



Session 3



A NEW LIFE FOR ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:1-7

At the end of Genesis 11, Terah, Abram's father, had taken Abram, Abram's wife, and a grandson named Lot to live in the land of Haran. Abram was a man of faith! As Genesis 12 opens, God called Abram to move away from his father's household in Haran to a new land that God would show him. Abram, in obedience to God, moved with his wife, and nephew, Lot, to the land of Canaan.

God's call of Abram is summarized in the first 3 verses of Chapter 12. The Bible does not tell us why God chose Abram, but we know from Hebrews 11 that Abram was a man of great faith. God had a plan for Abram and God told Abram His plan. Have you ever wondered how you respond if in the same situation as Abram?

Genesis 12:2 begins the promissory section of Abram's call. Abram would be a great nation, blessed by God, a blessing to others, and his name would be great. Any nation that blessed Abram would be blessed by God; those who did not would be cursed by God. That's a lot to take in. The very next phrase simply says, "Abram went!" Abram did not stand around making excuses for why he could not possibly go ... he went. Abram trusted in God's plan for him and he obediently followed God's leading.

As Genesis 15 opens, Abram had a vision sent from God. As is typical in vision accounts in Scripture, Abram was warned to not be afraid. Abram and his family had just fought a battle where Abram had to rescue his nephew Lot. God promised Abram that God would be a shield and protector to him. God also promised Abram a great reward.

Later God changed Abram's name to Abraham. The name Abram meant "father is exalted." The name Abraham meant "father of a multitude." Sarai and Sarah meant "princess" and spoke of the fact that kings would come from her sons. God once again told Abraham that a child would be born of Sarah and they would name him Isaac, which meant "laughter."

SESSION FOCUS

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Abraham for something special.

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:1-7

BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 12:2

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

BIBLE SKILLS: Preschoolers will...

- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.
- Begin to pronounce the names of the books of the Bible.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home Printable (Music & Print Extras)
- Preschool Activity Page
- Preschool Family Card

LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.



MISSIONS ACTIVITY: DRIVE ON TAPE ROADS

Tools: Bible, masking tape, toy cars and buses, toy traffic signs

- Make a series of tape roads on the floor. Put the vehicles at different points along the roads.
- Perhaps people in your church participated in mission activities this past summer. Explain to preschoolers: “People from our church travel in our country and to other countries to tell others about Jesus. Jesus told us to do that.”
- Open the Bible to Matthew 28:19-20 and read the Bible verse. Help children say the verse or a part of it. Remark that this verse is often called the Great Commission.
- As children play and drive the vehicles, say: “People fly in airplanes, ride boats, travel in cars, trains, and buses to go places to tell about Jesus. Jesus said to go everywhere.”

LEADER TIP!

Explain to preschoolers that a commission is an instruction or command. Jesus instructed His disciples and us to go all over the world to tell people about Him.

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Abraham for something special.

BIBLE STORY

God's Promise to Abraham
Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:1-7

BIBLE VERSE

I will bless you and make your name great.
Genesis 12:2

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:1-7

One day God spoke to Abraham. "Abraham, leave this land. Leave your father's house. Go to a new homeland. I will show you how to get there."

Abraham listened to God. Then God told Abraham that He would bless him. God would make Abraham's name great. God said He would bless the people who were kind to Abraham, and He would punish people who were unkind and did harmful things to Abraham and his family. "All the people on earth will be blessed because of you, Abraham," God said.

So Abraham obeyed God. Abraham packed up all his things. He loaded the wagons and donkeys. Abraham's family packed all their clothes. They traveled until they got to the place where God wanted them to live, a new land called Canaan. When Abraham reached Canaan, he stopped and looked around.

God said, "Abraham, I will give this land to your children."

God told Abraham to look up at the sky and count the stars (as if he could). God told Abraham his family would have children and more children until there were more people in Abraham's family than stars in the sky.

Abraham believed what God said. He knew God had a plan for him.

God was pleased that Abraham believed these things would happen. God said, "I will always keep my promise to you, Abraham. You and your wife Sarah will have a son. Many more children will be born in your family. I will bless you and your family forever."

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

I will make you into a great nation and make your name great. Genesis 12:2

Paraphrase:

I will bless you and make your name great. Genesis 12:2



CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

GATHER

- As children move to Circle Time, play music and lead boys and girls to clap to the music.
- Direct children to be seated. Say: “I will whisper a message to one child. That child should whisper the message to the next child, and so on until everyone hears the message.” Whisper something like “Listen to God.”
- Tell the last child to say the message aloud. Comment: “In today’s Bible story you will hear about a man who listened to God.”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Genesis 12 and show children the Book of Genesis. Say: “Today’s Bible story is in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Listen to this true story about a man named Abraham.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. After the story, pass the Story Picture around the circle for each child to hold.
- Lay the picture aside and toss a small ball to a child. Encourage her to tell something she remembers about the Bible story. Continue until each child has a turn to talk.
- Comment: “God chose Abraham for something special. God said Abraham would have many children who would number more than the stars, and all people would be blessed.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Remind preschoolers that the Book of Genesis is in the Old Testament. Distribute Bibles to the children and ask teachers to help preschoolers locate the Book of Genesis. Look for Abraham’s name in Genesis 17:5.
- Open your Bible to the marker placed at Genesis 12:2. Say the Bible verse and prompt children to repeat it with you.
- Guide preschoolers to say the first half of the verse while sitting, then stand to say the second half of the verse and Scripture reference.

PRAY

- Allow any preschooler who would like to pray to voice a short prayer.
- Close prayer time by thanking God for His promises.

TOOLS

- several Bibles
- Music & Print Extras
- small ball

PACK ITEMS

- 3 Story Picture: God’s Promise to Abraham
- 17 September Bible Markers

LEADER TIP!

God changed Abram’s name to Abraham. Explain that the name *Abraham* meant “father of many.” God told Abraham he would have many children.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Abraham for something special.

BIBLE STORY

God's Promise to Abraham
Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:1-7

BIBLE VERSE

I will bless you and make your name great.
Genesis 12:2

PACK ITEMS

3 Story Picture: God's Promise to Abraham
17 September Bible Markers

PRINTABLES

Allergy Sign
Bible Names Tracing Page: Abraham
How to Make a Loom

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers. Use the Bible in every exploration.

PLAY WITH CARD TENTS



Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, index cards

- Fold several index cards in half to form tents. Stand the tents near the blocks.
- As children build with the blocks, prop a tent next to a structure. Comment: "Abraham's family lived in tents, not houses. God told Abraham and his family to move, so they folded up their tents to take with them to their new home."
- Talk about things that people need when they move to a new home. Remark that people in Bible times probably sat and slept on the ground.
- Turn to Genesis 12 and comment that God chose Abraham for something special.

SPELL A BIBLE NAME



Tools: Bible; magnetic letters; cookie pans; Bible Names Tracing Page: Abraham; colored pencils

- Print a Tracing Page for each child. Lay an extra page on the Bible.
- Give a child a Tracing Page and some colored pencils. Read the name *Abraham* and say the letters. Invite the child to write the letters of Abraham's name.
- Another child may be interested in placing magnetic letters on the pan to spell Abraham's name. He can use the Tracing Page as a guide.
- Turn to Genesis 12:2 and say the Bible verse.

PACK BOXES TO MOVE

Tools: Bible; September Bible Markers; toy dishes and pans; dress-up clothes; several medium boxes; 2 or 3 books about families; Story Picture: God's Promise to Abraham

- Place the boxes in the home center of your room. Use today's Bible Marker to mark Genesis 12:2.
- Say: "Abraham listened to God and moved his family to a new home. Abraham packed all his belongings. Let's pretend to move and pack these boxes to take with us."
- Lead children to pack items in the boxes.
- While children work, show them the Story Picture. Comment: "God said He would bless Abraham. That means God would do good things for Abraham."
- Find Genesis 12:2 and say the Bible verse together.
- Read the books to children.

MAKE A NIGHTTIME STAR PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, black or dark blue construction paper, shiny star stickers, mailing labels with today's Bible verse printed on them

- Print the labels ahead of time, making enough for each child to have one label.
- Show a child the picture on the Activity Page. Ask the preschooler to point to the stars in the sky.
- Say: "God told Abraham He would give him many, many children. God said, 'Count the stars, Abraham. You will have more children than stars in the sky.' That is a large family!"
- Invite the preschooler to make a nighttime star picture to help him think about this true story from the Bible.
- Lead the child to say the Bible verse printed on his label.

WEAVE NATURE ITEMS

Tools: Bible; How to Make a Loom; craft sticks; hot glue; yarn or string; nature items to weave (leaves, small twigs, flowers); tray; Allergy Sign; Preschool Family Card

- Arrange the nature items on the tray near the looms. Display the Allergy Sign outside the room to inform parents of nature items.
- Invite preschoolers to weave nature items through the yarn. As children weave, tell about Abraham's trip and nature items he might have seen on the journey.
- Say: "God loves people and has a plan for them. God chose Abraham for something special."
- Open the Bible to Genesis 12 as you tell the Bible story. Show children the picture on the Family Card.

LEADER TIP!

Prepare one or more looms using the directions on the *How to Make a Loom* printable.

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Abraham for something special.

BIBLE STORY

God's Promise to Abraham
 Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:1-7
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

I will bless you and make your name great.
 Genesis 12:2

PACK ITEMS

3 Story Picture: God's Promise to Abraham

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

Look for printable Next Hour Helps in *Music & Print Extras*.

PLAY WITH PEOPLE & ANIMAL FIGURES

Tools: Bible, dollhouse (opt.), plastic people figures, toy animals

- Observe preschoolers as they pretend with the dollhouse and figures. Listen for opportunities to relate the children's play to God's plan for Abraham. Remark that God told Abraham to move to a new land.
- Talk to the children about moving or going to new places. Remind children that God cared for Abraham and He cares for children and families.
- Turn to Genesis 15 and tell the Bible story. Say: "God chose Abraham for something special. Abraham would be the father of many people."

CUT PLAY DOUGH STARS

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, plastic or metal star-shaped cookie cutters (mixed sizes, if available), Music & Print Extras

- Play music in the background, listening for songs about God. Encourage preschoolers to sing or hum with the music.
- Offer a mound of fresh dough to a child and invite her to choose a cookie cutter. As she rolls, flattens, and cuts play dough stars, say: "God told Abraham to look at the stars in the sky and try to count them. God said He would give Abraham that many children and more."
- Ask the preschooler how many people are in her family. Thank God for His plan for Abraham and families.

MAKE A PEOPLE PICTURE

Tools: Bible, paper, people picture cutouts, glue sticks, washable markers, Activity Page

- Slip the Activity Page into the Bible to mark Genesis 12.
- Print the Bible verse on a paper. Give the paper to a preschooler and read the Bible verse to him. Suggest that the child choose people pictures to glue onto his paper.
- Say: "God promised to give many children to Abraham. God loves people and wants people to love Him. Abraham loved God and believed what God told him."

- Open the Bible and look at the picture on the Activity Page. Ask the child what he remembers about the Bible story and Abraham. Give hints or suggestions as you recall the Bible story.
- Say: “God chose Abraham for something special. God promised He would give Abraham a large family. God always keeps His promises.”

PLAY IN A TENT

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God’s Promise to Abraham, white sheet, table, wooden blocks, paper strip, 2 or 3 books about God

- Mark the Bible story in the Bible with the paper strip. Place the blocks, sheet, Story Picture, and Bible near the table.
- Invite preschoolers to help build a tent. Children can drape the sheet over the table and use blocks to anchor the sides and build a pretend fire.
- Suggest that children sit in the tent to read books.
- Show the Story Picture to the children. Point to Abraham Say: “Abraham sat outside his tent and looked at the nighttime sky. He saw many stars.”
- Summarize the Bible story for children.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Shine a flashlight around the room to lead children to the circle.
- Give each child opportunity to turn the flashlight on and off.

answers. Say: “God chose Abraham for something special. God made a promise to Abraham to make his name great, and God did what He said!”

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Shine the light on the Story Picture. Point to the stars.
- Ask questions to review the Bible story with children:
Who was the man God talked to? (*Abraham*)
What did God tell Abraham to do? (*move to a new land*)
What promise did God make to the man? (*God would give Abraham many children.*)
- Thank preschoolers for their

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Help each child open a Bible to Genesis 12:2. Lead the children to say the Bible verse together.
- Say: “Abraham believed God would do what He said. God made Abraham’s name great.”

PRAY

- Thank God for keeping His promises to Abraham and to us.