - The Divine Commission

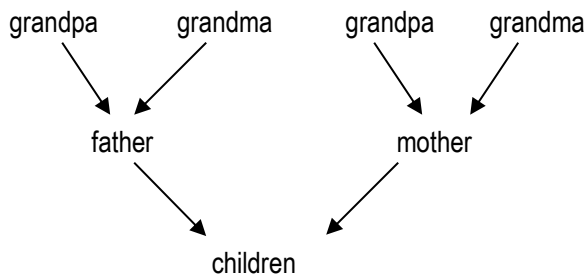
PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (10 minutes)

Section 1

Prior to class:

Family Tree Diagram



Lesson Development (28 minutes)

Facts About Abraham

Abram, whose name was changed by God to Abraham, was a man who lived in the land of Ur about 2,000 years from the time of Adam. The land of Ur was close to the land of Babel. Abram may have lived about two hundred years after the tower of Babel. Abram's father was named Terah and he was a descendant of Shem, one of Noah's sons.

Abram was married for many years, but he and his wife were unable to bear children. One day he expressed a concern to the Lord about who would inherit his possessions. God told him that he would give him a son. In addition, God made a covenant with Abram.

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 17: 4-8 (Underscore highlights God's promises):

[4] As for Me, behold, My covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

[5] Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

[6] And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

[7] And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for **an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.**

[8] And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the

land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Abraham's Responsibility in the Everlasting Covenant

Genesis 17:1,10,14 (Underscore highlights Abraham's responsibility in the everlasting covenant.)

[1] And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

[10] This is My covenant, which ye shall keep, between Me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

[14] And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

Summary: Abraham's responsibility was to...

- keep God's commandments
- circumcise every man and man-child in his household, and this was to be kept by his offspring as well.

Note: Be prepared with a response should students ask you to elaborate on the details of the covenant of circumcision. Determine what would be appropriate to discuss for your classroom setting. You may want to poll parents ahead of time to assess students' prior knowledge and (a) to ask parents to prepare their children with an understanding of the topic prior to class or (b) to inform parents of your prepared response that may be presented to the students.)

Aspects of covenant **fulfilled during** Abraham, Isaac, and Israel's lifetime:

- Blessed by God
- Lived in lands promised
- Received salvation through their faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to His commandments.

Aspects of covenant **fulfilled after** Abraham, Isaac, and Israel died, such as:

- Many of their descendants were anointed kings of Israel
- Jesus Christ, the Messiah, was a descendant
- Descendants grew in number and formed into nations of people.

Aspects of covenant **yet to be fulfilled**, such as:

- All families of the earth to be blessed
- All tribes of Israel are to return to their promised lands
- Descendants of Israel to believe in Jesus, God's Son, and become a righteous people.

Section 2

Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20

[19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

[20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

Divine Commission

2. **"Diagram of Abraham's Family Tree"** on pages below.

2 Nephi 3:4,5,7 (Text in [] added for clarity. Underscore identifies God's promise. Bold text)

[4] For behold, thou [Lehi's son, Joseph] art the fruit of my loins; and I [Lehi] am a descendant of Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt. And great were the covenants of the Lord which He made unto Joseph [Israel's son].

[5] Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day. And he obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of his loins the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel; not the Messiah, but a branch which was to be broken off, nevertheless, to be remembered in the covenants of the Lord that the Messiah should be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the spirit of power, unto the bringing of them out of darkness unto light -- yea, out of hidden darkness and out of captivity unto freedom.

[7] Yea, Joseph truly said: Thus saith the Lord unto me: A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins. And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers.

Helaman 6:10

Now the land south was called Lehi, and the land north was called Mulek, which was after the son of Zedekiah; for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land north, and Lehi into the land south.

Helaman 8:21

"And now will you dispute that Jerusalem was destroyed? Will ye say that the sons of Zedekiah were not slain, all except it were Mulek? Yea, and do ye not behold that the seed of Zedekiah are with us, and they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem?..."

1 Nephi 13: 38,39 (Underscore added for emphasis)

[38] And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.

[39] And after it had come forth unto them I beheld other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.

Scripture Texts/ References/ Memory Verses

Faith and Doctrine Article 19:

We believe that ...God will remember his covenants to the House of Israel and bring them to knowledge of the fullness of the Gospel.

A. "We believe in the restoration of Israel as it is spoken of by the prophets, and that God will use men as His instrument for its accomplishment in this age, as He did in ages past. We believe, also, that in order to bring about these events, God must and will reveal His will to man as He did in days of old.."

B. We believe that God will employ this Church for that purpose. "Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock" (Jer.31:10) "Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks" (Jer.16:16)

C. We believe also, that blindness in part is happened unto Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in; and so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written, "There shall come out of

Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: (Rom.11:25-26).

D. We believe that the aborigines, or Native Americans, upon this hemisphere are a part of Israel, descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, and that this land of America is theirs by an original God-given right. Also, that it is the land referred to by Jacob as a land given of God to Jacob and of Jacob to Joseph. Also, that it is the land referred to by Moses when blessing the children of Israel before his departure from them, as the land of Joseph. It is the land referred to by Ezekiel and Isaiah. In short, it is the land of restored Israel, where the “little stone of Daniel” will smite the image at the feet and bring about the wonderful results by him described.

Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/ Exploration/ Extension of Topic

Extension of lesson:

The story of Joseph: his dreams, his life in Egypt, with emphasis on saving his family from famine and death

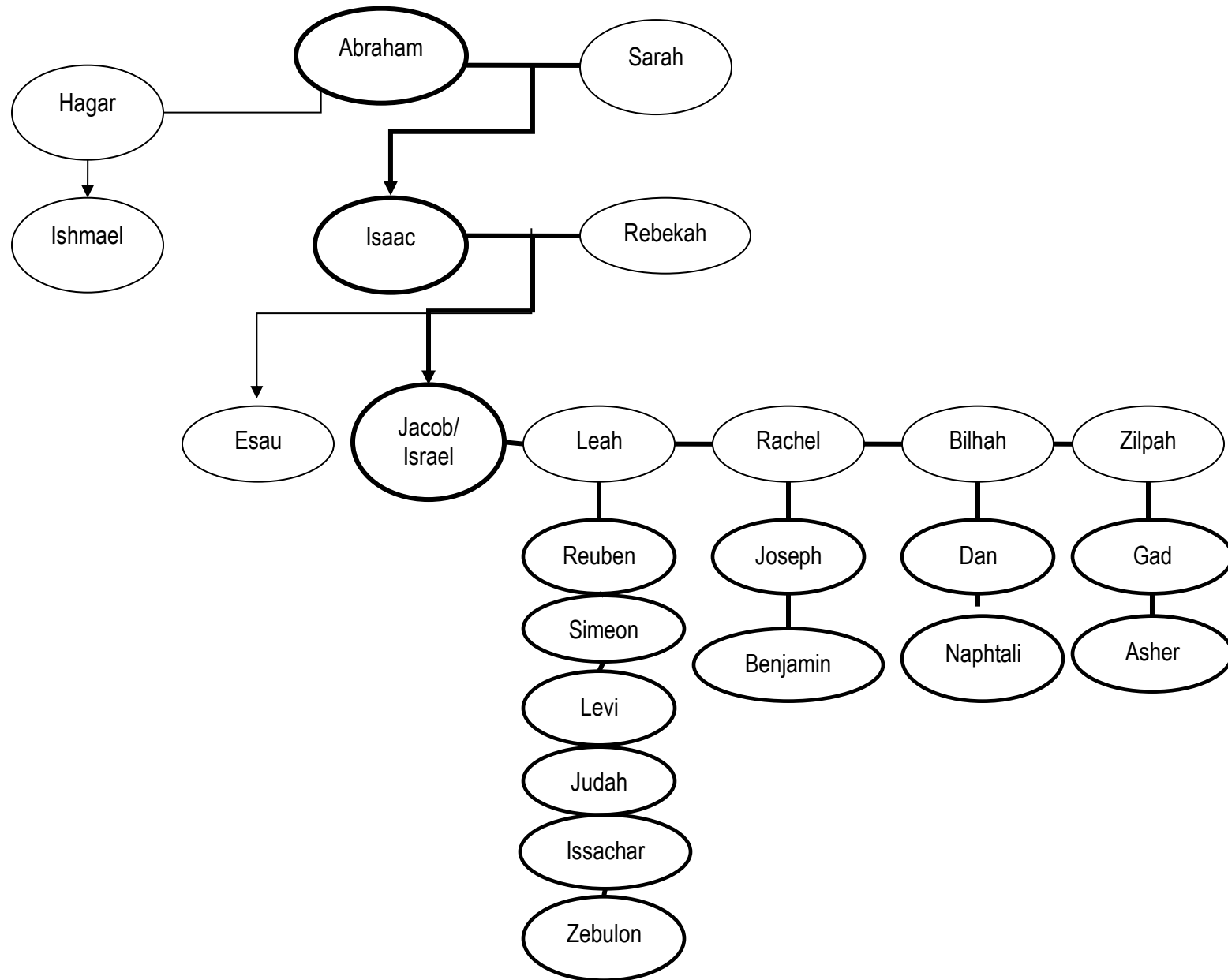
The story of Moses: his life, with emphasis on delivering the tribes of Israel and leading them to the promised land

The story of the Choice seer: future work as a deliverer of the tribes of Israel

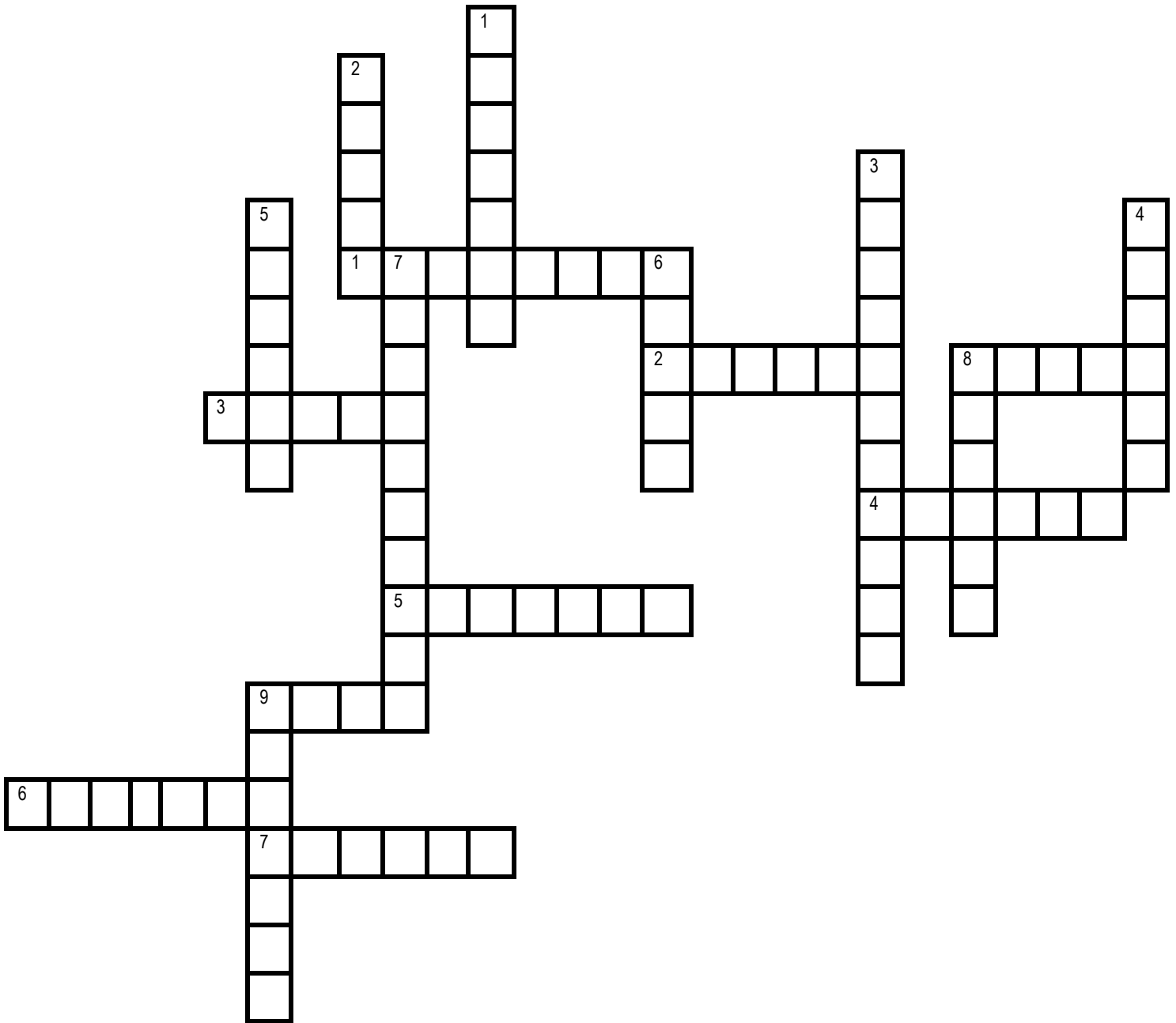
Church Education Lessons

- Covenants
- Lehi Receives a Blessing of a Land of Promise

Diagram of Abraham's Family Tree



Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob- Crossword puzzle



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Crossword Puzzle Clues

Genesis chapters 11-36

ACROSS

1. Another word for promise
2. God changed Jacob's name to ____
3. Abraham's wife's name was changed to ____
4. The number of Jacob's sons
5. Isaac's wife's name
6. Abraham would become a father of many ____
7. Number of years Isaac and Rebecca were married before having children
8. He was tricked on his wedding night
9. Abraham's children would be as numerous as the ____ of the seashore

DOWN

1. Name of Abraham's first son
2. Abraham's son of promise
3. God's promises are ____
4. Israel's twelve sons are referred to as ____
5. Land promised to Abraham
6. Esau and Jacob were ____
7. Abraham's age when Isaac was born
8. Jacob's favorite son of his old age
9. Leah and Rachel were ____

ANSWER
BOX →

CANAAN
COVENANT
EVERLASTING
ISAAC
ISHMAEL
ISRAEL
JACOB
JOSEPH
NATIONS
ONE HUNDRED
REBEKAH
SAND
SARAH
SISTERS
TRIBES
TWELVE
TWENTY
TWINS

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - Answers

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