

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 15 MIN**
Abram’s Challenges
SUPPLIES:
✓ pencils and paper
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
Old through the New
SUPPLIES:
✓ paper and pencils
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Map It
SUPPLIES:
✓ Bible atlas with map of the land of the patriarchs copied for each person in the class
(www.biblestudy.org/maps/journey-of-abraham-to-promised-land-and-egypt-large-map.html)
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
The Call

TOTAL 85 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Call

God called Abram to go. God's call is both one of grace and one of power. As Abram was called to go, he was also given the grace to go. God's call is always effective because he gives sufficient grace when he calls. God's call to follow him is still going forth as he calls individuals today to follow Christ. Abraham and the other Old Testament saints greeted the promises of God "from afar" (Hebrews 11:13). We, knowing the gospel, are called to share in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:13–14).

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 15 MIN

Abram's Challenges

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencils and paper

Divide up the class into groups of three or four. Have the children read through Genesis 12 and make a list of challenges that Abram faced as a result of obeying God's call to go. Give the groups five to ten minutes to work and then gather them back again to make a comprehensive list. Here are some challenges that should appear on the list:

- Abram left his immediate family, his home, and his country.
- Abram had to pack up all his things and move.
- Abram faced a famine.
- Abram was subject to the Egyptians' authority.
- Pharaoh took Sarah.

After listing the challenges, ask the children:

■ How did God work all these things together for Abram's good?

(The famine led Abram to Egypt where because of his lie about his wife, the Egyptians treated Abram well and gave him a wealth of livestock. When Pharaoh commanded Abram to leave Egypt, Abram had increased in wealth.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Old through the New

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils

Have the children compare and contrast Hebrews 11:8–12 with Genesis 12, and list the facts we learn in Hebrews that we don't find in Genesis 12.

Then ask the class, "How does the New Testament help us to interpret the Old?" (Since the New Testament was written after the Old Testament, we have the benefit of the inspired writers' interpretation of the Old Testament. We learn from the writer of Hebrews for instance that Abram's motive was a righteous one. Abram obeyed God out of faith not greed or fear.)

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 15 MIN

Map It

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bible atlas with map of the land of the patriarchs copied for each person in the class (www.biblestudy.org/maps/journey-of-abraham-to-promised-land-and-egypt-large-map.html)

Distribute to each child a copy of a map of the Old Testament patriarchal land. (This should be a map without Abram’s journey delineated on the map.)

Have the children locate the different places specified in the Genesis narrative. Then have them draw a line indicating Abram’s journey to the Negeb from Haran (modern day Iraq) and then further down to Egypt and back to the Negeb and Bethel. You can also provide blank maps and have the children fill them out as you demonstrate on the whiteboard where the various cities are located. Locate Bethlehem and Jerusalem on the map as well and ask the children to tell you their significance.

Connect Abram’s journey to the ultimate purpose of the journey: for God to establish a people in Canaan out of which the Messiah would come. Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, and he would die in Jerusalem.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

The Call

After explaining the definition of the word “call” to the class from “A Little Bit More,” ask individuals in the class to share what God has called their dad or mom to do with their lives. Since every Christian is called into God’s family, one thing they can share is about how their parents became Christians. God also calls people to specific jobs and roles in their lives. Some might want to share how their parents were called to a particular job.

Every dad, for instance, is called to be a father and every mom a mother. Every married man a husband and every married woman a wife.

Finally, many people experience God's subjective call toward a particular occupation. For instance, some people feel God has gifted them to be a teacher or a pastor or a firefighter, etc. Help your students see God's hand in guiding their parents' lives by calling them to their specific roles.