

Lesson 13

Patriarchs – The Life of Abram and How it Points to Christ

Objective

Study Genesis 12: The call of Abram and the separation of Abram and Lot. Learn that God made promises to Abram and keeps them and how those promises point to Christ. Also learn the good and bad characteristics of Abram.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Map of Abram's Journey – one per student
- Follow Along Activity Sheet – one per student

- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)

Optional Supplies

- Snack: Animal Crackers if available - enough to share

Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson One to Review

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

Share with students: **Last week what did we learn about?** The descendants of Shem all the way to Abram.

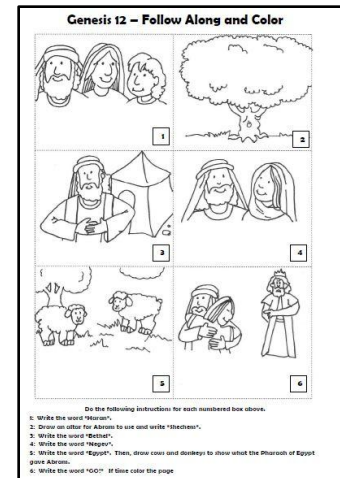
This week we will continue to study about the descendants of Noah and learn about Abram!

2) Class Time - Genesis 12 – Follow Along Activity

15-25 minutes

Ask students to get their Bibles and turn to Genesis 12. Ask for a volunteer to read verses 1-5. After reading hand out the "Follow Along with Abram" sheet – one to each student and have them look at the first picture. Hand out pencil crayons and then read the first direction at the bottom aloud and ask them to do the first direction on the page for number 1. For younger students, ask an older student to point to the word "Haran" at the bottom so the student knows how it is spelled.

Say, **Just do the directions – we will color the pictures when we are done our discussion and reading the chapter.**

**Question:**

What promises did God make to Abram? Abram would be made into a great nation, he would be blessed, his name would be great, God would protect him, and everyone on earth would be blessed because of Abram.

We will learn in the next quarter that God kept all His promises to Abram. Let's now turn to our Bibles and see how exactly God meant that people would be blessed because of Abram.

Turn to Galatians 3:14, can I get a volunteer to read? Gentiles mean everyone who is not a family member of Abram. So anyone who is not from Israel is a Gentile. Paul is talking about Jesus:

Galatians 3:14

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

You need to know that Abram is Abraham – his name is changed by God later in his life. Also, you need to know that Gentiles were anyone who was not of Jewish descent – that includes Canadians, Americans, Chinese, and Africans, etc., anyone who was not Jewish was called a Gentile. Redeemed means to recover ownership by making a payment – Jesus paid our debt so we could be freed from sin. Now let's read the verse again. Read verse again.

Jesus redeemed us and gives us salvation through our faith and obedience to Him. It is Jesus' work and ability, not ours. We just submit to His command through faith – and that trust in Jesus includes trusting Him when He tells us we need to be baptized. When we are baptized we receive the promise of the Holy Spirit. In this way the blessing that was given to Abram is given to all of us – if we believe and are faithful like Abram was – we will be protected and saved by

God! How do I know this? Let's go to verse 27-29. Can I get a volunteer to read that please?

Galatians 3:27-29

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Questions:

How do we become Abraham's seed – even if we aren't Jewish or related to Abraham? If we belong to Christ!

How? We become heirs or inherit the same promise when we follow and obey Christ in baptism.

This points to Christ because it was through Christ and his lineage from Abram that we all benefit and have the chance of salvation! Because Jesus redeemed us and saved us through His death and resurrection – we too can be blessed and be heirs of God just as God promised Abraham! Jesus' willingness to die for our sins allows us to put on Christ when we submit to His command of baptism.

Now let's turn back to Genesis 12 and can I get a volunteer to read verses 6-7. Read verses.

What promise did God give Abram at Shechem? That Abram's descendants would get this land.

On your Follow Along sheet, do the directions for picture number 2. (Read the directions aloud and help younger students as needed.)

Now let's go on to the next verses, can I get a volunteer to read verses 8-9? Read verses.

On your Follow Along sheet, do the directions for picture 3. (Read the directions aloud and help younger students as needed.)

Now can I get a volunteer to read verses 10-20? Read verses.

On your Follow Along sheet, do the directions for pictures 4-6. (Read the directions aloud and help younger students as needed.)

Discussion Questions:

What good things did Abram do in Chapter 12? Did what God told him to do. Built altars and worshipped God. Called on the name of the Lord.

What lie did Abram tell? He asked Sarai to lie and say she was only his sister and not also his wife.

What happened as a result of his lie? Pharaoh was inflicted with diseases and told Sarai and Abram to leave.

Should we lie or tell the truth? We should always tell the truth! Colossians 3:9 says "Do not lie."

Have students turn to **Colossians 3:9** and read it aloud. **We see lying is unacceptable to God!**

Now some might say, "Well what if someone would die if I didn't lie?" Here is a true story that helps us see, we can always tell the truth and God will help us.

STORY

Years ago, some soldiers came to a house looking for some men who had escaped. They escaped because the new ruler made a law that certain people were to be taken away. This was against God. The new ruler was going to hurt the people that were taken away, even though they did nothing wrong.

A family hid the men under a hole in their floor that had a door to cover it. They put a rug on top of the hidden floor door and then put a table on top of that.

When the soldiers came into the house, they searched the house and could not find the men. Then they said, "Where are they?" The little girl in the house said, "They are under the table!" The family was so worried. She had told them exactly where the men were!

The soldiers looked under the table, and of course did not see the men, because the men were hiding under the table, under the floor. So the soldiers not seeing the men, got angry and left. Even though the young girl told the truth, the men were safe, the soldiers did not think to look under the rug. God kept the men safe.

We never need to lie. God will help us and keep us safe. There is never a good reason to lie. Now on the same hand, we don't have to tell someone EVERY THING. If a stranger asks for your phone number – you can say "No." You don't have to give it. If a friend asks you if you like their outfit and you don't, you don't have to lie. You can say, "If you like it, then that is all that matters. I like you!" We don't have to tell lies and we don't have to explain everything, especially if it is dangerous or would hurt someone's feelings.

If you are worried about lying – ask God for help. Ask God to always make sure there will never be a reason for you to lie and that you will always have the right words to say to avoid lying!

***Allow for questions, most students will want to list some extreme scenarios for when it might seem like a good idea to lie – the bottom line is – we are never to lie, so there is never a good enough reason to lie. And that is why prayer is important, we can pray that those types of scenarios never happen, but if one of the extreme scenarios they mention does happen – we should stop and pray to God but not lie.

State that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big for you to deal with this week and address the person next week if appropriate.

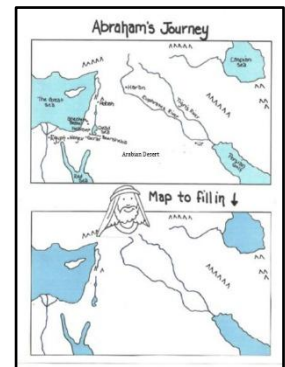
Allow children to color the page if time, if not tell them they can take it home and color.

3) Map of Abram's Journey

10 minutes

Hand out one map to each child along with pencil crayons.

Say to the students: **Over the next few weeks we are going to study Abram and his life. Abram travelled a lot so we are going to make a map of his journey. I will keep these maps over the next few weeks and we will add to them each time Abram travels. The map at the top has the words which we will use to fill in the map at the bottom.**



- 1) **First let's name the 2 big rivers. Write their names beside each river in small letters. You should have Euphrates and Tigris.** (Help younger students as needed.)
- 2) **Next write the seas – you should have Red, Great, Caspian, Dead and Persian.** (Help younger students as needed.)
- 3) **In the middle of the map at the bottom write Arabian Desert – this is why all the towns and areas are in a "U" shape around the desert – no one lives in the desert area because it is too hot and dry and so anyone going from Ur to Canaan would have to travel around it.** (Help younger students as needed.)
- 4) **Now find "Ur" and write it in. That is where Abram and his family came from and where Terah his father moved them from it is at the bottom of the two rivers.**
- 5) **From there find Haran and write it in. That is where Terah died.**
- 6) **Next find Shechem and write it in.**
- 7) **Find and write in Bethel.**
- 8) **Find and write the Negev.**
- 9) **Find and write in Egypt.**

10) Now draw a line to connect them all starting from Ur and ending at Egypt.

These are all the places Abram travelled in Chapter 12.

Abram did not know where he was going, just that God told him to travel to the land of Canaan. Abram went and did as God said because Abram believed and trusted God. Abram had faith and so should we!

4) Optional – Walking with God Like Abram Game

10 minutes

Have the students line up with enough space so they can move their arms and legs without bumping into other students. Tell them: **We are going to play an action game. When I say "God says" you are to do whatever God tells you to do as you pretend to be like Abram and Sarai.**

God says follow Me – have students follow you as you walk around.

God says touch the ground, then reach the sky – have students repeatedly touch the ground then reach for the sky.

God says tickle your nose – have students pretend to tickle their noses.

God says feed your camels! – pretend to feed camels.

God says go get water for the sheep! – pretend to take jars and fill them with water and take them to the sheep.

God says read the Bible – pretend to read Bibles.

God says, say a prayer – Fold hands and bow, then say, "Thank you God for everything, Amen."

God says listen to Him! – pretend to listen while cupping hand to your ear.

God says be kind to others – have students pretend to do nice things.

God says sit down – have students sit down.

Repeat if they enjoyed the activity.

5) Optional – Snack: Animal Crackers

5-10 minutes

Hand out some crackers to each student. Explain that: **When Abram went to Egypt he acquired a lot of sheep, cows, donkeys, and camels. See if you can find any of**

those in your animal crackers! Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

6) Optional – Learning Books of the Old Testament or Songs 5 minutes

Practice learning Books of the Old Testament you can sing them to the ABC Song.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges....

Father Abraham Song

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,
turn around!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,
turn around, sit down.

ACTIONS:

Right arm: Clench fist, bend and extend arm upward repeatedly throughout song

Left arm: Add left arm in same motion as right

Right foot: Add right foot stepping up and down

Left foot: Add left foot stepping up and down

Turn around: Add turning in place while continuing other motions

Sit down: Sit down

7) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up.

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Write them down. Ask all students to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Start below if you need help and then add the other prayer requests of the students.

Thank You Father for all You do. Help us to learn Your Word – the Bible and use it in our life properly. May we follow Your directions and not our own, knowing that You know what is best for us. Help us to be like the righteous people of the past – like Shem, Abram, Noah and others who listened and loved You. We pray that we will always remember the lessons we learned from Genesis and see how the Bible points to Jesus all the way through. We pray You will help us be honest, because honesty is pleasing to You. We pray that our hearts will want to draw near to You and that we will be blessed because of our faith like Abram.

God please make sure there will never be a reason for us to lie and that You will always have the right words for us to say to avoid having to lie!

Thank You for our families and for Jesus, Your Son. Be with those who could not be here today and for any who are sick or suffering. It is in Jesus' name, Amen.

8) Things to Remember

Thank the students for coming.

Encourage them to share what they learned with their family.

Take their activity sheets home.

Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!