

A CALL TO ACTION

Abram
Genesis 12:1–9
2091 BC

BIBLE TRUTH

God calls us to follow Him.

LEARNER GOAL

I can draw connections between how Abraham was called by God and how we're called into God's story of salvation through Christ.

BIBLE VERSE

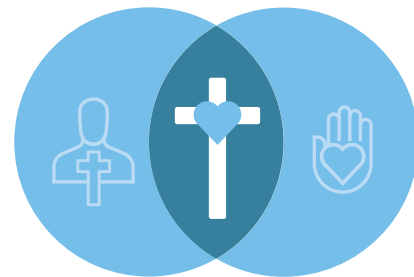
I trust in You, O LORD. Psalm 31:14

LAW & GOSPEL

In our sinful fear and doubt, we do not trust God to lead us and do what He promises. **God is faithful and carries out His promises, giving us faith in and through Jesus to trust and follow Him.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Abram responds to God's calling as he leaves his idolatry and homeland to follow the true God. Abram takes his wife, Sarai, and nephew Lot as they journey to the land of Canaan. The Lord's appearance prompts Abram to build an altar, celebrating God's promise to give this land to his descendants.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has called me into His family through Christ, who made me a fellow heir with Him in the kingdom of heaven.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can live each day as God's called child, loving Him and serving my neighbor.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can draw connections between how Abraham was called by God and how we're called into God's story of salvation through Christ.

YOUTH

I can share that I am God's forgiven and beloved child, called to follow Him.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that I am God's child and that He calls me to follow Him.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God calls me to be His child and promises to bless me.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the narrative and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Study the map in *TLSB* on page 33 for the details of Abram's journey.

IN DEPTH Read pages 22–25 of *Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook*.



LEADER NOTE

The opening question should help the learners tap into their past experiences so they can better identify with Abram. Encourage them to share in pairs or small groups first; then, open up sharing to the entire class before moving on.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Create a virtual Google Maps Tour of the route Abram made from Ur to Canaan, looking at the changes of geography and culture that he may have experienced along the way.

LAUNCH

WELCOME

Welcome the group, and open in prayer. It may be a good time to take prayer requests; pray for those requests either now or at the conclusion.

REVIEW

Review the Bible Truth, Learner Goal, and Bible Verse. Then, begin with the opening reflection question on the lesson handout.

OPENING REFLECTION

Consider a time in your life when you had to make a life change but didn't feel prepared for it. What was the experience like before, during, and after that transition?

LEARN & LIVE

GENESIS 12:1–3

BIBLE COMMENTARY

The plan of salvation now shifts from big, general narratives to a specific person: Abram. More than a dozen chapters of Genesis follow God's promises to Abram and his offspring. Abram, an idol worshiper, is called to be the father of a blessed nation. Nothing special here is noted about Abram's character. Instead, Abram is made special because of God's promise to restore creation. Abram, the heir of the promise, must now walk by faith that God will accomplish what He has promised.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What are the four big promises God makes in His covenant with Abram? How do they point back to earlier promises in God's plan of salvation? How do they set up the rest of God's plan of salvation?

REFLECTION HELPS

The big four promises of Genesis 12 are that (1) God will make Abram into a great nation, (2) God will bless those who bless Abram and curse those who curse Abram, (3) God will provide a land for His people, and (4) God will bless the world through Abram's offspring. From now on, the heir of the promise, a male, would carry with him these blessings until it was passed on to the next generation. Central, however, is the final promise of salvation to all of creation, which would arrive in Christ.

GENESIS 12:4–7

BIBLE COMMENTARY

God calls Abram to enter the land that He promised to Abram's descendants. This is the land of the Canaanites, a land of pagan idol worship, a land hostile to the one true God. Yet Abram is called to be faithful, and God appears to him a second time to reaffirm His promise. We have been redeemed by Christ, yet we must wait for the new promised land of the new creation. God strengthens us through His Word and Sacraments as we wait.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Abram trusted the Lord, even though he hadn't seen the fulfillment of all the Lord's promises. What promises do we, in the Church today, trust in and thank God for, even when we don't see their fulfillment?

REFLECTION HELPS

As God's people today, we thank Him in worship as we receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Word and Sacrament. In addition, we call upon God in our vocations as we continue to cling to His promises in this hostile world.

GENESIS 12:8–9

BIBLE COMMENTARY

After receiving a second affirmation of God’s promise, Abram moves further to the hill country east of Bethel. There, Abram builds an altar to, and calls upon the name of, the Lord. The former idol worshiper now calls on the name of the Lord in worship and prayer. This worship and prayer happens in spirit and in truth. Today, we Christians trust in God’s promises, though we may not be able to see God in the way we’d like. Instead, in our prayer and worship, we cling to the Means of Grace. These point us to God’s promise that, as we journey through this life, we can know that He has called us to be His through Holy Baptism, speaks to us in His Word, and feeds us with the very body and blood of Jesus Himself in the Sacrament of the Altar. God is not far off; He is real and present among us, and so we can joyfully call upon His name in all times and places.

REFLECTION QUESTION

As Abram journeyed through the Promised Land, he called upon the name of the Lord. As you journey through life, awaiting the promised land of the new creation, what are ways that you can daily remember to call upon the name of the Lord in personal prayer?

REFLECTION HELPS

This question is rather subjective, as each of the learners will have different life experiences and be involved in different types of daily vocations. That said, encourage them to share times and ways to remember to pray in their daily routines. Examples: saying Luther’s Morning Prayer upon waking each morning, having a time of personal devotion over breakfast, listening to the Bible during commute times, saying meal prayers together with the household, being part of an online prayer chain, sharing evening devotion and prayers with the family. The point is to stimulate ideas and challenge the learners to be more intentional to daily remember the great gift of prayer.

LEAVE

FINAL REFLECTION

Draw connections between how Abram was called by God and how we’re called into God’s story of salvation through Christ. How is our experience similar? different?

TAKE HOME

Equip your learners with ideas for taking the lesson into their households by giving them access to the Enduring Faith Page.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

If you haven’t yet, take prayer requests, or encourage a volunteer from the class to pray before you leave.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Search a concordance to learn the different kinds of promises God made to His people in the Old Testament. Where does the promise in Genesis 12 fit, building off what came before and building up to what comes later?



CHRIST CONNECTION

God promised to pay the blood price if He did not keep His promise to Abram. God’s promise actually included the blessing of nations, which came through Jesus, who paid the blood price for us. Our eternal future is now secured for us because of Christ’s faithfulness to God’s promises.



LEADER NOTE

Have your learners identify a main role or vocation in their lives (parent, worker, citizen). Then, have them apply a lesson learned about living in that calling. How do we cling to God’s promises, fearing, loving, and trusting in God in all stations of life?

