

Splash PreK 11/10/24

UNIT 2 | SESSION 1

ABRAM FOLLOWED GOD

GENESIS 11-13



CHRIST CONNECTION: God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram's family. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE: The LORD is good, and His love lasts forever. Psalm 100:5

STORY POINT: Abram obeyed God.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

In today's passage, we read how Abram began his journey of following God. He showed marvelous faith by believing the promises God made to him, and he walked in obedience to the command of God. God proved Himself faithful and used Abram to display the glories of His promises, which would one day be fulfilled through the sacrifice and resurrection of the only truly righteous One, Jesus Christ.

How did God use Abram's story to demonstrate His faithfulness? How is Abram's call to follow God similar to our own stories today?

We learn from Joshua 24:2 that Abram was not raised by a family that worshiped God, but by idol worshipers. He did not know the Word of God until the day he heard it spoken to him as an old man: "Go from your land... to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation" (Genesis 12:1-2). In the very next verse, Abram promptly obeyed and began his journey, just as the Lord had told him. God called him to leave the comforts of his familiar life in pursuit of God and His glory. Abram did not follow God perfectly, and still he was called a friend of God (James 2:23).

God drew near to Abram, calling him out of darkness and into His light. Today, the same God calls us to believe this same promise of rescue that was brought to completion through His Son, Jesus, who left the comforts of heaven and came into the world to save sinners. Jesus is the better Abram who trusted and obeyed the Father, "becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). The steps Abram took were out of faith—faith that God would keep him safe, provide for him, and keep His promises. Abram believed God was worthy of forsaking all else. May the boys and girls who hear this Bible story take steps toward trusting the same God who is worthy of our love, trust, and faithful devotion.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Line up blocks on the letter "A"

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ blue painter's tape
- ☐ bins



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ small suitcase

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Abram Followed God" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ small suitcase

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker
- ☐ "Key Passage Sign Language" printable



LOVE

Farm play

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ toy barn and farm animals

Tent camping

- ☐ pop-up play tent
- ☐ assorted camping equipment



LIVE

Key passage suitcase

- ☐ file folders, 1 per child
- ☐ assorted preschool-friendly stickers
- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker, 1 per child

Missions activity

- ☐ "Send Indiana" missions video (optional)
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ plastic tongs, 1 per child
- ☐ small paper bags, 1 per child

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Find the Letter A" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Pack a backpack

- ☐ child-sized backpack

Drive in the sand

- ☐ large plastic bin
- ☐ sand
- ☐ assorted toy cars
- ☐ plastic table cloth



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

LINE UP BLOCKS ON THE LETTER A

On a tabletop or an area of the floor just inside the classroom door, use painter's tape to make a very large capital letter A. Place blocks in bins and set them next to the letter A. Display the big picture question poster next to the blocks and the taped letter A. As children arrive, guide them to the blocks area. Show children the taped letter A and say the phrase, "A is for Abram." Invite children to line up and to build with the provided blocks on the taped lines of the letter A. As children build, point to and read the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster aloud several times.

SAY Welcome to church today. What did you build with the blocks on the letter A? A is the first letter of the alphabet. A is also the first letter in the word Abram. Can you say Abram? Abram was a man who lived long ago. **ABRAM OBEYED GOD.** In today's Bible story, you will hear how God promised to bless Abram's family and to bless the whole world through Abram. The big picture question poster tells us God keeps His promises. Today, and in the next couple of weeks, we will be learning about Abram and how God kept His promises to him.

Worship

* Every where I Go

* Jesus Loves Me

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY ✎

Place a closed suitcase in the group time area. Invite children to collect items from around the classroom that they would like to pack for a trip, and then to bring them to the group time area. Direct children to lay the items on the floor next to the suitcase. After the children have placed their collected items next to the suitcase, invite them to sit.

SAY “Thank you for helping me to gather some items for a journey. What are some of the things that you have brought to circle time? [Allow responses]. In our Bible story today, God is going to ask a man named Abram to leave everything he knows and to go on a long trip. God is also going to make some very important promises to Abram, so listen very carefully.”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY video

Open your Bible to Genesis 11–13. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

ABRAM FOLLOWED GOD

SAY “God told Abram, ‘Go to a place I will show you. I will bless you. I will bless the whole world through you.’ Abram obeyed God.”

God led Abram to the land of Canaan. Abram’s wife, Sarai, and nephew Lot went with him. God said, “This is the land I will give to your children.” Abram worshiped the Lord.

Now Abram was very rich. He had many animals, silver, and gold. His nephew Lot was rich too. But now they had a problem—there was not enough room in the land for all of the animals and people!

So Abram let Lot choose which land to live in. “If you go left, I will go right,” said Abram. “If you go right, I will go left.”

Lot chose to live in the beautiful land of Jordan. Abram would live in the land of Canaan. God told Abram, “I will give your family this land forever.” Abram set up his tent and worshiped the Lord.”

Christ Connection: God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram’s family. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Open a suitcase and say to the preschoolers that you need some help packing the suitcase. Ask review questions and call upon different children to answer them. As the children answer questions, direct them to select items and place them in the suitcase as if they are packing. Review questions: Who told Abram to go to a place that he would be shown? Who did God promise to bless? Who went with Abram? Who was Abram's wife? What was Abram and Lot's problem? Who was given the choice of which land to live in? What did God promise Abram? Who did Abram worship? Have you ever moved to a new place?



SAY 🗨️ God told Abram to leave his home and go to a place that God would show him. **ABRAM OBEYED GOD.** God also promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram's family. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. **Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.** 🗨️

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush":

The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good,
And His love lasts forever.

* Forever - worship song.

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE



Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage and to hand you the key passage phrase marker. Read the key passage phrase. Use the "Key Passage Sign Language" printable to teach the children to say the key passage while signing the words.

SAY 🗨️ The key passage tells us that the LORD is good, and His love lasts forever. Forever is a very, very long time. It is because of God's goodness that He promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram's family. It is because of God's goodness that He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. 🗨️

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for keeping His promise to Abram by sending Jesus into the world to rescue us.



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 TWO CORNERS



Write Jordan on one colored sheet of paper. Write Canaan on a different colored sheet of paper. Tape the two pages on the walls in two different corners of the room. Invite the children to stand in the center of the room. Tell the children that you are going to close your eyes and count to 10. While your eyes are closed, instruct children to quietly walk to either Jordan or Canaan—their choice. As soon as you finish counting, before opening your eyes, instruct the children at one of the papers to sit down. For example, say, “Everyone at Jordan, red paper, sit down.” Open your eyes and invite the children to play again.

SAY 🗨️ Abram and Lot had a problem. There was not enough room in the land for all of their animals and people. So, Abram let Lot choose which land to live in—Jordan or Canaan. Lot chose Jordan, so Abram lived in Canaan. God told Abram that He would give Abram’s family the land of Canaan forever. God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram’s family. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. **Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.** 🗨️

2 FARM PLAY

Place a barn and toy farm animals in an area on the floor. Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to the wall above the farm set. Invite a child to play with the farm and the animals. As the child plays, point to the story picture and invite the child to tell you about the Bible story. Ask questions such as “What did God tell Abram to do?” “Who was Abram’s wife?” “Who was Abram’s nephew?” “What did God promise Abram?” “What was Abram and Lot’s problem?”

SAY 🗨️ God told Abram to go to a place God would show him. **ABRAM OBEYED GOD.** Abram, his wife Sarai, and nephew Lot went with him. They had a lot of animals—so many that there was not enough room in the land for all the animals and people. So, Abram let Lot choose where to live. Lot chose Jordan, so Abram settled in Canaan. God blessed Abram and promised that Canaan would be his family’s land forever. **Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.** 🗨️

3 TENT CAMPING

Set up a pop-up play tent. Invite children to sit or play in the tent with the camping equipment, and other toys or books from the classroom. As children play, prompt them to tell you what they would take if they had to move far away. One side of the tent should remain open at all times so that children are visible inside.

SAY 🗨️ God told Abram to go to a place that God would show to him. **ABRAM OBEYED GOD.** He took everything he had, his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot. God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram’s family. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. **Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.** 🗨️

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 KEY PASSAGE SUITCASE

Before the session, make a file folder look like a suitcase by cutting square handles on the open side of the folder. Be sure to cut out the center of the handles so children can carry them. Provide each child with a cut folder, a copy of the Key Passage Phrase Marker, assorted stickers, and markers or crayons. Direct children to glue the Key Passage Phrase Marker inside their suitcase. Encourage children to decorate their suitcases with stickers, markers, and crayons. As children create, say the key passage phrase with them several times.

SAY 🗣️ We learned from our key passage phrase that the Lord is good, and His love lasts forever. When God sent Jesus, He showed us that He is good and that He loves us. God made promises to Abram and **God keeps His promises.** 🗣️

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Distribute cotton balls, paper lunch bags, and preschool-friendly tongs to each preschooler. Tell preschoolers to use the tongs to pick up “popcorn” and put it in their bags. Preschoolers can remove the “popcorn,” count the pieces, and return to the bag. You may preview or show the “Send Indiana” missions video.

SAY 🗣️ Indiana needs new churches so more people can learn about Jesus. Churches in all areas can help start new churches by praying, providing needed supplies and resources, and sending people to Indiana to help the new churches [Lead in prayer.] 🗣️

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY 🗣️ God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram’s family. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. 🗣️

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 TAKE A TRIP

Invite children to take a trip with you. Ask children to grab one toy item from the room and then to line up behind you with their item. Instruct children to follow you. Walk around the classroom leading children in circles around chairs and other classroom furniture. If permitted, take the children outside of the classroom and guide them as they follow you. End the journey at the group time area in the classroom. Thank the children for taking a trip with you as you direct them to be seated.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Genesis 11–13. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

ABRAM FOLLOWED GOD

- God told Abram to go to a land called Canaan. God said, “I will bless you. I will bless the world through your family.”
- Abram obeyed God. He went to Canaan with his wife, Sarai, and his nephew Lot. God said, “This is the land I will give to your family.” Abram worshiped God.
- Now Abram and Lot had a problem. They both had many animals and people with them. There wasn’t enough room in the land for both of them. So Abram let Lot choose where to live.
- Lot chose to live in the land of Jordan, so Abram lived in Canaan. Abram set up his tent and worshiped God.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”:

The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good.
The Lord, the Lord, the Lord is good,
And His love lasts forever.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 100:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Invite children to line up behind you and to stomp their feet and say the key passage while you lead them around the room on another journey.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for being a good God whose love for us lasts forever.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 CREATE A KEY PASSAGE PHRASE POSTER



On 11 different pieces of colored construction paper, write the key passage phrase with a marker, one word per page. Line up the words in order and tape papers together. Then lay the pages flat on the floor. Invite children to decorate the verse with markers and crayons. As children color and decorate, say the key passage to them several times while pointing to each word.

SAY “Thank you for helping me decorate our key passage poster. It says, ‘The LORD is good, and His love lasts forever. Psalm 100:5.’ We learn from the key passage that God is good, meaning He is amazing, kind, loving, and caring. We also learn that God’s love last forever. Forever is a long, long, long time that never ends.”

7 PACK A BACKPACK

Place a backpack, Bible, and other assorted toys on a tabletop. Invite a preschooler to pack the backpack for a pretend journey. Direct the child to first pack the Bible. Then, encourage the child to fill the backpack with other items for his trip. When the child has finished packing, help him to put on the backpack. Invite him to walk around the room several times while wearing the backpack, then to return it to the table for another child to pack and to wear.

SAY “When we travel, we sometimes pack things into a backpack. Have you ever packed a backpack for a trip? [Allow responses.] God told Abram to go on a trip, **ABRAM OBEYED GOD** even though it was hard. Because Abram obeyed, God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through someone in Abram’s family. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. **God keeps His promises.**”

8 DRIVE IN THE SAND

Place a plastic tablecloth and plastic bin on the floor or a sturdy table. Pour a shallow layer of sand into the bin and distribute vehicles to the children. Encourage children to drive their vehicles in the sand. As children play, ask them to tell you about who went on a trip in the Bible story.

SAY “Where are you going with your cars today? What are some other ways that we can travel? [Allow responses.] God said to Abram, ‘Go to a place I will show you. I will bless you. I will bless the whole world through you.’ Abram didn’t have cars at that time, but **ABRAM OBEYED GOD** and he went, probably by walking or by riding camels. God kept His promise to bless the whole world through Abram when He sent Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. **Who keeps His promises? God keeps His promises.**”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.