

LESSON 8

Abram & God's Promise

GENESIS 12–13



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD WORKS HIS PURPOSES THROUGH THE PEOPLE THAT HE CALLS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 8)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 8

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Where Are We Going?

Things Are Not Always as They Appear

SUPPLIES: plastic slider sandwich bag, dirt (or something else undesirable as a treat), two small boxes, pretty wrapping paper and ribbons, brown paper bag, tape and scissors, stickers for each child

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God called Abram.

Divide the class into two groups. Assign three “shepherds” to each group. (One shepherd should be a teacher or helper.) The remainder of each group will be sheep. Tell the sheep that their job is to mix together with the other group, and the shepherds’ job is to keep their group of sheep separated. Have the adult shepherds start a quarrel with one another. Comments like, “Hey, keep your sheep on your side,” or “Why do you always bring your sheep on my grass?” This will help illustrate the problem Abram’s herdsman were experiencing. End the skit, and thank the kids for their participation.

Then ask the following questions:

What problem did we have with the sheep?

(There was not enough room for them in the classroom—fields—to eat grass.)

What bad attitudes did you see?

(Some of the shepherds were quarreling with each other.)

Why do we quarrel?

(We quarrel when we don’t get what we want [James 4:1–2].)

Are you ever tempted to quarrel with your brothers or sisters? or with your friends? over what?

(toys, candy that someone gave us, who gets into the car first, who gets to sit in the special seat, etc.)

What should we do when we are tempted to quarrel with others?

(consider others, not just ourselves [Philippians 2:4])

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 8, “Abram and God’s Promise,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

Note: please remember to use the name “Abram” instead of Abraham for this lesson.

Who did God talk to in this story?

(Abram)

What did God ask Abram to do?

(Leave his country, his people, and his father’s house and go to where God told him to go.)

Did Abram obey God? *(yes)* How do we know? *(The Bible tells us that he left with his wife and his nephew Lot.)*

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Have any of you ever moved into a new house? What did your family need to do to move?

(Pack everything in boxes. Rent a truck. Throw a lot of things away.)

Why is moving both exciting and sad?

(It is exciting because of all the new things you will see and do. It is sad because you miss the family and friends you leave behind.)

Do you think it was exciting and sad for Abram to move? How?

(God made Abram an exciting promise that he would bless him, but it was also sad for Abram because he had to leave his family and his home.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Galatians 3:26—4:7

God made a promise to Abram that through him all nations would be blessed. Abram himself was not the one to bless all nations. The one who fulfills that promise is a descendant of Abram, Jesus Christ.

Now that Jesus has fulfilled that promise, it doesn't matter if you are born as a Jew, a Greek, an American, or any other nationality. All those who trust in Jesus are considered the offspring of Abram, people who will inherit God's blessing.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 8—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What is Abram doing?

(praying to God)

What is the pile of stones for in the picture?

(The pile of stones is the altar Abram made for the Lord. It was a way to say thank you to God.)

Draw something on your coloring sheet that you want to thank God for.

(Feel free to share some examples to get them started—clothes, food, Mom and Dad, etc.)

When they are finished, ask some of the children to share what they drew on their coloring sheets.

Where Are We Going?

Tell your class you are going to pretend to be Abram the day God called him. Form groups of five. In each group, one child will play the part of Abram; a second, Sarai; a third, Lot; and the remaining two will be sheep.

Say to Abram, “Abram, go from your country and family to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation.” Tell Abram to explain to the “family” that they will need to go where God leads them.

Explain that you will play God’s part, and they should follow you wherever you lead. Lead them around the classroom, and then announce that they have arrived in the land of Canaan. Then say, “God told Abram, ‘I’m going to give you and your children all this land.’ So Abram built an altar to the Lord.”

Have everyone sit down, and talk to them about Abram’s faith. He left his home where he knew everyone. He brought Lot, but he didn’t bring all his friends.

Ask the children, “Can you imagine what it would be like if your mom or dad told you that you would be moving?” (Draw the children out as to what they would miss most and that they would have to have faith and trust their parents just like Abram had to trust God.)

Things Are Not Always as They Appear

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ plastic slider sandwich bag
- ✓ dirt (or something else undesirable as a treat)
- ✓ two small boxes
- ✓ pretty wrapping paper and ribbons
- ✓ brown paper bag
- ✓ tape and scissors
- ✓ stickers for each child

TO PREPARE:

Fill one plastic slider bag with dirt, and then place the bag in a small box and wrap it with beautiful paper and ribbons. Purchase stickers, enough for each child

to have one each, and wrap them in another box similar to the first, only use an old paper shopping bag to wrap the box and don't use a bow. You may want to scribble all over the paper first, and then wrap it sloppily. Be sure to purchase enough stickers for everyone.

Set both boxes in front of the class, and ask several different children which box they would rather have. (The idea, of course, is that they would choose the prettily wrapped box.) Ask the class to guess what is inside. Play it up! Then open each box, starting with the nicely wrapped one. Open the poorly wrapped box next to disclose the stickers. Tell the class they may each have one to remind them of Abram's good choice—God's best! (Tell the children that they will receive their sticker along with their coloring sheet when they leave for the day.)

Ask the following questions:

Why was Lot's choice of the good ground like the fancy box with the dirt (or whatever yucky thing you fill it with)?

(Even though the ground was "well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord," [Genesis 13:10] the people of the land were evil.)

Why was Abram's choice like the ugly box with the surprise inside? Read Genesis 13:14–18, and ask the children again.

(God promised to bless Abram in that land.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 8 - ABRAM AND GOD'S PROMISE

