

Call of Abram/Abram & Lot

Genesis 12:1-9, 13:1-18



The Story

Abram was a man who worshiped God. He lived in Ur of the Chaldeans. Ur was a beautiful place, but many of the people there did not worship the true God. The people built towers called ziggurats. They used the towers to worship the moon god. This made God very sad.

God loved Abram so much. He wanted to make sure Abram would not worship the moon god. God told Abram to move away from his family and friends who worshiped the moon god. God promised to take care of Abram in a new home. He promised Abram he would have many children and grandchildren in the new home. One day Jesus would be born into Abram's family!

Abram did what God told him to do. Abram took his wife, Sarai, and his nephew, Lot, to the new home. Abram and Lot had many sheep and camels. They had many shepherds and servants. The sheep, camels, shepherds, and servants all went, too. They walked, and walked, and walked. At last they came to their new home. It was called Canaan. Everyone was happy to be there! Abram built an altar in Canaan. He thanked God for leading him to his new home.

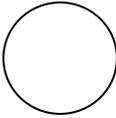
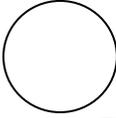
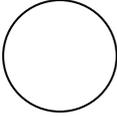
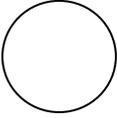
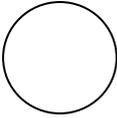
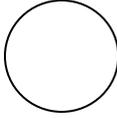
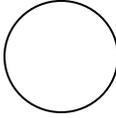
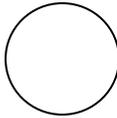
God took care of Abram, Sarai, and Lot in Canaan. Soon there were many more sheep and camels. There were so many sheep and camels that

the shepherds and servants could not find room for them. The shepherds and servants started to argue and fight. Abram did not like the arguing. He did not like the fighting. He wanted his new home to be peaceful.

Abram had an idea. Canaan was a big land. He could live in one part. Lot could live in another part. Abram and Lot looked at the big new land. The best land was on the right. There was a river. There was green grass. There were large cities. On the left there were just trees and fields. Abram told Lot to choose first. Lot chose the best land. He took his sheep, camels, shepherds, and servants to the green grass near the river and the cities. Abram took his sheep, camels, shepherds, and servants to the trees and fields. The arguing and fighting stopped. Everyone was happy again.

God was happy Abram was in his new home. He reminded Abram about His promises. God promised all of Canaan would belong to Abram some day. He promised Abram would have as many children and grandchildren as the dust of the earth. Abram believed God's promises. God kept His promises!

Activity One - Review: Draw a happy face if the sentence tells about something that makes God happy. Draw a sad face if the sentence tells about something that makes God sad.

1. Abram worshiped God. 
2. People worshiped the moon god. 
3. Abram did what God told him to do. 
4. Abram thanked God for leading him to his new home. 
5. The shepherds and servants argued and fought. 
6. Abram told Lot to choose first. 
7. Lot chose the best land. 
8. Abram believed God's promises. 

Activity Two - Tell how God takes care of you in your home. Draw a picture of your home.

*God's hand in Abram's life led him to
earthly and eternal treasures.*

*God's hand supports and saves those who put their
faith and trust in Him.*

Passage

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he went out."

Hymn - TLH 428, v. 1, 4

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for taking care of Abram in his new home. Help me to remember that you promise to take care of me, too. Amen.

Call of Abram/Abram & Lot

Genesis 12:1-9, 13:1-18



The Story

God promises to support and bless those who love and trust in him. Today we will learn about a man who put his faith and trust in the Lord. His name was Abram.

Abram was a man who believed in the Lord. He lived in Ur. He lived with his wife Sarai and nephew Lot. Abram and Sarai had no children.

The land where Abram lived had many people who worshiped idols. The idols were made out of wood or stone.

One day the Lord came to talk to Abram. The Lord said, "Leave your home in Ur and go to a land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your name great. I will make your family the size of a great nation."

Abram did not know anything about the land the Lord wanted him to live in, but he listened to the Lord. Abram believed the Lord's promises. He knew that the Lord would keep His Word.

Abram gathered everything that he owned, his wife, and Lot. He left Ur and the rest of his family for the land the Lord promised to him.

Abram traveled for many days and came to the land of Canaan. The Lord came to Abram and said, "This is the land I will give to you and your family." Abram believed the Lord and built an altar to worship Him.

The Lord blessed Abram with

many sheep, cows, and camels. Abram also had silver and gold. Lot also had many sheep, cows, and camels. Abram and Lot had so many animals that sometimes it was hard to find enough food and water for the animals. Many times Abram's shepherds and Lot's shepherds would argue for the best land for the animals.

Abram heard about the arguing. He talked to Lot and said, "We should not argue about pasture for our sheep, cows, and camels. I have a plan. Look at all of the land before you. You choose the place where you want to live. I will take my shepherds and animals in the opposite direction."

Lot chose the best land near the Jordan River for himself. There was plenty of pasture and water for his animals. Lot's decision to take the best land was not wise. He lived near the city of Sodom. The people who lived in Sodom were very wicked.

Abram took the land that Lot did not choose. The land Abram lived on did not look like the best, but the Lord blessed Abram. The Lord came to Abram and said, "I will give all the land that you see to you and your family. The people in your family will be so many that no one will be able to count them."

Abram believed the Lord's promise and he built an altar to worship the Lord.

Activity One

- Discuss the following questions.

1. What promises did the Lord make to Abram?
2. What happened between Abram's and Lot's shepherds?
3. What was Abram's plan?
4. In whom did Abram put his love and trust?

Activity Two

- Put the following events of the story in order. Place the numbers 1-5 in the blanks before the sentences to show the correct order.

- _____ Lot chose the land near the Jordan River.
- _____ The Lord told Abram to leave his home and go to a new land.
- _____ Abram's shepherds and Lot's shepherds were arguing.
- _____ Abram gathered everything that he owned and left Ur.
- _____ Abram came up with a plan.

Activity Three

- Read the passage below and answer the question.

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. 'And he went out...'"

How did Abram show that he trusted in the Lord?

*God's hand in Abram's life led him to
earthly and eternal treasures.*

*God's hand supports and saves those who put their
faith and trust in Him.*

Passage

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance.
And he went out."

Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me."

Hymn - TLH 428, v. 1, 4

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

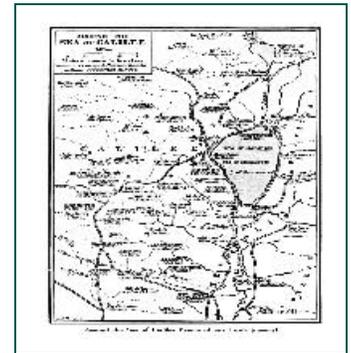
Thank You for taking care of Abram in his new home. Help me to remember that you promise to take care of me, too. Amen.

Call of Abram/Abram & Lot

Genesis 12:1-9, 13:1-18

If you were going on a "road trip" what would you use to help you plan?

Maps and directions help us to find our way, especially in areas that are new to us. In today's story the Lord provides the map and the directions and tells Abram "Go!".



Prayer

God of Abram and my God also in Jesus, thank You for being with me today. Guide me as I study Your wonders. Through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Promises to Abram

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. {2} I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. {3} I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

{4} So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. {5} Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

{6} Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. {7} Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."

And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

{8} And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. {9} So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

{1} Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. {2} Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

{3} And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, {4} to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

{5} Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. {6} Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. {7} And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's



livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

{8} So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. {9} "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

{10} And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. {11} Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. {12} Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of

the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. {13} But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

{14} And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are; northward, southward, eastward, and westward; {15} "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. {16} "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. {17} "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

{18} Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

Outer Aim - God's hand in Abram's life led him to earthly and eternal treasures.

What the Story Tells Us – (T)rue or (F)alse. Choose the correct answer.

1. T or F God told Abram to travel alone to the a land that God would give Abram.
2. T or F Abram was seventy-five years old when God told him to move.
3. T or F God promised Abram great riches and honor in the land of promise.
4. T or F Abram settled in the area between Bethel and Ai.
5. T or F The first thing Abram did was build an altar.
6. T or F The Lord blessed Abram with much wealth because of Abram's faith.
7. T or F A strife between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot was over pasture land for the flocks.
8. T or F Abram put Lot first and offered him the choice of land to settle in.
9. T or F Lot settled in Shechem because the pasture land was very rich there.
10. T or F God scolded Abram for not keeping the best for himself.

Inner Aim - God's hand supports and saves those who put their faith and trust in Him.

What God Tells Us - Unscramble the letters to complete the sentences.

1. The world that we live in is full of _____ (nsi) and _____ (viel).
2. Though we live in this world we should not be _____ (ciwkde).
3. Abram followed the Lord's commands, we _____ (oulshd) too.
4. We must _____ (ustrt) in the Lord's _____ (rmispeos).
5. As God led Abram to Canaan He will lead us to _____ (eveanh).

Passages

Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:5 "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."
Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Hymn - Read and sing TLH #429. The writer of this hymn reminds us over and over of things that the Lord showed Abram. It is the Lord who guides us through our earthly pilgrimage. It is the Lord who will protect us along the way. Finally, the Lord will steer us into our heavenly home that He has prepared for us. Think about Abram and his journey as you go along on your journey through life. Then, in the space at the right of the hymn verse, write examples from life that might fit the words of the hymn. Ask your teacher for some examples.

Real Life Examples

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share,
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee no one could shake.
Thou art the Portion I have sought;
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, My God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
And serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile,
Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, My God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abram's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

Prayer

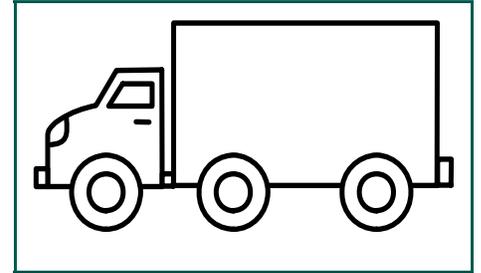
God of Abram and my God in Jesus, I thank You for introducing me today to Abram, one of my wonderful grandfathers whom I will get to know better in our heavenly Canaan. Thank You for leading him onward and forward in his life so that he could stay close to You and learn to depend on You always. Do so for me, too, please, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Call of Abram/Abram & Lot

Genesis 12:1-9, 13:1-18

For what could this truck be used?

Has your family ever had to move to a new location? If you moved, how would people treat you; what might they think of you and your family?



When we arrive at a new location, we are faced with situations that can be scary.

In our story today God tells Abram to move. Abram trusted God and went as directed. From Abram's move, we will learn how we are to treat others, both family and strangers, as we sojourn here on earth.

Prayer

God of Abram and my heavenly Father, guide me as I study Your Word. Help me to understand and learn from the lessons that You used to guide my forefathers. Show me the truths that You shared with them so that I may pattern my life to know the way to You, through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Promises to Abram: Genesis 12:1-9 and 13:1-18

Now the LORD had said to Abram:
"Get out of your country, From your family
And from your father's house, To a land
that I will show you. {2} I will make you a
great nation; I will bless you And make your
name great; And you shall be a blessing.
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his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on
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Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. {2} Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

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{14} And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are; northward, southward, eastward, and westward; {15} "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. {16} "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. {17} "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

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Inner Aim - God's hand supports and saves those who put their faith and trust in Him.

What God Tells Us - Some thoughts to consider.

1. Leaving home and going away to school or moving to a new location is not easy. Letting the Lord guide you while you live here on earth is very rewarding. Give some examples.
2. Satan looks for opportunities of broken family ties and selfish separations. As Christians we must make sure that wherever we live here on earth we trust in the Lord to protect us. We are never alone. What are some of the things we can do to stay strong in the Lord?
3. As we wander through this life we must remember that we are children of God. How we behave, treat others, dress, and talk tells those around us about us and about our faith in God. We must make sure that we live and function as children of God. Give some examples of how dress and speech can be offensive to the Lord and what we can do about this problem.
4. A child of God lets people know that God is first in his life, always, everywhere. We will want to call on God's name for help and live not in a careless, non-respectful way. What are some ways in which individuals can relieve stress without taking the name of the Lord in vain?

5. Abram allowed Lot to choose where he wanted to live even though it all was promised to Abram. We need to remember that everything on earth belongs to our heavenly Father and He is allowing us to be part of it. List several ways in which we can share with others the things that we have.
6. As a child of God we want to share the great news of our Savior from sin. Everywhere Abram went he built an altar to the Lord and called upon Him name. What are some things that we can do to help spread the great news of salvation for all men?

Passages

Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:5 "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Luke 18:29-30 "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

1 Peter 2:11-12 "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

Hymn - Read over hymn 586 verses 1, 4, and 7. Remember we are only sojourners here on earth. Our home is heaven. While we live here may we always live lives pleasing to our heavenly Father.

A pilgrim and a stranger,
I journey here below;
Far distant is my country,
The home to which I go,
Here I must toil and travail,
Oft weary and opprest;
But there my God shall lead me
To everlasting rest.

Who would share Abraham's blessing
Must Abraham's path pursue,
A stranger and a pilgrim,
Like him, must journey thro'.
The foes must be encountered,
The dangers must be passed;
A faithful soldier only
Receives the crown at last.

There I shall dwell forever,
No more a parting guest,
With all Thy blood-bought children

In everlasting rest,
The pilgrim conflicts o'er,
All earthly griefs behind me,
Eternal joys before.

Prayer

God of Abram and my God in Jesus, I thank You for introducing me today to Abram, one of my wonderful grandfathers whom I will get to know better in our heavenly Canaan. Thank You for leading him onward and forward in his life so that he could stay close to You and learn to depend on You always. Do so for me, too, please, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Call of Abram/The Promise of Isaac

Genesis 12:1-9, 13:1-18; 15 - 18:15

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

The Call of Abram

The LORD had said to Abram, "Get out of your country and away from your family and go to a land that I will show you. Many children will come from your family and I will make them into a great nation. In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed because Jesus, the Savior of the world, will come from your family."

So Abram left his home and his family as the LORD had asked him to do. Lot, his nephew, and Sarai, his wife, went with him. They went to the land of Canaan.

Again the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your family I will give this land." There Abram built an altar to the LORD and worshiped the LORD.

Abram was very rich in servants, animals, silver, and gold. Lot also was rich. Abram and Lot had to live in different parts of Canaan because they had many servants and animals.

Abram worshiped the LORD God.

God's Promises a Son to Abram

The LORD again came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

Abram said, "Lord GOD, I have no children."

Then the LORD brought Abram outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and try to count the stars. You will have this many in your family." Abram believed in the LORD and His promise.

Another time the LORD came to Abram when he was ninety-nine years old. The LORD said, "Your name shall now be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. Your family will be as many as the sand in the sea. From your family the Savior of all people will be born. Your wife's name will be Sarah and she will have a son and you shall call his name Isaac."

Strangers Visit and a Son Is Promised

Abraham was sitting in the tent door one day and saw that three men were standing near him. He ran to meet them and invited them for a meal. These men were angels, but Abraham did not know that.

So Abraham hurried and had a meal prepared and then served it to them. As the men were sitting there they promised Abraham that in one year he and Sarah would have a son. Abraham would be one hundred and Sarah would be ninety. Sarah was listening in the tent door and when she heard this she laughed.

God keeps all His promises.

Our faith is strengthened by God's repeated promises in His Word.

Passage

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance."

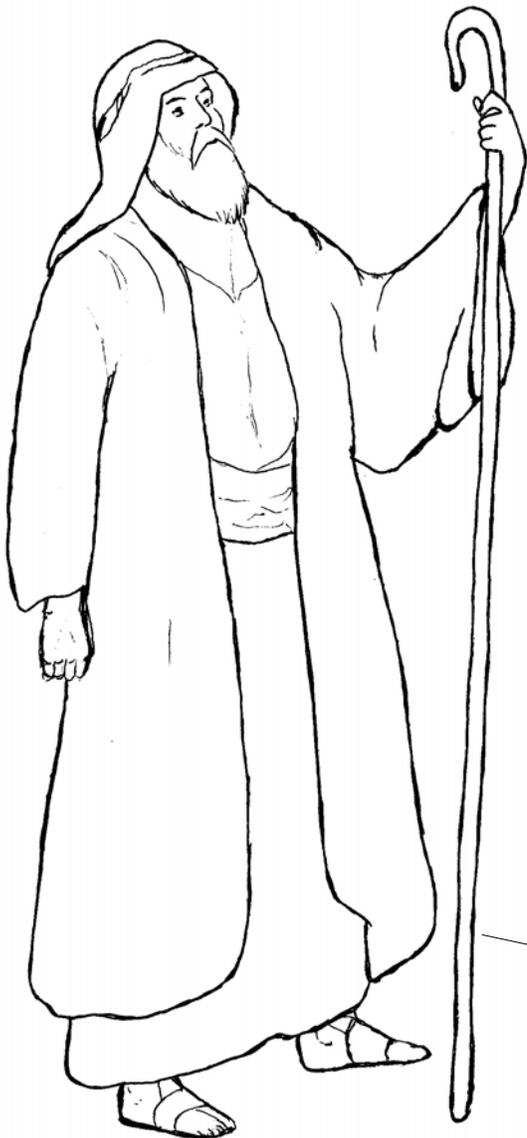
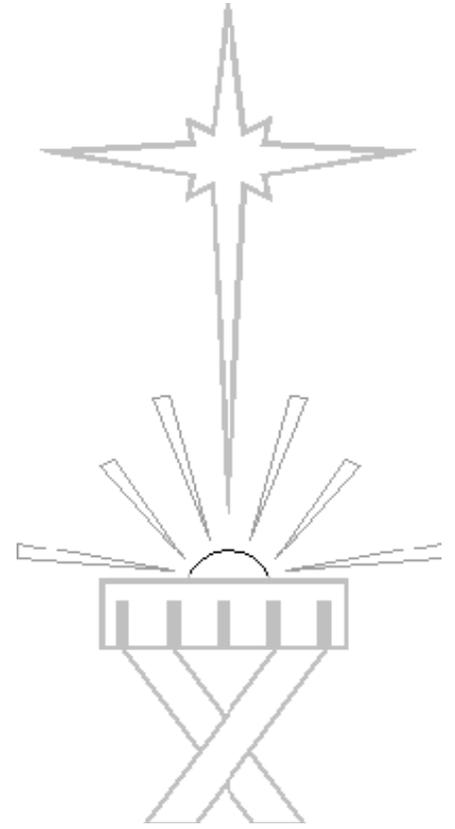
Hymn - TLH 428, v. 1

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.



Classroom Activity - Stars in the Sky & Sand on the Ground

Have the children stick many sticker stars or make glitter glue dots in the sky and color or glue sand on the ground to remind them of the promises the LORD gave Abraham. Color the special star and Baby Jesus, Who would also come from Abraham's family.



Circle Activity

Have the children circle Abraham with a BLUE crayon; circle Sarah with a RED crayon; circle the angels with a GREEN crayon.



Discuss these questions:

What is Abraham doing? (*Giving them food.*)

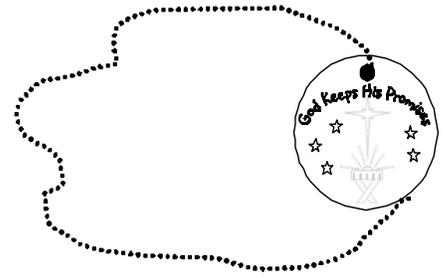
Who are the three men sitting down? (*Angels*)

What did they tell Abraham? (*In 1 year he and Sarah will have a son named Isaac.*)

What is Sarah doing? (*Laughing*)

Classroom Art Activity - God's Promises Necklace

Color the circle with the message. Glue it to stiff paper or cardboard and cut out. Punch a hole and string it on a ribbon or yarn to make a necklace. You may want to decorate with glitter glue also.



Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for taking care of Abraham in his new home. Help me to remember that You promise to take care of me, too. Thank You for promising and sending Jesus to save all people. Amen.

STORY

God gets Abram started in a new life - Genesis 12:1-9 and 13:1-18

TEACHER PRAYER

O LORD, God of Abraham and my God due to Your favor given me in Jesus Christ, I adore You for getting Your plan of salvation moving forward by salvaging Abram from his heathen background. Always help me to present You to my students as You really are: full of generous compassion to those lost in the sinfulness of their human nature, and willing to put Your hand out to lead and nurture people like me. I praise You for this now and forever. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Place names such as Bethel, Ai, Negev, Zoar should be located on a map.

OUTER AIM

God's hand in Abram's life led him to earthly prosperity and eternal treasures.

INNER AIM

God's hand supports and saves those who put their trust (faith) in Him.

BACKGROUND

(*cf. also Rupprecht Bible History References, Vol. 1, pp.46-53*)

The titanic event of the Flood had faded in memory and its lesson lost; within two hundred years the human race had deserted God's grace to Noah and had suffered its confrontation with Him at Babel. In the fallout, family units became tribal sheikdoms in the Mid-East. Abram was born in Mesopotamia (Ur of the Chaldeans), in the tenth generation after the Deluge. Abram married his half-sister Sarai; his brother Nahor married a niece Milcah, daughter of the other brother Haran, who died early, leaving his boy Lot in the care of uncle Abram. Terah and tribe left their homeland for Canaan, arriving at a place 600 miles NW from Ur and 400 miles NE of Canaan, naming the place Haran in memory of the deceased son. What prompted a family of idolaters (Joshua 24:2) to emigrate into the unknown? Perhaps it was due to a carry-over influence from Noah. Abram could have heard the account of the Deluge directly from Shem, who in turn had learned the account of Adam and the Garden from Methuselah. It is important to us to know what God DID with Abram; Scripture is replete with references to this man who stands as the premier example of God's ways with sinners--the way of salvation prompted by God's grace (without human deserving), produced by the Seed of Abraham, and received by faith (without human contributions).

Following are notes on verses of the account from Genesis 12:1-9 plus entire chapter 13.

v.1

(The KJV helping verb "had" is intended to harmonize with Acts 7:2.) This is Jehovah Who thrust His hand into a heathen family and reactivated His salvage operation for victims of Satan.

Three levels of sacrifice are here required of Abram: separation from his homeland, from his tribal relatives, and from his father's household. All this was in Abram's best interests, of course, so that he be rescued from idolatrous influences (Satan's hands). For all these perceived losses, God compensated with His blessings for Abram's well-being.



vv.2-3

Seven blessings are poured out on Abram and on others via Abram:

- God will make of Abram a great (earthly) nation
- God will bless him personally, in earthly and eternal ways
- God will make his name great (Gal.3:6-9)
- "And be thou a blessing" - he should do what he could to benefit others
- God will bless those that bless him - whoever treats him well will be favored by God
- God will curse him that curses Abram - his personal favor with God makes his enemy to be God's enemy
- God will bless all the families of the earth in and through Abram

This closing blessing surpasses the others because it reaches out to all sinners of all time; thus the saving effect of Messiah intends to go beyond Jewry with no racial, geographic, or time limits. (cf. John 8:56 and Mt.8:11)

v.4

Abram's faith-living produced obedience; his nephew shared in this venture of faith into the unknown. At age 75, Abram was "middle-aged," a time to settle down, but off they went on a 350 mile journey with servants and flocks.

v.5

Abram as patriarch was respected; his household had already become prosperous; Canaan had also been the goal of his father Terah; Abram walked "by faith, not by sight" toward whatever God had in store for him (cf. Heb. 11:8).

v.6

The first locale worthy of record is Shechem in the center of Canaan, 34 miles N of Jerusalem; everywhere they encamped they were the foreigners in a land farmed and ranched by resident Canaanite tribes. No directions came from Jehovah as to how Abram was to cope with them.

v.7

It was time for Jehovah to become more specific about Abram's property rights in Canaan. God let him know that it was intended for his descendants ("seed"). Abram wanted to thank God and give a public testimony to his God's mercies (already received as well as pending) by building this altar, a place of worship to Jehovah.

v.8

Onward to Luz, ten miles N of Jerusalem; It received the name Bethel ("house of God") from Jacob. Again Abram gave public testimony to his God amidst the heathen Canaanites.

v.9

As nomads did, he regularly "pulled up stakes," moving southward to the Nebev, an arid region (where little noteworthy seems to happen in today's news).

Ch. 13, the entire chapter brings us back again into Abram's God-promised homeland.

vv.1-4

Following his dismissal in disgrace from Pharaoh, Abram with retinue returned to the southern section of Canaan, back to the site marked by the altar, where Abram felt prompted again to "call on the name of the LORD." (cf. Gen. 4:26; this phrase means public worship of Jehovah.)

vv. 5-7

The flocks, etc. of Lot were distinct from Abram's, and due to expansion they could no longer coexist on the same range. The shortage of resources would also affect the resident population.

vv.8-9

Abram took the lead in offering a brotherly solution that would benefit both; it would mean, however, that they separate, an unwelcome prospect for Abram whose only "seed" at present was Lot. Knowing that the LORD would not let him be the loser, Abram gave Lot freedom to choose the direction of his own future.

vv.10-11

Lot made a selfish choice, and they separated--family ties broken, futures divergent.

vv.13-14

The problem was--as it always is--that bad companions corrupt good morals. Lot's soul was endangered by people "exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD" as his companions and friends. The LORD did not permit Abram to wonder if this was a change in His blueprint.

vv.15-16

On the contrary, regardless of Lot's actions, God had put Abram's name on the entire map; this was Abram's personal land (a new detail) and was to belong to his progeny "a long time"-- another detail added to the promise of 1:7.

As to Abram's potential "seed," he would have progeny "as the dust of the earth"; that is, innumerable. In this we see a reference **not** to the Jewish race, but to the Christian Church, the true sons and daughters of Abram, who from Adam to the last Day are Abram's seed (Gal. 3:29).

vv.17-18

God wanted Abram to experience his new homeland so as to embrace it totally, with all his senses. So as this man of faith walked also by sight into the reality of God's promises, he again stopped to honor Him and publicly praise Him.

STUDENT PRAYER

God of Abraham and my God also in Jesus, I thank You for introducing me today to Abraham, one of my wonderful grandfathers whom I will get to know better in our heavenly Canaan. Thanks for leading him onward and forward in his life so that he could stay close to You and learn to depend on You always. Do so for me, too, please, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

- As introduction: does the student know anyone who has taken a vacation/tourist trip to Palestine? It's called the state of Israel today, though it is NOT God's Israel at all. Tourism there is not a new thing; Abram did it too, but only because the LORD told him to go there and look it over, end-to-end and side-to-side, for it was going to belong to him and his children. So his tour was a sightseeing trip to get acquainted with his new homeland. More importantly, other things God told him affect us today: especially the news that he would have innumerable "children" and that God would channel His best blessings to the whole human race through this one person, the "father of all believers" in God's Christmas gift for sinners.
- Because place names are sprinkled throughout the account, here's the time to help students develop a map sense of Bible lands. Use a large chart or overhead projector. An outline map of Wisconsin or other state (New Jersey is comparably sized) superimposed on a projection of Canaan will provide a sense of comparative distances and spaces.
- Have students check other Scriptural references to Abraham in the New Testament in order to gain a fuller impression of his value to us.

APPLICATIONS

1. Nobody with any heart of love will choose to separate from his mother and father for a selfish or trivial reason. It's only the heart of love for Jesus that can do so IF AND WHEN that becomes necessary in order to be faithful to Him and to protect oneself from Satan's errors. That's why the CLC came into existence (Luke 19:29-30, Rom.16:17-18).
2. When we live and function as God's children, we become channels for His blessings to our neighbors and friends, because God favors those who favor us. On the other hand, anyone who is hostile to God's child gets into trouble with Jehovah Himself.
3. Public worship and personal testimony as to the Savior are ways of bringing salvation within reach of lost souls. "Calling on the name of the Lord" is the exact opposite of using His name in a careless, non-respectful way. A child of God lets people know that's the way he lives.
4. A child of God can afford to be generous with friends, relatives, neighbors, and strangers. And that's simply because we CANNOT be losers by loving others as our Savior did.

5. Especially troublesome for youngsters is the problem of peer pressure. Just as germs spread by contact, so do bad morals, sinful attitudes, ungodly talking, dirty jokes, etc. Choose your friends as if your life depended on it!

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Hebrews 11:8 - *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he went out....*

Matthew 10:37 - *"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of me."*

John 8:56 - *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it, and was glad."*

Middle any of the above and...

Luke 12:29-30 *"Assuredly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come everlasting life."*

Galatians 3:29 - *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Upper any of the above and...

Romans 16:17 - *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offences, contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them.*

I Peter 2:11-12 - *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles....*

HYMN CHOICES

"I'm But a Stranger Here" (TLH #660, 1-4)

"God Bless Our Native Land" (TLH #577, 1-2)

"Lo, Many Shall Come from the East and the West" (TLH #415)

"Lord, Thee I Love with All My heart" (TLH #429)

"A Pilgrim and a Stranger" (TLH #586, 1.4.7)