

ENDURING
FAITH[™]

Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

ONE-ROOM STUDY GUIDE

Unit 4: God Calls a Nation



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

THE ONE-ROOM CLASSROOM

This guide was created for leaders who teach multiple ages in one classroom. Options for younger and older children, size, and ability of your group help you tailor the lessons to your needs. Checkboxes help you choose and prepare the activities for each lesson.

OVERVIEW

The Overview lets you see the biblical foundation of each lesson at a glance. All levels of the Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum share the same Bible Truth, Bible Verse, Law & Gospel, and Scripture Snapshot, allowing families to learn together each week.

LESSON PREP

Use these suggestions for your own Bible study as you prepare to lead this lesson.

Basic: Begin here—read the full Bible text.

More Time: Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

In Depth: Gain a deeper understanding of the narrative and its context.

SUPPLIES

For This Lesson: Gather only the supplies for the activities you choose to use. You may want to put together a Supply Box of frequently used items to keep on hand. Look below for suggestions of items to include in the Supply Box.

For Every Lesson: Use this checklist as a reminder of items that you may want on hand for every lesson.

SUPPLY BOX

The items in the Supply Box are used frequently. Gather them to be prepared for many of the lesson activities.

- ☐ White copy paper, construction paper, tissue paper
- ☐ Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencils, pens
- ☐ Paint, paint brushes, and smocks
- ☐ School glue, glue sticks, tape, glitter glue
- ☐ Child-friendly scissors, hole punch, stapler
- ☐ Yarn, pom-poms, craft sticks, pipe cleaners
- ☐ Wiggle eyes, beads, buttons, stickers
- ☐ Paper plates, paper lunch bags, paper cups
- ☐ Play dough and tools
- ☐ Poster board or large sheets of paper

LAUNCH

Begin: Use the Opening Worship, the Lesson Opening, and/or music from the digital resource center.

Say: Choose an option to help get children thinking.

Prayer: Call upon God's name and ask for His guidance as you study His Word.

LEARN

Tell the Bible Narrative: Two narrative options are provided—one for younger children and one for older children.

Do This: Choose an option to review the lesson.

Talk about It: Choose questions to fit the learning level of your group.

Key Discussion Points: These points guide your discussion and highlight biblical truths.

Christ Connection: This shows how Jesus is central to every lesson.

LIVE

A variety of activity options lets you choose how you will reinforce the Bible truths of the lesson. Choose from crafts, snack, movement, Bible Verse fun, and more. Remember to gather the supplies you will need for each activity option you choose.

LEAVE

Say: This thought sums up the truth of the lesson.

Prayer: Give thanks to God for His blessings, love, and new life in Jesus.

DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTER

Additional resources are available in the online digital resource center at cph.org/digitalcontent. Ask your coordinator for access to the materials in the online digital resource center.

PLANNING PAGES

See Planning Pages for Leader Devotions, Order of Opening Worship, and Lesson Openings.

MUSIC RESOURCES

Ask your coordinator for access to music for each unit.

ENDURING FAITH PAGES

Enduring Faith Pages provide a reproducible take-home resource that gives a summary of each Bible lesson and provides suggestions for “taking home” Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse, perfect for coloring.

DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITY PAGES

Each lesson has an extra activity page that can be downloaded and photocopied.

HANDMADE

Adam and Eve
Genesis 1:26–2:25
Beginning of time

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God made people for relationships.

BIBLE VERSE

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Psalm 139:14

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God made me to live together with other people in a community.

LAW & GOSPEL

I fail in my relationships with God and with others.
God forgives me and restores my relationship with Himself and others through His Son, Jesus.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

God creates man in His own image with His own hands and breathes in him His own breath. Formed from the dust of the ground, Adam needs more than just animal companionship. So our heavenly Father makes the perfect complement to man, creating woman from Adam's rib, and places them in the garden.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Genesis 1:26–2:25 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Review the article “The History of Humanity” in *TLSB*, page 19.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Four gift bags
- ☐ Container of water; cutout shapes of sun, moon, and stars; toy fish and birds; plastic animals; baggie of dirt; boy and girl dolls
- ☐ Washable ink pads
- ☐ Removable tape
- ☐ Dice
- ☐ Mirror
- ☐ Shaving cream, smocks
- ☐ Animal and fish crackers
- ☐ Animal pictures from magazines

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Device with prepped music
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- ☐ Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- ☐ Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- ☐ Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

PRAY

Dear God, help us use our ears to listen and to learn that You made us to be Your special people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SAY

- ☐ **Hi, friends. I'm glad to see you all today! You are special to God and to me.**
- ☐ **Who are the people in your family? Who are the people that you call friends? God gave us all these people in our lives as a gift. God created us to be connected—or in relationship—with other people, who are His special creation.**

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- ☐ **FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS** Number four gift bags from 1 to 4. In each bag, put object(s) representing that part of the story. Bag 1: God creates everything (focus on the first five days of creation). You could include a container of water; cutout shapes for the sun, moon, and stars; toy fish and birds. Bag 2: God made Adam from dirt. Include a baggie of dirt and a boy doll. Bag 3: God gave Adam the important job of naming all the animals. Include several toy animals. Bag 4: God made Eve. Include a girl doll to represent Eve. After you have read the story to the class, pass out the bags. Going in order, ask the students to pull out the item(s) in their bag and talk about how the objects represent part of the narrative.
- ☐ **FOR STRONG READERS** Have students work in pairs to read this account to each other directly from the Scriptures.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- ☐ What did God create?
- ☐ Who did God create, and what job did He give them?
- ☐ How was God's creation of Adam and Eve different from His creation of everything else? Why does that matter?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. God breathed the "breath of life" into them. Humans are God's special creation.
- Relationships are the key theme of this Bible narrative: humanity's relationship with God, humanity's relationship with one another, and humanity's relationship with creation.
- God wanted humankind to rule over creation with loving care. Having dominion over the earth doesn't mean that we are to be selfish and harmful. We are still called to care for creation and to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came into the world to fix our broken relationship with God.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: After you tell the story, ask children to draw a picture of what they think the Garden of Eden looked like.

Do you remember who made the world? Yes, God did! He separated the darkness from light and made day and night. He gathered the waters to make oceans and land. He made the sun and moon and stars. He made plants to grow on the land. He made fish to swim in the water and birds to fly in the air. He made every kind of animal, from the littlest bug to the biggest elephant! God used His powerful word to make all these things.

But God wasn't finished yet. "Now," He said, "I will make the most wonderful thing of all."

What do you think God made? God said, "I will make someone who can know Me and love Me and who will be My child. I will make a person!" So God took dirt from the ground and shaped it into a man. Then God breathed into the man and made him come alive. The name of the first man was Adam. Adam was very special. He could make things with his hands. Adam could think and talk. He was good like God.

God made a beautiful garden for Adam to live in. It was called the Garden of Eden. He wanted Adam to take care of it. He told Adam he could eat everything in the garden

except the fruit of one tree. Then God brought all the animals to Adam and said, "Whatever you call them, that will be their name." What fun Adam had giving names to all the animals and birds. "I think I will call the little animal swinging by his tail a monkey." Then Adam saw an animal with a long, long neck. Do you know what Adam called it? *Pause.* Yes, a giraffe!

But Adam was lonely. There were no other people in the world. So God made a woman too. He brought her to Adam. Adam was glad when he saw her. He named her Eve. Eve became Adam's wife. They lived in the beautiful garden. They took care of the plants and animals there.

Adam and Eve were good like God. They never did anything bad. The heavenly Father often came to see them and talk with them. He said He would give them many children. They loved God and God loved them. God looked at what He created and said, "It is good."

God made you, too, and loves you. You are very special to Him!

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Before God created man and woman, He made everything they would need to live on earth. He created dark and light, and then a sky to separate the waters above from the waters below. He created soil as well as trees and other plants. He created the sun, moon, and stars; fish and birds; and all the animals.

God made man too. He reached down into the ground and took a big glob of dirt and clay. He carefully formed the man's body. Then God breathed into the man and God's breath made the man come alive. He opened his eyes, stood up on his feet, and looked at the beautiful world around him. Because he was formed out of the ground, God called his name *Adam*, which means "dirt" or "ground."

God placed Adam in a beautiful home called the Garden of Eden. The garden had two special trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It also had flowing rivers.

God gave Adam a special job: to have dominion over all creation. That meant Adam would rule over everything. Adam studied each animal carefully and gave it just the right name, but none of them could really be the kind of friend Adam needed.

God knew that it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. So God made a helper that was just right for him. God made the man fall into a deep sleep.

The Lord wanted all people to be connected together, so He took a rib out of Adam's side while he slept. God formed dirt and clay around that rib to make a woman who would be the perfect friend for Adam. The Lord breathed His breath into the woman, and she became alive too, just like Adam. Adam named her Eve because she would become the mother of the human family.

Adam was very happy because he finally had a friend who was like him, but different too. God made Adam and Eve in His image or likeness. That doesn't mean they looked like God or had His power. It means they were perfect and holy. They were without sin.

Sadly, since Adam and Eve sinned, we are all sinners. We aren't perfect, and we don't always rule wisely over creation. Through Jesus, God makes us holy. Our God offers us forgiveness because of the sacrifice of His Son. He provides all things for our good.

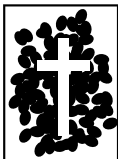
And that is how all people are connected. Eve came from Adam, and all of us come from Adam and Eve. We may look different, dress different, and sound different, but we are all Adam and Eve's children.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

☐ Fingerprint Pictures

Set out washable ink pads in several colors. Use removable tape to make a cross in the middle of a sheet of white paper. Talk about how our fingerprints are unique to us. No one has exactly the same ones. Make fingerprints over page. Peel off the tape to reveal cross. Say, **Even though we sometimes mess up, through Jesus, we are still perfect in God's eyes.**



☐ Let's Move!

Tell children you will roll a die and suggest an action (e.g., jump, clap, hop, wink, pat head) that you want them to do the number of times on the die (e.g., roll a six and jump six times). Say, **God made your bodies in an amazing way. Look at all the things you can do!** If some children can't do an action, affirm how we are all different and can do different things. Let children suggest actions they can do too.



☐ God Made Me

Give each child a paper plate, craft stick, crayons, stickers, and decorating supplies (e.g., yarn, ribbon, buttons). Let children look at themselves in a mirror, then decorate a plate to look like them. They can match the color of their eyes, add yarn for hair, and so on. Help children write their names on the craft sticks and attach them to their plates. Say, **God made the first people, and God made you too.**



☐ Shaving Cream Creations

Have children wear paint shirts. Put some shaving cream on the table in front of each child, and have them use their fingers to draw things in creation (flowers, trees, rivers) or suggest body parts for them to draw (face, hand, foot). Say, **God made the world, and God made you in a special way. You can do many things. What can you make with your hands?**



☐ Creation Snack

Give children animal and fish crackers. Say, **God made the world. He made people in a special way. He loved them and put them in charge of His creation. It was Adam's job to care for the animals and name them. God wants us to take care of His creation too.** Talk about ways to do this.



☐ Create Your Own

Have students use pictures of parts of different animals from magazines (or their own drawings) and put them together to form new animals. Have them think up funny names and purposes for their new creations. Talk about God's wonderful and perfect way to create all things.



☐ Someone Special

Young children need extra help moving from one activity to another. Using consistent songs, chants, sounds, and picture cues can help. As you say each child's name in this rhyme, have child line up or go to the next area. Say, **I see someone special. Someone special I see. God made [Zoe] special. [Zoe] is special to me.**



LEAVE

SAY

You are certainly wonderfully made! God made you all to be in relationships with other people that God made. God made humans to be connected to one another.

PRAY

Gracious heavenly Father, it is not good for us to be alone. Thank You for putting us together in families and for giving us friends that make our lives better. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Help us to share that Good News with everyone in our community. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

A SIGN AND A PROMISE

God's Covenant
with Abram
Genesis 15:1–6;
17:1–21
2067 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God promises us a future.

BIBLE VERSE

For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus].
2 Corinthians 1:20

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God promises me a future through Jesus.

LAW & GOSPEL

I doubt God's care for me and fail to trust His promises.
God chooses me in my Baptism and promises to be with me forever.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

God reassures Abram of His promise to bless the earth through Abram's offspring. God changes his name from Abram ("exalted father") to Abraham ("father of many nations") and institutes circumcision as the sign of His continued covenant with Abraham. Despite Abraham and Sarah's advanced age, God promises they will have a son of their own.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Genesis 15:1–6; 17:1–21 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read Genesis 12:1–9 in *TLSB* for more context to Abraham's blessing.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Puppet
- ☐ Digital device
- ☐ Bubble solution
- ☐ Rice Krispies Treats or sugar cookies shaped like stars, sprinkles
- ☐ Copies of bedtime prayers, star stickers, picture of Jesus (one per child)

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Device with prepped music
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- ☐ Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- ☐ Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- ☐ Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

SAY

- ☐ **Who likes to wait?** Give examples, such as waiting for supper or a birthday. **Waiting is hard, isn't it? Today, we'll hear about a man and his wife who had to wait a long time for something. They might even have thought God forgot about them. But God didn't forget. We'll find out what God told them.**
- ☐ **What do you know about your name? Do you know what it means?** Listen and discuss responses positively. **If you could change your name, would you? What name would you choose? Today, we're going to learn about someone whose name got changed by God.**

PRAY

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for the opportunity to study Your Word with friends. Bless our time together. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- ☐ **FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS** Have students make signs with a happy face as a visual cue, using paper plates taped to craft sticks. As you read the story narrative aloud with students, instruct students to raise their happy-face sign and shout "Yes!" whenever you read the sentences in bold print. Encourage older students to add the words from today's Bible verse to their signs.
- ☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** After you and the students read through this narrative, have students work in pairs to write review questions about this narrative to ask one another or exchange between groups. Encourage students to use their Bible to write and answer questions.

TALK ABOUT IT

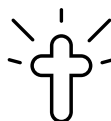
Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- ☐ What promises did God make to Abraham?
- ☐ Who was born from Abraham's family many, many years later?
- ☐ In the Old Testament, God sometimes spoke directly to His people. How does God speak to us today?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- God promised to make a great nation out of Abraham and that all people would be blessed through his descendants. The promise to Abraham is a promise that God will work through Abraham and his descendants to bring salvation through our Savior, Jesus.
- Today, God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. We hear God speak to us when we read and study His Word, when we hear it read and proclaimed in worship, and when others share God's Word with us.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises. In Him, God paid the price for our sins and offers us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: God changed Abram's name to Abraham in Genesis 17:5, so that's what he is called here. Put a towel over your head for a Bible-times headpiece, or use a puppet to represent Abraham when you tell his story.

Long ago, God told Abraham to leave his home and move to a new land. **God promised to bless Abraham with a new home, a big family, and a Savior.**

Let's pretend I am Abraham telling the story.
(*Pretend to be Abraham by putting on a head scarf, or use a puppet.*)

Hi, everyone! Do you like to look at the stars in the sky? I want to tell you about a special time God told me to look at the stars in the sky.

It all happened a long, long time ago. I was very sad. Do you know why? I had a lot of nice things. God had blessed me with a new land to live in and many sheep. But there was something my wife, Sarah, and I didn't have. It was something we wanted more than anything. We did not have a little boy or girl to love. That made us sad.

One night while I was sitting in my tent, **God spoke to me and told me He would bless me.** I asked Him how and reminded Him that I didn't have any children. God said, "Go outside and look up into the sky." What do you think I saw? Yes, lots and lots of stars! God told me to count them. Well, I tried, but there were so many, I couldn't even count them all! Then God told me that's how many children and

grandchildren and great grandchildren and their children there would be in my family!

This idea made me laugh! I thought my wife and I were too old to have any children. **But nothing is too hard for God. He told us we would have a little boy.** And then he'd have children and they'd have children. **My family would grow and grow. God said he would bless many people through it.**

God had promised to give us a family many years before. We waited and waited. It seemed like God had forgotten His promise. But He didn't! **God always keeps His word. He kept this promise too.** The next year we had a little boy named Isaac. And many, many years later, another special baby was born from our family. Do you know who? Yes, baby Jesus!

Because of Jesus, God forgives your sins and makes you part of His family too. So, whenever you look at the stars, remember the promise God made to me. And remember the promises God makes to you, especially His promise to forgive all the wrong things you think and say and do because of His Son, Jesus.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

God told Abram to go from his home to a land He would show him. So Abram left his home and relatives. **God promised Abram He would be with him and bless him.**

After many years went by, God blessed Abram with many servants and flocks. He gave Abram a new place to live and promised Abram that the land would belong to his off-spring. But Abram wondered how this could be because he still had no son to be his heir. He and Sarai had no one to receive all the gifts that God had given them.

God told Abram to go outside. "Look at the sky," He said. **"Try to count the stars, if you can."** Abram looked at the sky full of stars. God said, **"That is how many offspring you will have.** It will be more than you can count. You will have many grandchildren and great-grandchildren." Abram believed God, and God counted his faith as righteousness.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God promised Abram that he would be the father of many nations. God said, "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but **your name shall be Abraham**, for I have made you the father of many nations." And God said to Abraham, **"As for Sarai, your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless you and Sarah and give you a son next year."**

Abraham laughed and said, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, have a child?" Abraham wasn't laughing because he thought the promise was funny. He was laughing because it was hard to believe that God would keep His promise in this way.

God made another promise to Abraham and all his children. God gave Abraham faith to believe this promise too. **It was an everlasting covenant, and it would mean that all Abraham's children would have the promise of God's own Son coming to save them.**

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

☐ Star Light, Star Bright

Play star lullabies on a digital device, or sing “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” God talked about stars when He made promises to Abraham. Say, **Stars can’t make our wishes come true, but they can remind us of God’s promises and how we can trust Him to keep His promises to us just as He did for Abraham.**



☐ Action Rhyme

Do this rhyme: **Abraham and Sarah wanted a son.** (*Cradle baby in arms.*) **God told them He would give them one.** (*Point up.*) **Their children would number like stars in the sky.** (*Twinkle fingers.*) **“Go ahead and count them,” God said. “Just try.”** (*Pretend to count stars.*) **God gave Abraham faith to believe this was true.** (*Place hand on heart.*) **God gives us faith to trust His promises too.** (*Place other hand on heart.*) **He sent Jesus to be our Savior and Friend.** (*Make cross with fingers.*) **Jesus’ love lasts forever; it’s without end.** (*Hug self.*)



☐ Bubble Makers

Help children bend a pipe cleaner into a circle shape. Twist ends together and twist on another pipe cleaner for a handle. Thread pony beads onto the handle and twist up the end so beads don’t fall off. Purchase or make bubble solution (find recipes online) to use with wands. Dip the bubble makers into solution. Blow gently or wave to make bubbles. Say, **God keeps all His promises. Count the bubbles you blow. For each one, name a promise God gives you.**



☐ Night Sounds

Have children pretend it’s night. Count the stars. Have them close their eyes as you talk about night sounds or play sounds from a digital device (e.g., an owl hooting, a car rumbling, a storm). Say, **Night sounds can seem scary when we can’t see what’s making the noise, but we don’t have to be afraid because Jesus promises to be with us always.**



☐ Star Snack

Serve Rice Krispies Treats stars or star sugar cookies. For Rice Krispies stars, follow recipe to make Rice Krispies Treats. Sprinkle with blue and white sprinkles. Cut with star cookie cutters.



☐ Prayer Booklet

Make copies of bedtime prayers for each child. Give children construction paper to decorate for a cover. Fold the page in half and glue the prayers to the inside. Give children star stickers and a picture of Jesus to glue on the front. Encourage them to use one of the prayers at home this week.



☐ Family Constellation

Tell students that a constellation of stars is a group of stars that make a picture in the night sky. If possible, show examples. Give children star stickers, and have them make a pattern on black construction paper, placing one star for each person in their family. They can give their family constellation a name!



LEAVE

SAY

God promised Abraham a future, and He promises us a future too—all through His Son, Jesus.

PRAY

Gracious heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Jesus and promising an eternal future with You. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.