

# You Will Be a Blessing

## Bible Verse

All the families of earth will be blessed because of you. (Genesis 12:3, CEB)

## Bible Story

Genesis 11:27–12:9

## FaithPoint

God calls us to be a blessing to others.

## What You Need to Know


The story of Abraham is the story of the beginning of Israel—God’s chosen people.

The story of Abraham in the Bible begins by tracing Abraham’s lineage back to one of Noah’s sons. When our story starts today, Terah and his three sons, Abraham, Nahor, and Haran, along with their families, have already moved from the seaport city of Ur in Chaldea to a city in upper Mesopotamia named Haran. God’s call to Abraham spurs him to complete the journey to Canaan.

This covenant with God sets up a familiar theme that you will see throughout the Bible: “Follow me and I will be your God; you will be my people, I will be with you wherever you go. I will bless you.” Abraham’s response shapes the future of what Israel will become, even though Abraham will never see this future. Abraham’s trust in God’s promise certainly provides a new meaning of life for him. And from the other stories of this family, we know that God does indeed keep promises.

Our children grow up in a “microwave world.” Everything is instantaneous. It must be difficult for them to comprehend a story where the future is generations away. Abraham and Sarah responded out of trust, and God was committed to them, just as God is committed to us. The story of Abraham is much the story of our Christian faith journey. We believe God’s promise, we follow God, and we reach out to a promised future, working to be a blessing to others along the way. As long as we are faithful, God will give us good things along the way.



Activities marked with  contain options to use recycled or repurposed materials.




Activities marked with  may require extra preparation.

# Arrival Fun



**SUPPLIES:** Attendance Chart (Resource Pak—pp. 4, 14, 19), Resource Pak—p. 29, Stickers, Rock Solid Early Elementary Fall 2011 CD-ROM, CD player, offering basket

-  Display the “God Is Always With Us” poster where the children can see it.
- Greet each parent and child as they enter the room. Introduce yourself and tell each child that you are glad to see him or her.
  - Play “Sarah and Abraham” as the children arrive.
  - Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
  - Give each child a sticker of Abraham and Sarah and show the child where to place it on the attendance chart.

**SAY:** Today we will learn that God asked Abraham and Sarah to move from their home to a new place. God promised Abraham that he would be a blessing to many people.

Songsheets for the music can be found on the Rock Solid Early Elementary Fall 2011 CD-ROM. See page 4 for instructions on using the CD-ROM.

## Fun Beginnings

*The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group to introduce the Bible story.*

### Fun Pak Fun

**SUPPLIES:** Fun Pak 1, clear tape

- Show the children how to fold the tent, tape the edges together, and open the tent flaps.

### Begin a Blessing Tree

**SUPPLIES:** Leader's Guide—p. 84; safety scissors, construction paper, pencils; OPTION 1: brown wrapping paper, pencil, scissors, masking tape; OPTION 2: several small tree branches, coffee can, brown tape or masking tape and brown marker, rocks, colored paper, clear tape

-  Use one of the options and create a “blessing tree” in your room.


**SAY:** A blessing can mean several things—a prayer said at meal time, or someone or something that makes a person happy. Each week we will think about the blessings we have received and the ways we can be a blessing to other people.

- Help each child as needed to trace and cut their handprint. Help each child to write on his or her handprint the name of someone or something that has been a blessing in the past week. Place the handprints near the Blessing Tree.

If your children do not know one another, let them make nametags (p. 83) to wear.

## Matching Fun

SUPPLIES: Resource Pak—p. 8

 Punch out the How to Be a Blessing Matching Cards.

- Invite two or three children to play the matching game together. Shuffle the matching cards and place them face-down on the table. The first player turns up two cards. If the cards match, the player removes those cards and plays again. If the cards do not match, the player turns the cards back over and play passes to the next person. When all the cards are removed, the game is over. The person with the most matches wins the game.

## Friendship Time

SUPPLIES: CD-ROM, CD player, boxes or wooden blocks

- Play "Blessings Abound" to bring the children together.

**ASK:** Do you want to tell everyone about something that happened this week? Is there something special in your heart that you want to pray about this morning?

**SAY:** Let's pray about those things. Dear God, today we pray for (*prayer requests of the children*). Help us learn today ways we can be blessings to others. Amen.

**SAY:** Being a *blessing* means that you are acting the way God wants you to act. When you are acting that way, other people want to be that way, too.

Let's play "Blessings Tag," and pass the blessing on to others.

- Invite one child to be "It" and say, "God bless you!" Tell that child to tag another child and say, "God bless you." Then that child tags another child and says, "God bless you," and so on until every child has been tagged. Encourage the children to move around the room to play the game.


# Bible Time

## Get Ready

SUPPLIES: bags, boxes, or suitcases; play dishes; newspapers; children's books; toys; clothing

- Invite the children to pretend to pack to move. Once everything is packed, ask the children to pick up each bag, box, or suitcase and carry it to a different place in the room where they should stack or pile everything.

**ASK:** Have you ever moved? Did you help your family pack? Where did you move to?

 **SAY:** Today we are going to learn that God asked Abraham and Sarah to move from their home to a new place. God promised Abraham that he would be a blessing to many people.

## Enjoy the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible Storybook 1, Stickers

- Read the Bible story to the children.
- Invite the children to add four stickers to complete the picture.

**ASK:** What did God ask Abraham and Sarah to do? (*leave the land where they were living and go to a place God would show them*) What did God promise Abraham if he would do this? (*to make Abraham a blessing to everyone*)


## Bible Verse Fun

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD-ROM, CD player

- Show the children where Genesis is in the Bible.

**SAY:** Genesis is the very first book in the Bible. The word *Genesis* means “beginning.” In the Book of Genesis we will hear about the beginning of God’s people.

- Ask the children to repeat today’s Bible verse several times: “All the families of earth will be blessed because of you” (Genesis 12:3, CEB).
- Invite the children to stand in a circle and hold hands. Have them walk in a circle while music plays. Stop the music and have everyone say the verse. When they say the word “you,” have the children point at one another.



Invite the children to work the Bible Maze for this session any time that fits your schedule.

# Live God’s Word

## Living as a Christian Kid

SUPPLIES: Bible Storybook 1


- Invite the children to follow along with you as you read “Living as a Christian Kid.”

**ASK:** How was Ann Marie a blessing to her Great Gran? (*She brought her flowers, spent time with her, showed her how much she loved her, and did kind things for her.*) What things have you done that have been a blessing for someone? (*Accept answers.*) Is there something you can do this week to be a blessing to someone? (*Accept answers.*)

# Worship

## Gather

**SUPPLIES:** Resource Pak—pp. 2, 5, 16, 17, CD-ROM, CD player, Blessing Tree and handprint leaves made earlier, markers, clear tape, glue stick

 Assemble the Bible verse mural by taping the left edge of page 2 to the right edge of page 17. Display the mural at the children's eye level. Punch out the Bible verse for Session 1.


- Play "Blessings Abound" as a signal to come to the worship area.

**ASK:** What did God ask Abraham and Sarah to do? (*leave the land where they were living and go to a place God would show them*) What did God promise Abraham if he would do this? (*to make Abraham a blessing to everyone*)

- Help one child place the Bible verse on the poster. Invite everyone to say the Bible verse together.
- Ask the children to help you name ways they can be a blessing this week. Help each child as needed to write one way on his or her handprint leaf. Let the child tape his or her leaf to the Blessing Tree.

## Praise and Respond

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, Leader's Guide—p. 85, CD-ROM, CD player, Songsheet, scissors, marker, tape

 Cut two stars using the star patterns. Put a Bible on a table in the worship area.

- Play the song "Sarah and Abraham" and invite the children to listen. Read the words of the song and ask the children to repeat them after you. Show the children how to shake an arm, leg, and head. Let them point to their hearts when they hear that part of the song.
- Play the song again and invite the children to sing with you and do the motions.
- Write *Abraham* on one star and *Sarah* on the other. Put them on the wall above the worship table.

**SAY:** God kept the promise to Abraham. Abraham and his family became a blessing to the whole earth. God wants us to be blessings to others around us.



**PRAY:** Dear God, you bless each of us with so many good things. Help us to share those blessings by being a blessing to others. Amen.


Songsheets for the music and the reproducible pages in this book can be found on the CD-ROM. See page 4 for instructions.

# Extra! Extra!

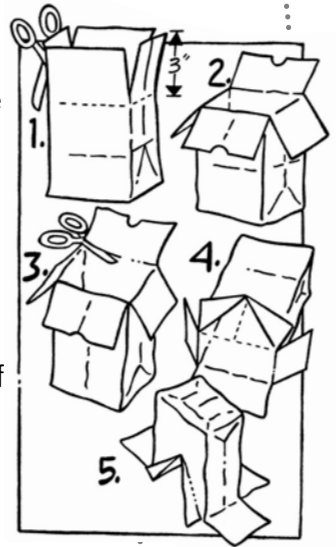


## Storytelling Fun 😊

**SUPPLIES:** Resource Pak—p. 9, empty clean plastic drink bottles or cardboard tubes, clear tape, large brown paper grocery bag, adult scissors

 Punch out the figures of Lot and the younger versions of Abraham and Sarah. Cut cardboard tubes the correct length for each storytelling figure and tape the figures to the tubes. Or tape the figures to plastic drink bottles. Make a tent for Abraham and Sarah. Open up a brown paper sack and set it on a table, open end up. Use scissors to cut about three inches down along each bag crease, from the open end into the bag. Four separate flaps will have been created. Fold each of these down on the outside of the bag. Cut off one of the two larger flaps. This will form the front of the tent. On this same side of the bag, cut from the middle down into the bag to about three inches from the base of the bag. This will create two tent flaps. Turn the bag upside-down on a table. Fold the tent flaps outward.

- Invite the children to play with the storytelling figures of Abraham, Sarah, and Lot. As they play, encourage them to tell you about today's Bible story.
- Save the tent to use again in Sessions 2 and 3.



## Peek at Next Week

**Sheep Masks (p. 12):** You will need cotton balls and paper plates. Cut eye holes in a paper plate for each child.

**Praise and Respond (p. 15):** Use a star pattern (**Leader's Guide—p. 85**) to make one star.

**Storytelling Fun (p. 16):** Photocopy **Leader's Guide—p. 86**, one page per child, and cut apart the sheep. Provide cotton balls and small googly eyes.