

LESSON 59

Abraham: Father to All by Faith

ROMANS 4:13-25



BIBLE TRUTH

ABRAHAM IS THE FATHER OF ALL WHO PLACE THEIR TRUST IN CHRIST

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 137)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 59—one for each child; markers or crayons

A Walk of Faith

SUPPLIES: a bunch of grapes; a plastic tarp; a blindfold

Believing in God’s Word

SUPPLIES: fake beard (can be made out of cotton balls); costume for Abraham

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how Abraham became the father of all believers by faith.

To open class, ask if anyone remembers who Abraham was or something that Abraham did. (Examples: God asked Abraham to move without telling him where he would go; God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.)

Ask the class if anyone can tell you how Abraham become the father of many nations. (Jesus would come from the line of Abraham and it is through Jesus that God would save people from every nation. Whoever believes in Jesus is called a son or daughter of Abraham.)

Pick up any object: a book or a shoe will do. Ask the children to raise a hand if they believe you can throw the object up in the air and catch it again. (Use this exercise to teach the children what it means to believe or have faith in something.) Repeat the question, only this time ask the children to raise a hand if they have faith that you can throw the item up and catch it again. The class should all agree that you can do it. Challenge them by asking, "How can you believe and have faith in something you have not seen me do before?" Lead them to understand that they believe you because catching the item seems like something well within your power.

Transition to explain that Abraham had faith—he believed—that God could give his barren wife children even though that might seem impossible to man. Abraham believed that with God it was possible. (Use this analogy to teach the children about faith. Explain that we must all have faith in what Jesus Christ did on the cross in dying for our sins.)

Take time to pray and thank God for Abraham and for all who believe in Jesus. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 137, "Abraham: Father to All by Faith," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What was the important thing that Abraham did?**
(Abraham trusted God by faith.)

- **What is faith?**
(Faith is trusting that something will happen that hasn't yet happened. Faith is also trusting in someone's word about something that we didn't see personally.)

- **What did Abraham have to trust God for?**
(God promised Abraham he would give him a son in his old age and that through this son all the nations of the earth would be blessed.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why is Abraham a good example to us?**
(Abraham believed God.)

- **What do we need to believe about God?**
(We need to believe that God is real, that God sent his only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins, and that Jesus was raised again on the third day.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Paul directly ties Abraham's trusting in God's future redemption with our trusting in God's past work on the cross and through the resurrection. Abraham's faith was "counted to him as righteousness." In the same way, "It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:22, 24–25).

■ **Does everyone believe the gospel?**

(No, everyone does not believe the gospel story. Only those to whom God gives faith to believe will believe the gospel story. Even when Jesus was alive on the earth, not everyone believed he was the Son of God.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 59—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

■ **Who is praying in the picture?**

(Abraham)

■ **Do you remember any part of Abraham’s story or the promise God gave him?**

(God promised to give Abraham, who was very old, a son and make his children more numerous than the stars of the sky. He also said that Abraham’s children would bless people from all nations. We know that Jesus was one of Abraham’s far-off grandchildren.)

■ **Why do you think Abraham prayed to God during his life?**

(Abraham depended on God to guide him and lead him, so he probably prayed for God to help him know what to do.)

■ **How are we like Abraham?**

(We need to trust God and believe in him. We need to pray to God for help so we can believe. Faith is a gift we receive from God.)

A Walk of Faith

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bunch of grapes
- ✓ a plastic tarp
- ✓ a blindfold

Review the story of Abraham: how he believed God, who told him to leave his homeland and go to a place that God would show him (Genesis 12:1–3); and how he trusted God to give him a son when he was very old (Genesis 17:15–21).

Spread out the tarp on the floor and take the grapes and place about ten of them randomly on the tarp. Explain to the children that you are going to blindfold them and have them walk across the room following your directions. (For younger children who may not know their left and right, just say, “Don’t step there” or “Yes, that’s safe.”) Move any furniture out of the way and then blindfold the first volunteer. See if she can find her way across the floor by trusting your directions. As time allows, let other children have a turn too.

Afterwards talk about how faith means trusting things that can’t be seen. Ask the children if they trusted your commands to walk across the room. Then compare this exercise with Abraham trusting in God and with our own need to trust God. We are trusting that God did indeed raise Jesus from the dead (Romans 4:24–25).

Believing in God’s Word

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ costume for Abraham
- ✓ a fake beard (can be made out of cotton balls)

The object of this lesson is to help the children understand how we can trust in God’s Word. Abraham believed what God told him when God said he would give Abraham a son. Abraham’s friends would have found this hard to believe.

Have a teacher or helper dress up like Abraham and paraphrase the story of Genesis 17 and 18 for the children, telling how even he and his wife Sarah thought it funny that they should have a child in their old age. Have him suggest that there were others who did not believe, but that God’s Word is true. He can then read the account of Isaac’s birth directly from Genesis 21:1–7. Have Abraham charge

the children to believe God's Word with words like "You can bet, if it says it in the Bible, it is true."

Thank Abraham for stopping in for a visit. Then ask the class, "What does the Bible teach we need to believe?" Direct the children to believe (trust) in the gospel in God's Word: Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again on the third day.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 59 - ABRAHAM: FATHER TO ALL BY FAITH

