

Week 14: God Calls Abraham

Genesis 12–14; Hebrews 11:8

Objectives

Students will . . .

- Contrast Abraham and Lot.
- Explain how Abraham demonstrated his faith.

Week at a Glance

To the Teacher: Pray for your students daily and prayerfully study the verses given above.

Note: Even though Abraham is referred to as Abram until his name was changed, this lesson uses the name Abraham for clarity.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lesson	God Calls Abraham	Abraham Makes Mistakes	Free to Choose	Lot Needs Rescue	Show What You Know
Big Idea	Abraham leaves his land and obeys God.	Abraham pretends Sarah is his sister.	Lot and Abraham argue and split apart.	God uses Abraham and his fighters to rescue Lot.	Review for and administer this week’s quiz.
Videos/ Links	<u>Abraham’s Journey—Map</u>	<u>Abraham’s Journey—Map</u>			
Materials	Suitcase or overnight bag, verse strips, blind fold		Brownies or similar treat, verse strips, 2 cardboard boxes	Molding clay	
Copies	Daily Bible Connection Print one copy of verse cut out strips.				Show What You Know Quiz

MONDAY: God Calls Abraham

Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:8

Hook: Discussion and Dramatization

Cut apart each title/reference and assign parts to students by distributing the slips of paper. Students will read their parts when you call on them later in the lesson.

Voice of the Lord 1—Genesis 12:1	Narrator 3—Genesis 12:5
Voice of the Lord 2—Genesis 12:2	Voice of the Lord 4—Genesis 12:7b
Voice of the Lord 3—Genesis 12:3	Narrator 4—Genesis 12:6-7 (Voice of Lord comes in verse 7b)
Narrator 1—Hebrews 11:8	Narrator 5—Genesis 12:8
Narrator 2—Genesis 12:4	Narrator 6—Genesis 12:9

Did any of you go on a trip over Christmas vacation? Where did you go? Did you pack a suitcase? How did you know what to pack? [Allow several students to share their trip experiences before moving on.]

Going on a vacation takes planning. You don't want to end up in Florida at the beach with only snow boots. You don't want to travel to a ski resort and pack only your swimsuit.

You need even more planning and packing when you move to a different place. How many of you have moved before? Can you imagine leaving to move to another place and not knowing where you were going?

This week we are going to learn about Abraham, the person God chose to begin a nation—a special nation that God wanted to be His own people.

Today I've handed out parts, the slip of paper each of you received just a few minutes ago. I'll let you know when to read your part.

Reading Focus: How is Abraham described?

Narrator 1: Hebrews 11:8

Question for Comprehension:

- What does that verse tell us that Abraham had?
Answer: Faith

- How can you tell Abraham had faith?
Answer: He obeyed God.
- Where did God call Him to go?
Answer: A place Abraham would later receive as his own, but he didn't know where he was going.

Voice of the Lord 1: Genesis 12:1

Reading Focus: What did God promise when He called Abraham?

Voice of the Lord 2: Genesis 12:2

Voice of the Lord 3: Genesis 12:3

Question for Comprehension: What are the seven parts of God's promise?

Answer: (You may want to write these out on a white board as the students find them in the text.)

1. I will make you a great nation.
2. I will bless you.
3. I will make your name great.
4. You will be a blessing to others.
5. I will bless those who bless you.
6. I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you.
7. All nations of the earth will be blessed because of you.

Do you remember anyone we studied before Christmas who did something so that they would make a great name for themselves? It was a whole group of people who came together to do something that would make them famous.

Answer: The people who tried to build the tower of Babel after the worldwide flood.

The plan to make their name famous failed when God confused their languages. Now God is telling Abraham that he will have a great name. Abraham's name became great because He had faith to obey God.

We read in verse 1 that God told Abraham to leave his country, his people, and his father's family.

Reading Focus: What do you think Abraham did?

Narrator 2: Genesis 12:4

Narrator 3: Genesis 12:5

Question for Comprehension: What did Abraham do?

Answer: He went—just as the Lord had told him.

- Why do you think Abraham's instant obedience was important?
Answer: It showed that Abraham was letting God be the boss who makes the decisions. Abraham was not making his own decisions.

Moving all your family and possessions is not easy.

Narrator 4: Genesis 12:6–7a (stop reading after "He said")

Voice of the Lord 4: Genesis 12:7b

Narrator 4: Genesis 12:7 (end of verse).

Narrator 5: Genesis 12:8

Narrator 6: Genesis 12:9

Let's take a look and see where Abraham was travelling.

Abraham's Journey—Map

Abraham's Call Activity

Divide the class into two groups: The travelers and the guides. The travelers must be blindfolded or keep their eyes closed while the guides decide among themselves where the "Promised Land" will be in the class room and arrange classroom objects for a "travel path." Pair up travelers with guides and instruct the guides to use their words to direct the "blind" travelers from one side of the room to the promise land.

This is a lot like Abraham and God. God commanded Abraham to leave his homeland and go to another land. Abraham didn't know exactly where that would be, but he knew that God had given him promises and would be his guide.

Discovery Words

1. We pray for God to **ble**ss our family.
*ble*ss—to grant God's favor, care, provision, and protection to someone
2. God put a **cu**rse on the serpent.
*cu*rse—words spoken that call upon a supernatural power to bring trouble to someone.
(*Note:* This is different from the kind of curse that is an offensive word that someone says.)
3. The farmer brought the **live**stock into the barn because of the blizzard.
*live*stock—farm animals that are often kept in a herd
4. God's **gra**ce was on Abraham even though he made a bad choice.
*gra*ce—God's provision of what we need, not because we deserve it, but because He chooses to give us what we do not deserve

Memory Verse

Abraham went out not knowing where he was going. He trusted God and did not lean on his own understanding. For this week and next week, we will focus on **Proverbs 3:5-6** as our memory passage.

TUESDAY: Abraham Makes Mistakes

Genesis 12:10—13:4

Discussion

Connect to Prior Learning:

- Who did we introduce yesterday?
Answer: Abraham
- Why is Abraham important?
Answer: He is the one God chose to start the nation that would be God's chosen people—the Jews.
- When God called Abraham to leave where he was living, what did Abraham do?
Answer: Obeyed. He followed God.

We've learned about many important people in the Bible, such as Adam and Noah, and now we are learning about Abraham.

Do you think these people are in the Bible because they are heroes?

Answer: Answer may vary. Some may think so because many refer to them as heroes of the faith.

Remind students that the people in the Bible are not heroes. They are normal people who sometimes did things that were very wrong. Jesus, the perfect Son of God, is the hero of the Bible. This is an important reminder as we continue learning about men and women of the Bible.

Discussion

Yesterday we left Abraham in the Negev desert. In Genesis 12 we find out that he went down into Egypt.

Reading Focus: Why did he travel (with his wife and all his belongings) down into Egypt?

Read Aloud: Genesis 12:10

Question for Comprehension:

- Why did Abraham go down to Egypt?
Answer: There wasn't enough food. (*Note:* Introduce the word *famine*, a time when food is scarce.)
- Why do you think Egypt was a good place to go during the famine?
Answer: Answers may vary, but students should grasp the general idea that Egypt was a wealthy country during this time and would have had more food during the famine.

When Abraham was headed to Egypt, he decided to do something that was wrong.

Reading Focus: What wrong thing was Abraham planning to do?

Read Aloud: Genesis 12:11–13

Question for Comprehension: What wrong thing did Abraham tell Sarah to do?

Answer: Abraham told Sarah to tell the people of Egypt that she was his sister. Abraham was going to lie.

Wow! Abraham was going to lie and told Sarah, his wife, to lie as well so that He would be treated well and stay alive. Husbands are supposed to protect their wives and provide for them, but Abraham is *not* protecting Sarah. He is deceiving others and putting his wife (and God's plans) in danger because he fears for himself.

Read Aloud: Genesis 12:14–16

This situation is *not* good. Do you remember the promise God gave to Abraham? His children were going to become a great nation. How could that happen if his wife is to be taken to be part of Pharaoh's household? Pharaoh was giving Abraham the bride-price for his sister and he took it and let her go. Men should never treat women this way. Abraham deceived Pharaoh and did nothing to protect his wife. Even though Abraham is not willing to protect Sarah—God is.

Bible and Culture: Discuss with students the biblical responsibility that husbands have towards their wives and families, especially as it regards their physical and spiritual safety. How does a biblical view of a husband and father's responsibility differ from what your current culture teaches? Perhaps use John 15:13, Ephesians 5:23, and 1 Peter 3:7 to help support the discussion.

Reading Focus: What happened next to Pharaoh?

Read Aloud: Genesis 12:17–20

Question for Comprehension: How did God protect Sarah?

Answer: God made everyone in Pharaoh's palace sick.

Reading Focus: What did Abraham do next?

Read Aloud: Genesis 13:1–2

Question for Comprehension: What did Abraham do?

Answer: He left Egypt and went into the desert.

Abraham lied and failed in his responsibility as a husband, yet God sends him out of Egypt with his wife (who He doesn't deserve) and even more wealth (which he doesn't deserve). God is not blessing Abraham because Abraham is always good—he's not. God is blessing Abraham because He loves Abraham. God chose to show GRACE to Abraham.

Reading Focus: Where does Abraham go next?

Read Aloud: Genesis 13:3–4

Question for Comprehension:

- Where does Abraham end up in his travels?

Answer: He ends up back in the place where he had pitched his tent before.

- What does he do there?

Answer: He builds an altar to the Lord and worships Him.

Abraham is back where he started, but now he builds an altar to God and begins to call on God's name. God saved Abraham and Sarah out of the trouble that his lie and fear got them into. God not only delivered them but also lavished more wealth on Abraham. The reason God blessed Abraham was not because Abraham was perfect, but because God is good.

Discussion

When do people lie? Why do they lie? What are some lies that you have been tempted to tell or you've heard other people say? (Write all responses on board). Many times, people lie because they want to protect themselves or feel better about themselves. Maybe they want to cover something wrong they did. Lying is a way of taking control, not trusting God. Teacher reads each of these scenarios out loud to the students. For each scenario, ask the students how that person could have trusted God to be just, protect, and love instead of the person lying to get control.

1. A student lies to his friends about having the latest gaming system at his house and how rich his parents are.
2. A Dad tells his daughter that he will be able to go to her ballet performance just so she will stop pestering him.
3. A friend lies to the teacher about cheating on a test.
4. A Mom tells her friends how happy she is in her marriage even though she knows they are headed towards divorce.
5. A student lies to another student about not having enough candy to share even though he knows he has a whole bag in his desk.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5-6

WEDNESDAY: Free to Choose

Genesis 13:5–18

Hands-On Activity: Brownie Share

Bring in brownies—one for every two students. Prior to class, split each brownie unevenly so that one of the two students will get a larger share. Distribute the two uneven portions (in such a way that it is clear they were originally one brownie) and allow each pair of students to decide who will get the larger portion and who will get the smaller. Allow students to eat their portions. Discuss with students how they made the decision of who would get the smaller part and who would get the larger part. Were any of them tempted to honor themselves with the larger part? Or did they honor their partners by giving them the larger part? Did some pairs try to even out their pieces or refuse the brownie altogether? Have another hidden pan of brownies with another whole brownie for each person who ends up with a smaller part.

Discussion and Dramatization

Cut apart each title/reference and assign parts to students to read when you call on their part later in the lesson.

Narrator 1—Genesis 13:5	Narrator 5—Genesis 13:11
Narrator 2—Genesis 13:6	Narrator 6—Genesis 13:12-14
Narrator 3—Genesis 13:7-8	Voice of the Lord—Genesis 13:14-17
Abraham—Genesis 13:8-9	Narrator 7—Genesis 13:18
Narrator 4—Genesis 13:10	

When Abraham obeyed God’s call to go to a new country, he brought Lot, his nephew, with him. Lot was the son of Haran, Abraham’s brother who had died. Both Abraham and Lot also brought livestock and servants with them. Everything had been going well for them at this point in their story, but every good story includes conflict.

Reading Focus: What began to cause conflict between Abraham and Lot?

Narrator 1: Genesis 13:5

Narrator 2: Genesis 13:6

Narrator 3: Genesis 13:7–8

Abraham: Genesis 13:8–9

Question for Comprehension:

- In your own words, what is the problem Abraham and Lot are having?
Answer: They had too many animals, and the people in charge of the herds were arguing.
- What did Abraham suggest as a way to solve the problem?
Answer: He suggested that they divide up so their herds would be in different places.

Reading Focus: What did Lot do?

Narrator 4: Genesis 13:10

Narrator 5: Genesis 13:11

Question for Comprehension: Why did Lot chose the Jordan River valley for himself?

Answer: The valley was well watered, so it would be good for his herds.

By picking the Jordan River valley, Lot was moving into an area that was already cultivated and growing. It was like taking over a business that was already up and running.

Lot left Uncle Abraham with the land that was dry and would need a great deal of cultivation to get crops for his animals. Lot chose the best area for himself.

Narrator 6: Genesis 13:12–14a (“he said,”)

Voice of the Lord: Genesis 13:14b–17

Narrator 7: Genesis 13:18

Notice the choices—Abraham chose to let Lot decide who would get the better land. Lot chose the better land. But then God chose to give Abraham *all* of the land—in all directions. It would be for Abraham and all his children, the Jewish nation.

Books and music and advertising often encourage us to put ourselves first and chose the biggest and best for ourselves. God’s way is opposite of that.

Tomorrow we are going to find out some of the consequences that came from the choices that Abraham and Lot made.

Activity

Place two cardboard boxes (or non-transparent containers) at the front of class where all can see. Have the boxes filled with items of varied value and interest to the students. Basic school supplies, electronics, blanket, car keys, credit card, donut, piece of celery etc.

Call on two students at a time to reach into each container at the same time without looking. Have the class vote on which item they would choose.

Why did we choose certain things over others? We choose things that are more valuable or important to us, right? That’s just like Lot and Abraham. Lot chose the better land because he saw it was more valuable. But Abraham understood that God had promised to provide for him and make him a great nation whether or not he got to choose the better land. Because Abraham trusted God, he could willingly give Lot the better choice.

THURSDAY: Lot Needs Rescue

Genesis 14:10–24

Discussion

Yesterday we discussed how Lot settled near the city of Sodom. The very next chapter in Genesis tells us that five kings all gathered their armies to fight against four other kings. The battle was taking place in the area where Lot had chosen to live, near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Reading Focus: What happened in this battle that took place in the Valley of Siddim?

Read Aloud: Genesis 14:10–12

Question for Comprehension: Lot moved to the nice green area and eventually moved inside the city of Sodom, but where is he now?

Answer: Lot, along with everything he owns, was taken captive.

Things are not looking good for Lot.

Reading Focus: What happens next to Lot?

Read Aloud: Genesis 14:13

Question for Comprehension: How many men did Abraham have trained for battle?

Answer: 318 men

Within his household, Abraham had men ready to fight. The people taking care of his livestock were also ready to take on an enemy in battle.

Reading Focus: What did these fighting men do?

Read Aloud: Genesis 14:14–16

Abraham was the kind of uncle you would want if you are ever captured. He leads his men, and they attack the fighting force that just took over five kings and their armies. He wins the attack and gets back Lot and everything that had been taken.

Reading Focus: What happened to Abraham after he won the day?

Read Aloud: Genesis 14:17

Question for Comprehension: After Abraham returned home, what happened?

Answer: The king of Sodom came out to meet Abraham.

Reading Focus: Who else came out to meet Abraham?

Read Aloud: Genesis 14:18–20

Question for Comprehension: What other king came out to meet Abraham?

Answer: Melchizedek, the king of Jerusalem

Abraham is standing between two kings—the king of Sodom and the king of Jerusalem. One is ruling a wicked city and one is a priest of the Most High God who blesses Abraham. Abraham actually gives one tenth of everything he just won in battle to Melchizedek as a way to give credit to God for the victory.

Reading Focus: What did the king of Sodom say?

Read Aloud: Genesis 14:21

Question for Comprehension: What does the king of Sodom offer?

Answer: He offers to let Abraham keep everything, except for the people.

That's a generous offer. The king of Sodom has just been defeated by the coalition of five kings. Now Abraham comes along and brings back all their belongings and people. The king figures the least he can do is pay Abraham for delivering the people.

Reading Focus: What did Abraham tell him?

Read Aloud: Genesis 14:22–24

Question for Comprehension: What did Abraham say to the king of Sodom? (Write the answer in your own words.)

Answer: No, I'm not going to take what you are offering. The Most High God is the one who provides for me. He took only the food his men ate and let the neighbors who fought with him have a share of what they won in the fight as payment for fighting.

What a contrast between Lot, who wanted the best for himself, and Abraham, who gave to the Lord and did not grasp more goods for himself. We will continue with more on the life of Abraham, Sarah, and Lot next week.

Activity

Molding clay and surface for each student. Instruct students to create a diorama of the events in today's lesson. The diorama should include Lot and his things held captive by the armies, Abraham and his men, and the King of Sodom and Melchizedek.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5-6

FRIDAY: Show What You Know (Key)

Multiple Choice: Choose the letter that best answers the question and write it in the blank.

- B 1. Abraham showed his faith by _____.
A. talking about God B. obeying God's command to leave his home
- A 2. God promised to make Abraham into a _____.
A. great nation B. powerful army C. wealthy king D. wise ruler
- D 3. God promised to _____ Abraham and make his name great.
A. help B. heal C. control D. bless
- B 4. God said he would _____ anyone who puts a curse on Abraham.
A. help B. curse C. control D. forgive
- A 5. God promised that all nations of the earth would be blessed because of _____.
A. Abraham B. Harran C. Lot D. Egypt
- D 6. Who went with Abraham as he left for his new home?
A. Lot B. Sarah C. servants D. all of the above
- D 7. Why did Abraham go down to Egypt?
A. He was tired of living in tents.
B. He wanted to explore more of that country.
C. He liked the city.
D. There was not enough food where they were.
- C 8. Why did Abraham lie to the Egyptians?
A. He wanted to see how strong they were.
B. He needed more food.
C. He was afraid they would kill him because of Sarah.
- B 9. What did Abraham do when he got back to the place near Bethel?
A. He built a house. B. He called on the name of the Lord.
- C 10. God blessed Abraham because _____.
A. Abraham was perfect. B. Abraham was brave. C. God is good.
- A 11. Who rescued Lot when the city of Sodom was beaten in a war?
A. Abraham B. Seth C. Gomorra D. angels

Short Answer: Write your answer to the question on the lines provided.

12. How did Abraham show his faith in God? He obeyed God by leaving his home country and going where God told him to go. He had faith God would provide what he and his family needed even though Lot chose the best land. He had faith God would protect him when he rescued Lot with just a few men.