Nearly 300 times in the Bible we run across the word *covenant*. But what **is** a covenant? In simple terms:

A _____ based on _____

_____: God's First Mention of a Covenant

At a time when "the wickedness of man was great in the earth," Noah "found favor in the eyes of the LORD" (Gen 6:5-8). After the flood, God promised Noah…

"Behold, I establish my _____ with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you… I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the _____, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." (Gen 9:8-16)

God even provided "a sign" of the covenant between himself and the earth for all future generations.

the _____
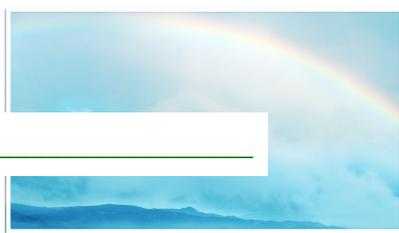
_____: God's Promise to Bless the World

After making promises to bless him and bless all the families of the earth through him (Gen 12:1-4), God called Abram to "walk before me and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly" (Gen 17:1-7). God even changed Abram's name as a sign of this covenant:

- **Abram** means _____ father
- **Abraham** means father of a _____

God wanted a relationship based on promises with Abraham and his descendants–the nation of Israel.

For Class & Family Discussion:

‣ Can you think of some other examples of "covenants" that people make with each other in everyday life?

‣ God *could* have created us and done nothing more or just told us what to do and held us accountable. But the Bible repeatedly shows he is a God of covenants. What does this reveal about our God?

‣ Have you seen a rainbow recently? Every time we see one, what is happening according to Genesis 9:16? What should *we* think about and recognize?

‣ Let's think about what we learned of God's covenant with Abraham. If a covenant is "a relationship based on promises"…

- What promises did God make?
- What did he expect Abraham to do as his part of the covenant (Gen 17:1)?
- Think about what you know of Abraham's life. Where did this covenant take him?