

God Calls Abraham

Bible Verse

I will bless you. (Genesis 22:17)

Bible Story

Genesis 12:1-8

FaithPoint


God wants us to be blessings to others.

What You Need to Know

Abraham is the founder of the Hebrew nation and regarded as a father figure or a patriarch in the Jewish, Christian, and Moslem (Muslim) faiths. Abraham's ancestral home was Ur of the Chaldeans in the Euphrates Valley near the head of the Persian Gulf. Abraham's wife was Sarah. Their original names were Abram and Sarai, but God gave them new names. Abraham's name means "ancestor of a multitude." Sarah's name means "princess." She is described in Scripture as being beautiful. She is also described as "barren," which was a great tragedy in that culture.

The Lord first appeared to Abraham at Ur and told him to leave "for the land that I will show you." God's promise to Abraham includes receiving land, becoming a numerous people, and having a unique relationship with God that would benefit other people. By breaking the ties of land and kindred, Abraham and Sarah show us how people of faith follow God without hesitation. We are never told exactly why God chose Abraham—an old, childless man—to become the "father of a multitude," as his name implies. We do know that Abraham and Sarah were obedient to God's call and were willing to accept great risk to remain faithful. When God calls Abraham and Sarah to pack up and move to another country, God promises to bless them. The far-reaching result of that promise is the establishment of Abraham and Sarah's descendants as God's chosen people.



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



Activities marked with  require preparation.

Arrival Fun



Welcome

SUPPLIES: Stickers, attendance chart (**Resource Pak**—pp. 3, 14 & 19), Bible, offering basket, CD-ROM (see pp. 3-4)

- Greet each parent and child as they enter the room.
- Play music while the children enter the room.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have the Bible open to Genesis 12:1-8 on the worship table.
- Give each child the **Sticker** of Abraham to place on the attendance chart.

Let's Begin

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

Fun Pak Fun:

SUPPLIES: Fun Pak—1, glue, glue sticks, colored chalk or clean sand, soap and water, paper towels

Help the children with the activity. Tell them that Abraham and Sarah were called by God to move.

Coloring Page Fun:

SUPPLIES: Bible Storybook 1, crayons or markers

Let the children color the last page of the Bible Storybook.

Handprint Mural Fun:


SUPPLIES: mural paper or posterboard, washable fingerpaints or tempera paints, large paintbrushes, smocks, soap and water, towels

Let the children make a group Handprint Mural by painting one of their hands and pressing it onto mural paper or posterboard.

SAY: All of us are part of God's family. God loves us all.

Blessings Puzzle Fun:

SUPPLIES: Leader's Guide—p. 83 or print from the CD-ROM, crayons or markers, safety scissors, construction paper, glue or glue sticks

 Photocopy page 83 of the Leader's Guide.

Give each child a copy of page 83 of the Leader's Guide, and invite them to color the scenes. After coloring, help the children cut apart the puzzle pieces.

Encourage the children to put the puzzle together and glue the pieces onto construction paper.

***TIP:** Sunday school might be a new experience for some children. Be kind, gentle, and inviting. Encourage parents to stay if the child is unhappy.*

TIP: Introduce praying to the children. Encourage them to sit, bow their heads, fold their hands, and become very quiet with God.

Sand Fun:



SUPPLIES: clean sand in plastic dishpans; combs, play cars, cookie cutters, and other items for sand play; soap and water; towels

 Provide clean sand in dishpans and items for sand play.

Provide several plastic dishpans of sand. Tell the children that Abraham and Sarah took a long trip through the sand in the desert. Provide combs for the children to create wavy lines in the sand, play cars for traveling, and cookie cutters.

Family Photo Album Fun:

SUPPLIES: a family photo album for children to look through; paper, safety scissors, a marker, glue; recycled magazines and clothing catalogs

  Bring magazines and clothing catalogs with pictures of people/families. Bring a family photo album to share.

Show the children a family photo album. Explain that it shows the various members of a family growing together and doing special things in life. Invite the children to make their own family photo albums by cutting out pictures (*you may need to help*) from magazines and catalogs of people who could represent people from their families.

Write "My Family" at the top of each child's paper.

Together Time

- Tell the group that you will call them to the Bible Storytelling Area, by **SAYING:** (Child's name), God bless you. Come to our Bible Storytelling Area.
- Invite every child to the Bible Storytelling Area and ask each boy and girl to sit and become quiet for the prayer.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for all these wonderful boys and girls in Sunday school today. Help us to learn about Abraham, and help us to be blessings to other people. Amen.

Bible Time

Get Ready

SUPPLIES: Bible, flashlight, a large blanket

- Place a large blanket for the children to sit on in the Bible Storytelling area.
- Tell the children that they are going to pretend to be camping in the desert with their Bible friends, Abraham and Sarah.
- Show the children the Bible, and open it to the pages where today's Bible story is found (Genesis 12:1-8).



- Turn on the flashlight, and **SAY:** Long ago, in Abraham's and Sarah's time, people sat around campfires and talked about God. Let's read today's Bible story, and learn and talk about God.

The Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible Storybook 1, Stickers



Read the Bible story to the children without having them make the motions. Pause to allow them to add the rock **Sticker**. Read the Bible story again, but this time, invite the children to participate in the Bible story by making the suggested motions.

ASK: What did God tell Abraham to do? (*He told him to leave his home and go to a new place that God would show him.*)

Did God promise to “bless” Abraham? (*Yes*)

Who did Abraham take with him? (*his wife, Sarah; his nephew, Lot*)

When Abraham arrived in Canaan, what did he build? (*an altar*)

Experience the Bible Story

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” by **SAYING:** 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. Tell the children that they may move around the room to play the game.

Learn the Bible Verse

SUPPLIES: Bible Verse Poster (**Resource Pak—p. 29**), tape

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster and **SAY:** Our Bible verse today is: “I will bless you.” Say it back to me. Listen to this song about our Bible verse and play the game with me.
- To the tune of “Hot Cross Buns,” **SING:**
I will bless. I will bless. I will bless you.
I will bless you. I will bless.
- Invite the children to sing along with you.
- After they have sung the song a few times, tell them about a blessing or a good gift you have in your life such as: a warm house, food to eat, people who love you, or the children you teach.

ASK: Do you have blessings or gifts from God in your life?

- After the children have responded with a few blessings, invite them to sing the song again.

TIP: Take the time to put together and use the puppet. It becomes one of the children's favorite times of Sunday school!

Conrad the Camel

SUPPLIES: Conrad the Camel (**Resource Pak**—pp. 8, 9 & 25); tape

 Put together Conrad the Camel puppet.

- Introduce Conrad the Camel to the children. Have Conrad **SAY:** It's been a hot trip, and I am so tired and thirsty.

ASK: Did you know that I can go seventeen days without water? Did you know that I never run — I just walk faster? Did you know that I never forget a place where I drank water? Did you know that I spit, and it's disgusting? (*Let the children respond.*)



SAY: Yes, I'm an interesting animal, and God made me just the way I am. God knew that I could carry people across the desert. Maybe Abraham and Sarah rode a camel on their trip to their new home. In that case, I guess a camel would be a *blessing* to them because it would have been hard to get to their new home without a camel. This week, try to be a *blessing* to someone in your life. Help them know that God loves them. I'll see you next week, and I hope you get to drink plenty of water all week.

- Put Conrad the Camel away until next week.

Live God's Word

Homes Are Special

SUPPLIES: large sheets of construction paper, construction paper cut into different shapes, scissors, crayons, washable markers, glue

  Cut construction paper into a variety of shapes including triangles, squares, rectangles, and circles. Make sure you have shapes in all sizes and colors. If possible, use scraps left over from other craft projects.

SAY: We can thank God for the blessing of our home.

- Give each child a large sheet of construction paper to use as the background.
- Tell the children that they may use different shapes to build their homes. Let the children glue the shapes to the background to make their homes.
- To add dimension to the houses, show the children how to glue on doors that open.

- If they wish to add details to their houses, provide crayons or washable markers. Encourage their creativity.



Make an Edible Campfire

SUPPLIES: pretzel sticks, red licorice rope candy, napkins

- Have each child wash and dry his or her hands.
- Give each child a napkin and several pretzel sticks. Break large sticks in half.

SAY: Abraham and Sarah's family lived in tents. They cooked their food on a campfire. Let's make a pretend campfire for our snack.

- Show the children how to arrange their pretzel sticks like wood for a campfire. Let the children place the red candy on the pretzel sticks to make pretend flames.
- Before the children eat, **PRAY:** Thank you, God, for being with us everywhere we go even if we move. Amen.



Worship Time

The Bible Story Mural

SUPPLIES: Bible Story Mural (**Resource Pak—pp. 16-17, 5 & 28**); tape

- Direct the children's attention to the Bible Story Mural.
- Give one child the star with Abraham and Sarah to tape to the mural of the nighttime sky.

SAY: God spoke to Abraham and told him to move with his family to a new land. Abraham obeyed God.

Sing Praises and Pray

SUPPLIES: CD-ROM (see pp. 3-4)

SAY: Listen to the song, "Abraham's Blessing." After we have heard it once, we will sing it together two times.

PRAY: Dear God, help us follow you like Abraham and Sarah did. Amen.

Peek at Next Week

Photocopy: the sheep maze and information sheet—p. 84, 106 for each child.

Other: Bring a set of toy farm animals, a sample of sheep and goat hair, and some wool clothing.

Texture Collage: Provide sandpaper and blue and green materials (see p. 13).

Snack: Bring raisins, chocolate chips, and mini-cookies and plastic sandwich bags.