

ABRAM FOLLOWED GOD

GENESIS 11-13



KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 100:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Abram believed God's words and obeyed God's call to leave his land and his family. God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through one of Abram's descendants. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus, who left heaven and came into the world to rescue sinners.

STORY POINT: Abram obeyed God's call.



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 today's truths 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 kids
and open
the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids
the story of
the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to
love the God of
the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live
out the mission
of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Where Did God Call Abram?" activity page



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Abram Followed God" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Old Testament Kingdoms Map (optional)
- ☐ compass (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 2, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Send Indiana" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "The Lord Is Good (Psalm 100:5)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ craft sticks, 3 per kid
- ☐ fabric
- ☐ cardstock pieces, 1 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ music
- ☐ candy pieces (optional), 1 per kid

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY 🗨️ Do you like to travel? Would you rather travel somewhere hot or cold? Or would you rather go to the mountains or the beach? Why? 🗨️

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Where Did God Call Abram?” activity page.

SAY 🗨️ In today’s Bible story, we will learn how **ABRAM OBEYED GOD’S CALL** and journeyed to the land of Canaan. 🗨️

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FOLLOW ME



Choose a kid to be the leader and direct the remaining kids to form a line behind her. Encourage the leader to jump, wiggle, dance, skip, crawl, etc. while the other kids follow and mimic her movements. Consider making a promise to the kids, such as allowing them to have a couple minutes of “free time” later on, if they follow the leader. Repeat the activity, choosing new kids to be the leader each time.

SAY 🗨️ In order to follow the movements of the leader, you had to keep your eyes on them at all times. Today, we’ll learn how a man named Abram followed God even when his eyes didn’t see all God called him to. We’ll see how **ABRAM OBEYED GOD’S CALL** and followed Him. He trusted God’s Word and His promises. We’ll learn that we can always trust God because His promises are always true. 🗨️

☐ OPTION 2: MAKE A MAP

Provide each kid with a piece of paper and markers. Prompt kids to think about the home they live in. Challenge kids to draw a “map” of their home by creating an outline of their home. Encourage kids to draw lines to create the rooms of the house. Then, direct kids to make arrows from the front door of their house to their bedroom. If time allows, invite kids to share how to get from the front door to their room.

SAY 🗨️ Maps can be helpful when we are traveling to new places. They show us the way to go. Today, we will learn that as God called Abram to a new land, Abram had to rely on where God led him. Following God is better than any map because God can always be trusted to lead us to what is best. Today, we’ll learn that as God called Abram to a new land, He also made special promises. God always keeps His promises. 🗨️

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





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

* Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so excited you are here. Together, we get to study true stories from the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word and how He reveals Himself to us. By reading the Bible, we come to know who God is and His promises for us. Today, we will be reading about promises God made to Abram and how **ABRAM OBEYED GOD’S CALL**. [Display the Story Point Poster.]

Did you bring your Bible with you? If so, please take it out. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, as we learn about how Abram followed God’s call and moved to a new land, let’s prepare our hearts to hear from God’s Word. Pray with me: ‘Dear God, please open my ears to listen and hear what You would have me learn today. And help me believe like Abram. Amen.’ ”

worship → * Praise You Anywhere * offering.
* spirit of the Living God.

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

* Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “As we learn more about God’s promises to Abram, we have a new big picture question: **Does God keep His promises?** The answer to this question is, **Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** Let’s say the answer together: **Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.**

What do you think faithful means? [Allow responses.] To be faithful means to always be true and dependable. God is faithful because He always does what He says He will do. God never lies and never changes. He always keeps His promises and never fails us. We can always trust God. As we learn about Abram, we’ll see how God kept the promises He made to Abram. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “God is the Creator and King of everything. He made everything to show how great and wonderful He is. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command and sin came into the world. People were separated from God because of their sin. People’s sin grew and spread into all the world. So God judged sin by sending a flood to destroy the earth. Only Noah and his family were saved. Last week, we learned that people tried to make their name great by building a tower. God confused their language so they would be scattered over the earth. Today, we will continue to learn how God’s plan to rescue sinners would continue through the promise He made to a man named Abram. ”



LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 11:27–13:18. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Abram Followed God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

ABRAM FOLLOWED GOD

“Abram was a descendant of Noah. He started a journey with his wife, Sarai; his father, Terah; and his nephew Lot to the land of Canaan. But on the way there, they decided to settle in the city of Haran instead.

God spoke to Abram. He said, “Go from your land and your family to a place I will show you. I will bless you and make you into a great nation, and the whole world will be blessed through you.” Abram went, just as God told him. Sarai and Lot went with him. God led Abram to the land of Canaan. God said, “This is the land I will give to your children.” So Abram built an altar to the Lord there.

A famine came to the land and the people did not have enough food to eat, so Abram, Sarai, and Lot went to Egypt. After some time, they traveled back to Canaan and went to the place where Abram had built the altar—between Bethel and Ai. At this time, Abram was very rich. He had many livestock, silver, and gold. Lot was also rich with many flocks, herds, and tents. Now they had a problem. The land could not support all of their animals and the people with them. The herdsmen taking care of Abram’s livestock argued with the herdsmen taking care of Lot’s livestock.

So Abram and Lot decided to separate. Abram said to Lot, “Look at this whole land before you.” He 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 looked out and saw that the entire plain of the Jordan was well watered like a beautiful garden, so he chose to live there. Lot journeyed to the east and lived in the cities on the plain near Sodom, and Abram lived in the land of Canaan.

After Lot left Abram, God again spoke to Abram. God said, “Look north, south, east, and west. I will give all that you see to your children forever. I will give you more descendants than you can count. Get up and walk through the land I have given you.” So Abram moved his tent to a place called Hebron, and he again built an altar to the Lord.

Christ Connection: Abram believed God’s words and obeyed God’s call to leave his land and his family. God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through one of Abram’s descendants. God kept this promise when He sent Jesus, who left heaven and came into the world to rescue sinners.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display a compass: Display a compass and tell kids how it points north and is used for finding direction. Remind kids that God always “points” us or leads us to what is best.

Map it: Use the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to show the different locations Abram traveled to such as Bethel (G4), Canaan (F4), and Hebron (I4).



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Abram came from the family of Noah. God spoke to Abram and told Abram to leave his homeland and go to a new land that He would show him. What did God promise Abram? [Allow responses.] God promised that He would make Abram into a great nation and that the world would be blessed through his family. What did Abram do when God called him to leave his home and go to a new land? [Allow responses.] **ABRAM OBEYED GOD’S CALL.** Even though he didn’t know exactly where to go, he trusted God and obeyed Him. God led Abram to the land of Canaan.

Later, Abram and Lot ran into a problem. What was the problem? [Allow responses.] They had too many people and possessions to all live in one place. So, Abram and Lot separated and set up their tents in opposite lands. When Abram was in his land, God repeated His promises to Abram. What were the promises God repeated? [Allow responses.] God said He would give Abram’s family all the land and that He would make Abram’s family filled with more people than Abram could count.

Abram believed God’s words and obeyed God’s call to leave his land and his family. God promised to bless Abram and the whole world through one of Abram’s descendants. God kept His promise when He sent Jesus, who left heaven and came into the world to rescue sinners. We can always trust God to do what He says, and like Abram, we can follow God and obey Him. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Jesus obeyed God, His Father, by leaving heaven and coming to die for our sins. Jesus is better than Abram because He alone perfectly obeyed God all of the time. God promises that everyone who trusts in Jesus will be forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life. Have you believed in Jesus? Everyone is invited to trust in Him! ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 2, Session 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Do we have to love God more than we love our parents? Why?
2. How does obeying God show that we love Him and others?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Indiana is in the Midwest part of the United States. Indiana is known for its motor speedway, professional football and basketball teams, and popular universities. It also has many large farms and smaller family-owned farms. Indiana is one of the states known as ‘America’s Breadbasket’ because Midwestern farmers grow much of the wheat needed to make bread in the United States. ”

Play the missions video. Tell kids that Send Network hopes to start more churches in Indiana so more people can hear the good news about Jesus. Explain that Send Network needs



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

churches to partner with them by praying for the missionary families starting the new churches, by providing resources to help support the new churches, and by providing people to go on short-term missions trips to share the gospel. Pray that God continues to help people obey His call to share Jesus with others. ”

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

* Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 100:5 together.

SAY ” Our new key passage shares that not only is God good, but He is faithful to all generations. His love for His people will continue on and on. ”

Guide kids to sit in a large circle. Say the key passage aloud together and direct kids to pat their knees and clap their hands, keeping a beat with each word of the key passage. Consider leading kids to pat or clap beats for each syllable of longer words. Repeat, practicing slowing down the beat or speeding it up each round.

* Lead kids to sing “The Lord Is Good (Psalm 100:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY ” Dear God, You are faithful, and we can trust You to keep Your promises. Thank You for loving us and sending Your Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Help us believe in You and obey Your Word. Amen. ”

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Tell kids that the Old Testament has 39 books. Invite kids to find the books of Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, and 2 Samuel. Tell kids that in each of the books, we find more people from Abram's family. Explain that God's big story of salvation was being worked out as God grew Abram's family to one day bring Jesus into the world. Then guide kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 12.

Consider pointing out the location of Hebron (I4), where Abram settled in Canaan, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 12:1-2 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🌟 The Lord told Abram to leave his land, his relatives, and his home to go to the land God would show him. **ABRAM OBEYED GOD'S CALL.** Even though he didn't know or understand all that God was doing, Abram trusted God. God is faithful and worthy of our trust and obedience.

God wants us to follow Him and obey Him. He may not tell us to leave everything like Abram, but God does want us to trust His Word and obey His good commands. God wants us to trust in His Son, Jesus. When we follow Jesus, God promises to always be with us and forgive our sin. 🌟

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** 🌟 What are some ways we can obey God? 🌟

Discuss how the Bible provides us with ways God has called us to obey Him. Tell kids that apart from faith in Jesus, we cannot obey God in a way that pleases Him. Share that when we trust in Jesus, we are given new hearts that want to obey God. Share how we can obey God in many ways like reading our Bibles, praying, going to church, sharing the gospel, and being generous.

| **SAY** 🌟 What are promises God makes to those who trust in Jesus? 🌟

Share how God promises to forgive us of our sin, be our hope, always love us, give us eternal life, always be with us, provide for us, and so much more. Encourage kids to remember they can always trust in God's promises because He is faithful.

| **SAY** 🌟 Will God still be faithful to us if we sin? Why? 🌟

Tell kids that everyone sins because everyone disobeys God. Discuss how even when we trust in Jesus, we will still sin, but God's promises are not dependent on our faithfulness or perfection. Share how God's promises are found in who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. Remind kids that when we trust in Jesus, God will always be faithful to us.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: MAKE A TENT

Before the session, cut fabric into right triangles. The fabric triangles will be used to make the flaps of the tent door. Make sure the longest side of each right triangle is long enough to extend the length of a craft stick, while the shortest end of the triangle only extends half the length of a craft stick. Make two fabric triangles for each kid.

Provide each kid with three craft sticks, two fabric triangles, glue, a piece of cardstock, marker, and scissors. Direct kids to form a triangle with their craft sticks and glue the ends together. Then lead kids to place their craft stick triangle on the cardstock and trace around it to make a triangle. Cut out the triangle and glue it to the craft sticks. Next, assist kids in gluing the fabric to the craft sticks to create the flaps of the tent door. Only glue the longest side of the fabric to two of the craft sticks. Finally, assist kids in writing God is faithful on their cardstock. Read Hebrews 11:8-10.

SAY **“ABRAM OBEYED GOD’S CALL** and trusted God’s Word. He lived in a tent in the land God called him to because He knew God was faithful to keep His promise. **”**

☐ OPTION 2: PASS THE PROMISE



Write the following promise God gave Abram on a piece of paper: God promised to bless the whole world through Abram’s family. Lead kids to sit in a large circle and read the promise aloud to them. Tell kids that you will play music and as the music plays, they will pass the promise around the circle. Tell kids that whenever the music stops, whoever is holding the promise needs to say “Jesus made the promise true.” Consider also offering a piece of candy to the kid who receives the promise. Repeat, playing several rounds, allowing different kids to hold the promise each time.

SAY **“God’s promises always come true. God always keeps His promises because He is faithful. We can trust God and obey Him knowing He will do what He says. Jesus made the promise God gave Abram come true because through faith in Jesus, anyone who trusts in Him is forgiven of his or her sins and becomes a part of God’s family forever.”**

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.