



# 9

## God Calls Abram

### Key Themes

- God's plans are perfect
- God rewards faith and obedience

### Key Passages

- Genesis 12:1–2, 12:5; Hebrews 11:8

### Lesson Focus

- Abram had faith and obeyed God.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Children will play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—God called Abram to leave his family and his father's house. God promised Abram that he would have a great land, a great nation, a great name, and he would be a blessing. Abram believed God and demonstrated amazing faith and obedience even though he never saw the nation promised by God. We learn in Hebrews that Abram was confident in the heavenly rewards not seen because of his faith.

**Song**—Children will be reminded of the wonder of God's Word by singing the "God's Word is Perfect" and "We Gather All Around" songs. Then they will sing the "Acts 17:26 Memory Verse" song.



### Activity 1: Follow the Leader

Children will follow the leader not knowing where they will end up.



### Activity 2: Abram to Canaan

Children will complete the Abram to Canaan maze/coloring sheet.



### Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### COME ON IN

- Bring play dough for each child.

- Play dough



### CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal
- Lesson Flip Chart



### FOLLOW THE LEADER

- Bring a rope to lead the children.

- Rope long enough to lead all the children in the class through the room and/or building



### ABRAM TO CANAAN

- Print one Abram to Canaan maze/coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Complete one maze/coloring sheet as a sample.

- Abram to Canaan maze/coloring sheet for each student
- Completed Abram to Canaan maze/coloring sheet
- Crayons



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare for this lesson, read Genesis 12:1–9, 13:1–8; Hebrews 11:8–12.

Before the creation of the world God determined to reveal Himself through His merciful plan of redemption (Matthew 25:34; Ephesians 1:4). God offers this plan by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8) and originally revealed it to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In the midst of the Curse that came as a result of their disobedience, God gave the promise of a Redeemer who would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15).

As we learn of God's call to Abram (later renamed *Abraham*), we see more of the promise whose fulfillment is revealed throughout Scripture. God's eternal plan to bring redemption continued with the Abrahamic Covenant—God would make Abraham a great nation that would in turn bless all nations (Genesis 12:1–3). Abraham was called physically to be the father of the Jewish nation; but more than that, he was called to be the father of all those who believe by faith in the promised Messiah, both Jew and Gentile (Romans 4:9–12).

It was because of Abraham's amazing faith—faith in things hoped for but not yet seen (Hebrews 11:1)—that he could obediently follow God's lead and believe the incredible promises made to him (Genesis 17:17). In fact, his faith provided the stamina for him to leave his home, go to a foreign country, and wait for his wife Sarah to conceive and bear a child. This was the child that would produce for Abraham descendants as many as the stars of the sky and as innumerable as the sand by the sea (Hebrews 11:8–12). These descendants would become a new nation, appointed by God Himself, through which He would ultimately bring a Savior, Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1).

As mentioned earlier, our faith comes through grace, as a gift from God. In Romans 4, the Apostle Paul presents Abraham as an example of faith. Abraham proved his faith by his obedience. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith (Romans 4:20). This faith was what provided Abraham's righteousness (Romans 4:22), just as it is our faith in God's provided Savior, Jesus, that brings us to a righteous standing before Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

## APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

We trust the Bible as the inerrant Word of God and stand on it soundly as our authority in all things. But

it is exciting when God allows us to confirm biblical accounts with present-day discoveries as He has done for us in this account. You see, the ancient city of Ur (Abram's birthplace as mentioned in Genesis 11) was rediscovered and excavated by archaeologists between 1922 and 1934, providing much more information about the city and life during the time of Abram (Genesis 11:28).

The people of Ur had adopted Nanna, the moon god, as their patron. A ziggurat was erected as a temple to Nanna, perhaps hearkening back only a few generations to the Tower of Babel, when God judged the people for disobedience and idolatry by confusing their language. Ur was a thoroughly pagan city where the religious leaders and rulers used their idolatry to control the populace. Royal burial pits were discovered that included masters and their servants—giving the appearance that once the royalty died, servants willingly (or unwillingly) committed suicide. In one case, as many as 68 servants were found buried with their master.

After realizing the pagan, godless nature of the people of Ur, we are not surprised that God would call Abram to move from that city and journey to a new location where He would continue the fulfillment of His plan of redemption for all who would believe.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

What better way is there to look at the history of Abraham than to consider the genealogy carefully recorded by God? Genesis begins at the beginning and gives us details of the history of mankind—starting with Adam. (See Genesis chapters 10 and 11).

These genealogies are God's way of revealing His intention from the very beginning to use sinful man to accomplish His perfect plan of redemption. We witness generations of the descendants of Adam weaving through history to the patriarch, Abraham. We recognize his role in the plan and watch expectantly as he begets Isaac to carry on the seed that will one day provide the Messiah.

The history of this account includes God's call to Abram to leave Ur and go to the land of Canaan. Abram was traveling with his father and family (Genesis 11:31) and stopped short of Canaan in Haran (Acts 7:2–3). We aren't told why this caravan stopped in Haran, but we do know that Abram's father, Terah, succumbed to the idolatry of that pagan city (Joshua 24:2). It was after Terah died in Haran that God again called Abram to the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:1). Once

Abram arrived in Canaan, the Lord appeared to him and promised the land to his descendants.

Here again we observe the faith of Abraham as he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped Him despite the fact that he was still childless. Abraham believed God and knew that the truth and promises yet to be fulfilled in this land would include all mankind for all eternity.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## **BEFORE THE THRONE**

Dear Lord, thank you for your Word and for opening my eyes to your truth. Lord, as I teach this lesson, please increase my faith and trust in

you—in what you do. Help me to see that all of your purposes are good—even when tears are running down my face. Help me to realize fully that only the things you promise through faith in your Word will bring me true joy. No amount of earthly goods or pleasures will fill my heart like your truth can. I long to be completely yours—to look to the heavenly city that God has designed and built for me. And please take the young minds of my students, and their hardened hearts, and mold them to your will. Give them the faith of Abraham that will bring obedience to you and your Word. Help them, Lord, to see that the things of the earth cannot satisfy and won't last. Fix their eyes on the things above as only you can do.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will use play dough to make some of the characters from your Bible lesson today: Abram, Sarai (his wife), Lot (his nephew), camel, sheep, the people and animals Abram took with him on his long journey.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Flip Chart, Bible, rope, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray.** *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way.*

**Today let's say prayers of confession when we tell God how sorry we are that we have sinned against Him.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.*

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, I try to obey you, but I still end up sinning. Please forgive me today for . . . (enter personal prayer here).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God they are sorry.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

## GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? What is in this Bible? *God's holy Word!*
- ? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*
- ? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*

Yes, all God's Words are true. I love God's Word and I pray one day you will ALL love it, too! *Hold up your Bible.*

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

Today we are going to hear about a man named Abram. You may know of him as Abraham. His name started as Abram and God changed it. God changed the names of a few people in the Bible. Abram (or Abraham) was one of them. This true story of Abram is in Genesis 12. *Open your Bible to Genesis 12. Tell them this is God's Word—all of it is true!*

### Genesis 12:1

God asked Abram to do something that was pretty hard and scary. Listen very carefully and tell me what it was. *Read Genesis 12:1 emphatically.*

- ? Did you hear it? What did the Lord ask Abram to do? *Get out of your country. Leave your family. Leave your father's house.*

► As you teach this lesson, use your Bible for each verse you read. This will set a great example for the children.

God asked Abram to leave his home, his friends, his family in the city of Ur and go! God didn't tell Abram where He was going to lead him. God just said go! Abram had faith in God. He trusted God and obeyed Him even though he didn't know where God was leading him. *Refer to the Flip Chart Lesson page.*

### Genesis 12:2

I want you to listen again very carefully to what God promised. God was going to do something very special for Abram. Are you listening? *Read Genesis 12:2 from your Bible emphasizing great nation, bless you, great name, you will be a blessing.*

- ? What did God promise Abram? *Allow discussion.*

*If they can't get it, reread the verse, stopping at each answer.* God promised to make Abram a great nation. God promised to bless Abram and make his name great. God said that Abram would be a blessing. But Abram didn't even know where he was going!

God asked Abram to do a hard thing but God also promised Abram something very special. Abram had faith in God and obeyed Him.

Hmmmm. Abram did have faith and he did obey God. Listen to what God's true Word says about that. *Read Genesis 12:5. Emphasizing Sarai, Lot, possessions.*

Genesis 12:5

? Who did Abram take with him? Did you hear that? *Sarai, his wife and Lot, his nephew. Refer to the Flip Chart.*

? What did Abram take with him? *Reread the verse again if necessary. All his possessions.*

The Bible says that Abram went just like the Lord told him to. Abram had faith in God and he obeyed.

Do you know a really neat thing about the Bible? Sometimes you read about something here in Genesis at the very beginning and then you read about the same thing way back here toward the end. Like Abram. We read about him in Genesis—right here. Then, we hear about him again in the book of Hebrews. It's way back here! *Show them both books in your Bible.*

The book of Hebrews tells us that Abram was a great man and it also tells us why Abram was able to do what God told him even though it was really hard. Listen as I read this from Hebrews. This verse calls him Abraham because God had changed his name. He had two names Abram and Abraham. *Read Hebrews 11:8 from your Bible emphasizing "by faith" and "not knowing where he was going."*

Hebrews 11:8

? What did Abraham have that helped him go where God wanted him to go? *Reread Hebrews 11:8 if they don't know. Faith!*

? What do you think I mean by having faith in God? *Allow discussion.*

? Faith is a hard word to explain. Do any of you ever jump into a swimming pool or a lake toward the open arms of your mom, dad, big sister, or someone older? *Allow for answers and discussion.*

? Do they catch you? *Yes!*

Of course they do. You know they are going to catch you. You believe they are going to catch you. And you trust that they are going to catch you. Even though the water is deep and you don't know how to swim, you jump because you know they will catch you. That's faith. It is believing and trusting someone. And that is what Abraham had. He had faith in God. He believed God. He trusted him.

Because Abraham had faith in God, he could obey Him. God told Abram to leave his home in the city of Ur. And God led him to a land called Canaan. Abram did what God told him. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

► Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.

## SONG

Everybody stand up. I love God's Word. The Bible is my favorite book! We are going to sing a song about God and God's Word. We come to church to hear God's Word. And you can ask mom and dad to read God's Word to you. **It really is special!** Turn to the Flip Chart song page. Sing "God's Word is Perfect." Move in a circle as you sing, and switch directions. Have children move in and out and around the circle, etc.

**Great! Now let's sing another one. God enjoys it when we sing.** Sing "We Gather All Around."

*The lyrics to the songs are on the Flip Chart Song page and can also be found on the Song sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.*

**And let's see if we can sing our Acts 17:26 Memory Verse song.** Turn to the Memory Verse Flip Chart page and sing with the children.



## Follow the Leader

### MATERIALS

- A long rope or line to lead the kids with

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Lead the children around the room, perhaps out into the hall, into another room, or maybe even outside. Have them follow you in an orderly manner by having them hold onto the rope. Lead them using the rope to the "place" you wanted to bring them preferably out of the room—somewhere outside of where they normally would go in the church.*

We are going to play a game of follow the leader. Everyone stand up and get in a line. I want all of you to follow me holding onto this rope. OK? Follow me quietly. Watch carefully and follow closely so you don't get lost! *Lead them around—see above—until you get them to the "place" you want to bring them.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

You followed me around the room, down the hall, back into the room, back out into the hall . . . *Wherever you have led them.*

? Did you know where I was taking you? *No!*

? You didn't know where we were going, but you followed. Who did we hear about in the Bible today? A man who followed God's lead? *Abram.*

Yes. Abram became a great man of faith. He was the father of all God's people. He followed God's lead. He trusted God and obeyed Him even though he didn't know where God was taking him.

God calls us to trust Him, listen to Him, learn His Word, and obey Him. Just the way you followed me—we should ALL follow God. God knows what is best for us. But we can't follow Him unless we know Him.

? How can we get to know God better? *Hold up your Bible. By studying the Bible.*

Let's sit down. *Lead children back to the room.* We are going to color and complete a maze. I'll show you what I mean by a maze. *Oversee an orderly move back to the tables if children are not seated yet. Show the children a completed maze/coloring sheet.*



## Abram to Canaan

### MATERIALS

- Abram to Canaan maze/coloring sheet
- Crayons

### INSTRUCTIONS

*After showing a completed Abram to Canaan maze/coloring sheet, pass out the sheets. Explain to children that they are going to help Abram get to Canaan. Then they can color the sheets.*

Let's see if we can help Abram get from Ur to Canaan.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Abram followed God's lead and ended up in Canaan. God promised Abram some wonderful things. Abram had faith in God, trusted Him, and obeyed.



## Memory Verse Review/Snack

**Acts 17:26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.

*After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.*

*Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.*



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer again to the Flip Chart Lesson page.* Abram had faith in God. He believed God and trusted Him. Abram obeyed God. He left his home in Ur. He packed all of his possessions, his wife, and his nephew and headed out—he didn't know where he was headed. He had no idea where God was taking him. He trusted that God had a very good plan for him and he obeyed.

### GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We need to know God in order to know that He is calling us to do something. We need to know Him if we want to obey Him and have faith in Him.

? How do we get to know God? *Hold up your Bible. In the Bible.*

That's right. Abram had faith in God. We can have faith in God, too. We can learn more about God by studying and reading God's Word. The Bible is my favorite book. I read it every day. And I pray that one day, this book will be your very favorite book, too.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

? **What does this book tell us?** *Repeat the Bible question from earlier in the lesson. Everything we need to know!*



## Group Prayer Time

One way to know God better is to pray. Let's pray and thank God for our class today.

- Thank God for the class, for the children, for the church, the pastor.
- Ask God to grow the children to love the Bible, God, and Jesus.
- Ask God to help us obey His Word.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## ACTS 17:26 MEMORY VERSE

*(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")*

**And He has made,**

*(Are you sleeping?)*

**From one bloo-ood,**

*(Are you sleeping?)*

**Every nation, every nation.**

*(Brother John. Brother John.)*

**To dwell on all the ear-earth.**

*(Morning Bells are ringing!)*

**To dwell on all the ear-earth.**

*(Morning Bells are ringing!)*

**Acts Seventeen: Twenty six.**

*(Ding, ding, dong. Ding, ding, dong.)*

## GOD'S WORD IS PERFECT

*(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")*

**God's Word is perfect.**

*(Are you sleeping?)*

*Put hands together and open them up like a book.*

**God's Word is pu-re.**

*(Are you sleeping?)*

*Put hands together and open them up like a book.*

**Yes, it is! Yes, it is!**

*(Brother John. Brother John.)*

*Nod head and point a finger out in front of you.*

**It he-elps us to know Him.**

*(Morning bells are ringing!)*

*Tap pointer finger on the side of your head.*

**It he-elps us to love Him.**

*(Morning bells are ringing!)*

*Form an X with arms at your chest.*

**Yes, it does! Yes, it does!**

*(Ding, ding, dong. Ding, ding, dong.)*

*Nod head and point a finger out in front of you.*

## WE GATHER ALL AROUND

*(To the tune of "Farmer in the Dell")*

**We gather all around.**

*(The farmer in the dell,)*

*Walk in circle, holding hands.*

**To hear God's holy Word.**

*(The farmer in the dell,)*

*Stand still, hold hands like open book.*

**We pray and thank him every day.**

*(Hi-ho, the derry-o!)*

*Bow head, fold hands.*

**We praise and love our God!**

*(The farmer in the dell.)*

*Stretch both arms up in praise, then cross arms over heart.*

**God is with us there.**

*Point away.*

**God is with us here.**

*Point to self.*

**God is with us everywhere.**

*Stretch both arms up, then outward.*

**We praise and love our God.**

*Stretch both arms up in praise, then cross arms over heart.*

