

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 REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Genesis 12:1–7 from the Scriptures or read story 8, “Abram and God’s Promise,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
“Can” You Guess?
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ six cans of fruit or vegetables (make sure that both the top and bottom can be opened with a can opener and prepare the cans as described below)
 - ✓ three varieties of candy
 - ✓ can opener
 - ✓ hot glue and gun
 - ✓ a stack of plastic bowls
 - ✓ spoons
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
Abram versus Jonah
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN**
The Call of God to Go
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
Going Not Knowing
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ bag of pretzels or other snack

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God called Abram—Abram lived in a pagan country that did not worship the true God. He was a full-grown, married man when one day God came and spoke to him. Abram would never have known anything about God if God had not revealed himself.

Over and over again in Scripture, we see that God is the one who calls. God is the one who speaks. God is the one who reveals himself to people who know nothing about him.

God made a promise to Abram—God told Abram to go, but he didn't say where. Yet Abram believed God and obeyed him. In obeying God, Abram left behind family and friends and 75 years worth of memories.

When Abram arrived in the land of Canaan, God promised him that his offspring would possess that land. This was not because Abram was worthy of the promise; it simply was because God loved Abram and reached out to him with a blessing Abram did not deserve. God's choosing Abram and God's promise to Abram were by grace alone.

Abram believed and followed God's call—Abram responded to the Lord with faith and followed God's call, but he didn't follow God perfectly. Abram lied about his wife, yet God continued to protect and bless him. God's plan was bigger than Abram's sin. If our desire is to follow and obey God like Abram did, then even when our journey of faith gets hard and we sin and make mistakes, God's grace will overcome those sins and mistakes—just as it had with Abram.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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 Abraham, people who will inherit God's blessing.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 12:1–7 from the Scriptures or read story 8, "Abram and God's Promise," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

"Can" You Guess?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ six cans of fruit or vegetables (make sure that both the top and bottom can be opened with a can opener and prepare the cans as described below)
- ✓ three varieties of candy
- ✓ can opener
- ✓ hot glue and gun
- ✓ a stack of plastic bowls
- ✓ spoons

Prior to class open the bottoms of three of the cans and wash them out. Save the bottom lids. Fill the cans with a different type of candy in each then replace the lids and hot glue them back in place. Remove the labels from all the cans and mark the true contents on the bottom for your reference.

This object lesson is designed to help the children appreciate Abram’s faith in “going without knowing.”

Ask the class for volunteers who are not afraid to eat anything. Explain that you want them to choose a can and if they eat what is inside you will give them a prize (some candy). Of course, they will not know what is in the cans. Talk it up a bit by asking the class what kinds of things can be found in cans. Throw out a couple of good examples like lima beans, chickpeas, or creamed corn to get them thinking. Tell the children that the contents of all the cans can be eaten; i.e., no dog food.

The children will have fun picking cans and will be surprised when you use a can opener to open the cans with the candy.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- How did it feel having to select a can without knowing what was inside?
- How do you think Abram felt about going to a land he did not know?
- What gave you the faith to believe that the unknown contents of the cans would be okay to eat?
(I trusted the teacher’s word that it would be edible.)
- What gave Abram the faith to go without knowing?
(He trusted God’s word to lead him.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Abram versus Jonah

Read the first part of the story of Jonah (Jonah 1:1–17). Work through the following questions with the class.

- **How are Jonah and Abram similar?**
(God called both of them to a particular task.)

- **How are Jonah and Abram different?**
(Abram obeyed God but Jonah did not.)

- **Does God call us today?**
(Yes, we are all called to follow God’s Word. Just as Jonah and Abram were called to obey the Lord, so we are called to obey the Lord through his revealed will in the Bible.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

The Call of God to Go

Invite a person who has experienced the call of God firsthand to share their testimony with your class. This could be a pastor who heard God’s call into ministry and left a lucrative career, a person who left career advancement to remain at your local church, or perhaps a family that left their home to be a part of your church’s initial church planting team.

Encourage the person sharing to read the account of Abram who went in faith obeying God’s call. Have the person share both the exciting and challenging aspects of obeying God’s call to go.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Going Not Knowing

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ bag of pretzels or other snack

Prior to class hide the bag of pretzels somewhere in your classroom.

At some point in the second half of the lesson time, call one of your students by name and say to her, “Pick up all of your things and go to a part of the classroom I will show you.” Once she has all her things, point toward the area of the room where you hid the pretzels. The child should get up and go to that part of the room. Allow her to stand there for a bit while you tell the class that God told Abram to go somewhere without explaining why.

Then direct the child you called to look in the place where you’ve hidden the pretzels. Once they’re found, the child can bring them back as a blessing to the whole class. Thank your student volunteer and have her pass out the pretzels to the class. While they are eating, interview the student you called by name for the assignment and ask her to tell you what it felt like to be called out unexpectedly and told, with no explanation, to go somewhere. Use this object lesson to discuss how Abram would have felt to be called to go without knowing why. Point out the similarities in the blessing. You called the student to be a blessing to the whole class. God called Abram to be a blessing to all people, and he was because Jesus was born into his family line.

LESSON 8 - ABRAM AND GOD'S PROMISE

