

Abraham's Call

Teacher Pep Talk: God called a man named Abraham to leave his homeland and to go to the land He would show him. God promised Abraham that He would make him into a great nation; that He would bless him; and that all peoples on that earth would be blessed through him. Abraham stepped out in faith to obey God. He believed God would keep His promises. Believing in God sometimes means stepping out in faith to follow Him. In the next lesson we will learn that believing in God sometimes means waiting on God's timing.

You will need: Bible

Major Points: One of Noah's descendants was Abraham
God spoke to Abraham and asked him to go to a New Land
God Promised to Bless Abraham
Abraham Believed God
Abraham Obeyed God
God Kept His Promises to Abraham

Scripture Ref: Genesis 11 and 12:1-4

Memory Verse: Genesis 12:1 *"Leave your country... and go to the land I will show you."*

Lesson: **Introduction – God Keeps His Promises**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- Today we are going to talk about promises. What is a promise? *(Wait for answers; then give the definition.)* A promise is when you say you will do something, and then you do it.
- Have you ever made a promise? *(Wait for answers.)* Did you keep your promise? How long did you keep it?
- When God makes a promise, He ALWAYS keeps it! And He keeps it FOREVER!

One of Noah's Descendants was Abraham

- *(Review Timeline with the children- See series instructions.)*
- After Noah and the Ark, hundreds of years went by
- Noah's children had lots of children, and they had children and they had children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren!
- One of Noah's descendants was a man named Abram (or Abraham as we will call him today.)
- Abraham was married to Sarah
- Abraham and Sarah had no children
- They lived in Ur of the Chaldeans

God Spoke to Abraham and Asked him to go to a New Land

- God spoke to Abraham and told him “Leave your country, your people, and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.”
- Wow! That was a big request, wasn’t it? Leave your country... your people... and your father’s household... That would be tough wouldn’t it? Leaving everything that was familiar, and even your family. *(Of course, Abraham was an adult; he was already 75 years old! Still... it’s tough.)*
- AND... Abraham didn’t even know where God was asking him to go. Remember... he’d never been there. All he knew was that God had asked him to go.
- What would you do? Would you go? Would you chance it?

God Promised Abraham that He would Bless Him

- God promised Abraham to make him into a great nation
- He also promised to bless him and to make his name great
- God also promised that all peoples on the earth would be blessed through him.
- Those are some pretty BIG promises, but Abraham knew that God always keeps His promises

Abraham Believed God

- Abraham believed God (What does that mean, to believe someone?) It means that you know that person will keep his promise. You know you can have FAITH in that person.
- Abraham knew that God ALWAYS keeps His promises
- Abraham believed God. Abraham had faith in God.

Abraham Obeyed God

- So since Abraham believed God, Abraham obeyed God
- This time obeying God meant going somewhere
- The Bible says that Abraham left his country and went to the land God showed him
- Sometimes obeying God means stepping out in faith

God Kept His Promises

- And, guess what?! God kept ALL of His promises to Abraham.
- He did make him into a great nation.
- He did bless him and make his name great.
- And all the peoples of the earth were blessed through Abraham, because Jesus eventually came from his family!

Let’s pray and thank God for keeping His promises and blessing us!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for keeping your promises!
Thank you for blessing us!
Thank you that through Abraham's family, Jesus came to the whole world!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Steps of Faith – *The children will trace their feet/shoes on to paper in this activity.*

Before Class: Obtain copies of the activity sheet for the children in the class. Obtain markers, crayons or colors for the children to use to trace their feet on the papers.

During Class: Remind the children that having faith in God, and obeying God, sometimes means stepping out in faith, just like Abraham did. *“We step with our feet. Abraham and his family walked a long way to the Promised Land. Let's trace our feet on to this paper to remind us that sometimes having faith means stepping out and doing something new.”* Allow the children to stand on the pieces of paper and trace the outlines of their shoes (or feet) on the paper. They may also color in the outlines.

Faith Walk – *The children will learn to depend on someone else to lead them.*

Before Class: Obtain a blindfold which can be used for the children

During Class: Clear an area of the classroom for the activity. While the children watch, place a few obstacles in the area, for example: a chair, a table, a basket full of toys, etc. Show the blindfold. Choose one child (or adult) to be the helper. Ask for a volunteer to wear the blindfold while the helper guides them across the room, missing the obstacles. Explain that we often have faith in other people. *We believe our parents will give us lunch. We believe our grandparents will remember our birthday. We believe the pilot will be able to fly the plane...etc. Having faith sometimes means trusting God, even when we may not be able to see where He is leading us... just like Abraham did when he traveled to the land God promised to him.* Demonstrate leading the blindfolded volunteer around the room. Let a helper try it. **Make sure the helper keeps the volunteer away from the obstacles they cannot see. God is worthy of our trust!**

“Mother, May I?” – *A fun game to practice “obeying” and hop around a lot!*

NOTE: *This is not the traditional version of “Mother, May I?” but I think it is more fun.*

Before Class: Clear an area of the classroom where the children can play

During Class: Choose one person to be “IT”. That person stands near one wall. The other children form a line along the wall on the far side of the room. The person who is IT gives commands such as “Take 2 giant steps” or “Take 4 baby steps.” Each time the group must ask “Mother, May I?” and receive a “Yes” before beginning. If someone fails to get permission, that person must go backwards instead of forwards. First one to the other side wins and is “IT.” Other steps may include: scissor steps, bunny hops, jumps, etc. If more than one person makes it to the other side all at once, choose one to be IT.

Review Timeline – *The children will get overview of when Abraham lived*

Before Class: Prepare a Timeline by stretching a line of yarn across a wall in the room. Place on the timeline the different activity sheets from lessons leading up to this one.

(OR, if you have not been doing the previous lessons, make sheets of paper with important stories on them: Creation; Adam and Eve in the Garden; Noah and the Ark.)

During Class: Take one of today's completed activity sheets and place it on the Timeline. Review the other events that have happened on the Timeline, to give some perspective of the passage of time. Explain that between Adam and Noah there were 10 generations. And that between Noah and Abraham there were 10 generations. Abraham was Noah's great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson. That's a LONG time... but it does show a connection! And many, many, many years later after Abraham... way down the timeline... Jesus was born from Abraham's family! *(You may place a cross on the timeline further down the line)* God kept His promises to Abraham!

Sing "Father Abraham" – *The children will sing and have fun moving around!*

Father Abraham had many sons...
Many sons had Father Abraham!
And I am one of them, and so are you...
So, let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm!

(With each of following, repeat chorus and add one movement as described below.)

Right Arm, Left Arm!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up, Turn Around!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up, Turn Around, Sit Down!!!

Right Arm – wave right arm

Left Arm – wave left arm

Right Foot – tap or step with right foot

Left Foot – tap or step with left foot

Chin Up – nod head up and down

Turn Around – turn around in circles

Sit Down – sit down in place... *(Carefully!)*

Obeying God is a Step of Faith