

## **LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**Today's Bible Story:** I Choose You (God Chooses Abram) • *Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6*

**Today's Bottom Line:** God has a plan to show love to the world.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Love—showing others how much they matter to you

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

*Leader enters, carrying the bag of props.*

Video (Media Package): Theme

## **OPENER**

**Kara:** “Hey, everybody! I’m really glad to see your faces today as we keep diving into the most epic of epic stories: GOD’S story. (*Hold up Bible.*) It’s a love story for the ages!”

“As you’ve probably figured out by now, this isn’t an ooey-goey, mushy kind of love story. This is an epic, life-changing, heroic, rescue kind of love. It’s the kind of love that CHANGES you and makes you want to turn around and show love to other people.

“So how DO you show love, exactly? What’s love all about? We’re saying it like this.

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Virtue

**“Love is showing others how much they matter to you.**

Video (Media Package): Virtue Transition to Theme

“And no one shows us how much we matter more than God does! That makes God’s story the most epic of all.

“As humans, I think we’re just MADE to love good stories. It even starts when you’re really little.

*Hold up the preschool book.*

“I mean, some of the best, most epic stories of all time are from children’s books! I thought it would be

fun to see if you can identify some of the books you read when you were really little, or maybe some of the books that you're reading right now.

*(Hold up the bag.)* "Inside this bag, I have a bunch of items that represent a book you've probably read—or at least heard about. I'll start by pulling out an item. If you think you know what book it represents, raise your hand. If I call on you, you get to guess. If you get it right, you get to pull the next item out for everyone to guess. Understand?"

"Let's get started!"

*Reach your hand in the bag and pull out an item for the kids to guess. Try to call on the first person who raises their hand, but call on a different person each round as much as possible. Let the kid who guessed the last book pull the next item out of the bag. Continue until all items have been guessed.*

"Great job, everyone! You really know your epic children's books! You can all hop up on your feet now, because it's time for us to sing and worship God!"

## Worship

Kerri: “Before we sing, let’s watch this video together.

**Video (Media Package): Live Loud Video from Get Reel**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

“God’s love is truly amazing! If we stop and think about how much God loves us, it can change the way we look at everything that’s going on around us. God loved us enough to make the whole WORLD and everything and everyone we care about the most. God loved us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior! Let’s sing to God now and thank God for giving us such amazing and perfect love.

**Video (Media Package): “How Amazing” Dance Moves Music Video**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

“There’s no greater love than the love of Jesus—and we get to SHARE that love with the world! As Jesus once told His disciples, in John 15:13 (*NirV*), ‘*No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends.*’ Let’s sing out loud together and celebrate the love Jesus has for us. It’s a love like no other!

**Video: “Love One Another” / track 7 from Make a Move**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

“I love singing about God’s love with you! You can have a seat.”

## BIBLE STORY

### Kara and Helpers

#### SETTING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “It’s been really cool this month as we’ve looked at the beginning of God’s epic love story. (*Hold up Bible.*) First, we heard what Jesus said about love—that the most important thing we can do is love God and love others. Then we saw how God created the entire WORLD out of love.

“Of course, things took a turn last week as we talked about when Adam and Eve turned away from God. They broke the loving rule God had given and sin entered the world. People no longer had a perfect relationship with God . . . or with each other.”

#### THE FALL TO NOAH

**LEADER:** “Adam and Eve’s sons, Cain and Abel, didn’t get along. But still, their family grew. People began to fill the earth, but almost no one followed God. People looked out for themselves instead of each other.

“During this time, though, one man walked faithfully with God. His name was Noah. Can I have someone come up and play Noah for me?”

*Bring a kid up and give him a beard and a staff.*

“God instructed Noah to build a huge boat—an ark. (*to the kid*) Here you go, Noah.

*Take the staff from “Noah” and hand him a hammer.*

“God told Noah to bring two of each animal aboard the boat, along with his family, so that they would be safe from the flood that was coming. Then rains came and washed over the earth for 40 days. (*to the kid*) Here—you’ll need this.

*Take the hammer from “Noah” and hand him an umbrella.*

“At last, when the waters went back down, Noah and his family returned to dry ground. God set a rainbow in the sky and made a promise to never again flood the earth.

*Stand next to “Noah” and act like you’re looking out into the distance with him.*

(*to the kid*) “Really pretty, isn’t it, Noah?”

(*to audience*) “Noah’s family grew . . . and once more, people began to fill the earth. Few of them listened to God, though. Most of them only wanted to put themselves first.

(*to the kid*) “Thank you, [kid’s name], for playing Noah. You can have a seat.”

*Collect the props as you dismiss “Noah” to his seat.*

#### ABRAM AND SARAI

**LEADER:** “Of course, God still had a plan during all of this. God had a big plan to show love to ALL people.

“God chose a man named Abram to be a blessing to the whole world. In case you’re wondering, Abram was later known as Abraham, after God changed his name. Abram lived in the land of Harran, along with his wife, Sarai. God later changed HER name to Sarah.

“Let’s see . . . I need two people to play Abram and Sarai.

*Bring up two kid volunteers. Give a (different) beard to “Abram.” Drape the scarf around “Sarai’s” head.*

“God called out to Abram and told him . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:1 (NIV) and read.*

*“Go from your country, your people and your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you.*

*(to the two kids)* “Abram and Sarai, can you give us your best shocked faces? *(They react.)* I know it must sound shocking for you to leave everything you know and move to an unknown land.

*(to audience)* “But there was more that God promised to Abram. God told him . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV) and read.*

*“I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you. I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.*

“Abram and Sarai must have had a lot of questions. They didn’t have children yet. And well, they were pretty old.

*Hold your hands out and palms up questioningly each time you ask a question while looking at “Abram” and “Sarai” to prompt them to do the same thing.*

“How could their family become a ‘great nation’?

“What would they do in the new land?

“How could they live there?

“But Abram and Sarai trusted God. They packed up everything they had, and they set out on their journey.

*Give both kids a backpack to put on. Then give both of them a rolling suitcase.*

*(to the two kids)* “You two can start heading that way.” *(Point to the other side of the stage, where the blocks are.)*

## **GOD'S PROMISE**

**LEADER:** “Eventually, Abram and Sarai reached the land of Canaan. Abram explored the land and found a large tree. There, God spoke to him again. God said . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:7 (NirV) and read.*

*“I will give this land to your family who comes after you.*

“Abram then piled up stones to make an altar to honor God—to stand as a reminder of all that God had promised.

*Walk over and show Abram how to pile the blocks up to make an altar (i.e. just a simple rectangular structure). Then continue.*

“Over the following years, Abram and Sarai made their home in the new land. They made some wise choices—and some poor ones. Still, God blessed them with many good things. But a child? Not yet.

“One night, God appeared to Abram in a vision.

**LIGHTS:** *Dim or off*

“God took Abram outside and showed him the night sky full of stars.

*Turn on the star projector or point up to the glow-in-the-dark stars.*

“God said to Abram . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 15:5 (NirV) and read. (Use the flashlight, if needed.)*

*“Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can . . . That’s how many children will be born into your family.”*

## **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** “Again, God reminded Abram of the same amazing promise—that God would bless the world through Abram and Sarai’s family. And Abram TRUSTED God. As we read here:

*Open the Bible to Genesis 15:6 (NirV) and read.*

*“Abram believed the LORD. The LORD was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram’s faith made him right with the LORD.*

“God eventually gave Abram and Sarai a baby boy named Isaac. It was all part of God’s plan to show love not only to their family, but to the entire world!

**SLIDE:** *Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** “God has a plan to show love to the world.

“Let’s pray and talk to God about that now.”

**Video: Bible Story**

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

## **PRAY**

**LEADER:** “Dear God, we are so thankful that You have a plan to show love to the world. That plan has been in place since the beginning of time. We see it playing out in Your story—and in the lives of people like Noah . . . Abram and Sarai . . . and Your Son, Jesus. We can even see Your plan playing out in our lives today! We are grateful that we get to be a part of Your epic story as we show Your love to others. Help us keep showing that love this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**LIGHTS: Up**

*Collect the props from “Abram” and “Sarai” as you send them back to their seats.*

## CLOSER

**LEADER:** “God has always had a big plan to show love to the world. It started when God CREATED the world and when God first made people. Unfortunately, people turned away from God. But God never stopped loving them.

“As we saw today, God chose Abram and told Abram that his family would become a great nation.

**SLIDE: God’s Big Story Timeline**

**SLIDE: Week 4 Timeline Image**

*If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.*

“Abram chose to trust God. And sure enough, God’s promise came true! God blessed the whole world through Abram and Sarai’s family. Which just goes to prove . . .

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “God has a plan to show love to the world. Say that with me.”

**LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line]** “God has a plan to show love to the world.”

**LEADER:** “So you might be wondering . . . HOW did God bless the whole world through Abram and Sarai’s family? Well, their family became the Israelites—God’s people. Many years later, Jesus was born into that family. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, then came back to life again. Anyone who puts their faith in Jesus has a relationship with God that will last forever! Jesus fulfilled God’s plan to love and bless the whole world.

“God loved us enough to send Jesus. That’s real, EPIC love! As we read in our memory verse for this month, 1 John 4:10 . . .

**SLIDE: Memory Verse**

*“Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. (1 John 4:10, NIV)”*

“So when things happen that you don’t understand, remember that God loves you, and that God always has a good plan. That plan won’t always be obvious, and it may take time to understand. But just remember **[Basic Truth] you can trust God no matter what**. Let’s never forget how much God loves us. And let’s keep sharing God’s love with the people we see each and every day.

“Right now, let’s head over to Small Group and talk more about God’s amazing plan to show love to the world!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**