

A CALL TO ACTION

Abram
Genesis 12:1–9
2091 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God calls us to follow Him.

BIBLE VERSE

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

LEARNER GOAL

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

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.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Genesis 12:1–9 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

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

IN DEPTH Read “God’s Covenant with Abram” on pages 26–27 of *Know the Bible Now*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Communication devices, envelopes & stamp stickers
- Play dough
- Backpack & trip items
- Tube sock, cloth, yarn or twine, needle & thread
- Trail mix & snack-size zipper bags
- Lunch bags, small paper plates & craft sticks

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

LET'S PRETEND Set out toy phones, old cell phones, laptop keyboards, iPads, paper and envelopes, and sticker stamps. Set up an area to look like a post office where children can buy “stamps” and mail letters. Talk about how we keep in touch with those who live far away. Say, **Today we will hear how God talked to a man named Abraham in a special way and promised to bless him. God has called us to be His children and promises to bless us.**

PLAY DOUGH Encourage children to make bowls or jars. Tell them that in Bible times, people used bowls and cups made out of clay. We call that pottery. Say, **Today you will hear how God called a man to leave his home and take his family to a new land. Do you think they took their pottery with them? What else might they pack?** *Option:* Set out pictures of Bible-times pottery to show children, or look online for a clip of a potter throwing pots on a pottery wheel.

JESUS TIME

SING “We Are in God’s House Today” (digital resource center) or “Happy Now We Gather” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)

SAY **Have you ever gone camping or stayed in a tent? What was it like? Today we’ll learn about a man who took his family on a long trip. At night they put up tents and camped out under the stars.**

PRAY **Dear God,* help us use our ears* to listen* and to learn* how You have called us* to be Your children* and promise to bless us.* Help us trust You* to keep Your promises.* We pray* in Jesus’ name.* Amen.***

*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Set out a backpack and items for a trip (e.g., a stuffed animal, clothing, a toothbrush, soap, a snack, and a Bible). Have children pretend they are going on a trip and need to pack. Let children take turns choosing what to put in the backpack. Then say, **This reminds me of today’s Bible story. It’s about a man who packed up his things and moved to a new land. I wonder why he did this? Let’s find out.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Remind children that all the stories in God’s Word are true. Use the questions on the leaflet to review. *Option:* Make an Abraham sock puppet to use as you tell the story. Draw a face on a white tube sock. Cut a piece of cloth large enough to fit over the head of the puppet for a head piece. Use a needle and thread to attach it to the sock. Tie a piece of twine or yarn around it for a head band.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from Psalm 31:14 in your Bible. Have the children say the verse with you: **I trust in You, O LORD.** Tell children that when you trust someone, you believe the person will do what she says she will do. God has called us to be His children. We can trust God to do what He promises to do.



LEADER NOTE

Greet children and get them started in an activity that builds a foundation for what they will learn in class today, or feel free to omit this section and start with Jesus Time.



LEADER NOTE

God changed Abram’s name to Abraham in Genesis 17:5. Since children are more familiar with that name, Abram is called Abraham in this lesson too. You may choose which name to use.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use the “Bible Verse Litany” to learn the verse.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with the children. Hand out the second page of the leaflets, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Connect the dots and color the tent. Review how God called Abraham and promised to bless him with a new home, a big family, and a Savior. Ask questions such as, **How would you feel if you were moving to a new place? Would you wonder what your new room would be like? What could you remember?** (God loves you. He called you to be His child. He promises to be with you and take care of you.) **Would you wonder if you would have friends in the new place? What could you remember?** (God loves you! You are His child. He promises to watch over you and bless you.) **What if you did something mean to someone in the new place? What could you remember?** (God loves you. He promises to forgive you for Jesus' sake. That is His best blessing!)

SIDE 2 Have children follow the path and finish the pictures of God's blessings. Say, **Abraham trusted God to keep His promises, and God did. God called you to be His child when you were baptized. He talks to you in the Bible and promises to bless you too.** Talk about the pictured blessings from God.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Reinforce the Learner Goal with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Play this game to get the wiggles out as you reinforce learning.

□ SNACK

Make trail mix.

□ CREATE

Make an Abraham puppet from a paper lunch bag.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Review the Learner Goal and check for understanding by having children tell how God called Abraham and calls us to be His children too. Have them give examples of the ways God blesses them.

LEAVE

SING "Father, Hear My Prayer" (digital resource center) or
"I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus" (digital resource center) or
"I'm with You" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 32)

SAY Today we learned that God calls us to be His children and promises to bless us. He gives us many good things. Best of all, He sent Jesus to be our Savior. We can trust Him to keep all His promises.

PRAY Dear Father in heaven, thank You for making us Your children. Thank You for all Your blessings, especially Jesus. Help me always trust in You. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God calls us through Baptism and His Word from a life of sin to be His children. He forgives our sins for Jesus' sake.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Take an "Imaginary Trip."



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Welcome Packs."

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

Have children stand on one side of the room. Designate the finish line as the Promised Land. Call out ways they can go to the Promised Land (e.g., jump forward three times; take two giant steps backwards; take five baby steps forward). When they reach the Promised Land, have them sit down. Talk about how God called Abraham to a new land and promised to bless him with a new home, a big family, and a Savior. Say, **Abraham trusted God to keep His promises, and God did. God called you to be His child when you were baptized. He talks to you in the Bible and promises to bless you too.** Ask, **How does God bless you?** (Family, home, food, healing, answering prayer, sending Jesus to be our Savior)

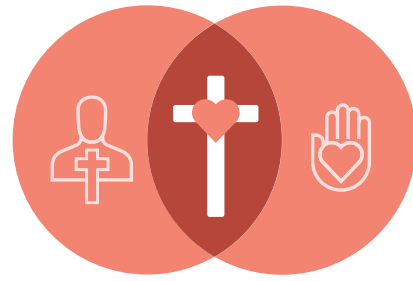
□ SNACK

Portion trail mix into snack-size zipper bags. Talk about what Abraham and his family ate as they traveled.

□ CREATE

Make an Abraham puppet using a paper lunch bag, small white paper plate, markers, stickers, construction paper, and four short craft sticks (optional). Cut a paper circle face to fit over the bottom flap of the paper bag and glue in place. Add sticker eyes and beard. Draw a circle nose.

Cut off the rim of the paper plate and cut snips into the outside edge to make hair. Roll the snippets over a pencil to curl them, rolling some forward and some backward. Cut out one-third of the rim. Discard this smaller piece. Glue the remaining larger piece around the face for hair. Decorate the bag like Abraham's coat. Cut a piece of paper for a belt and glue it on. Glue craft sticks or paper strips to the bag for arms and legs. Make the arms cross in front of the body. Add stickers for hands and feet. *Option:* Glue on strands of white yarn for hair, instead of using paper plate.



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.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

BIBLE VERSE LITANY

10 minutes

Have children say Bible Verse after each phrase. Say,

When I'm scared of the dark, . . .
Children: "I trust in You, O LORD."

When I miss my parents, . . .

When I get an ouchie, . . .

When my friend won't play,

When I'm sick, . . .

No matter where I go or how I feel, . . .

IMAGINARY TRIP

10 minutes

Have children pretend they are Abraham and his family going to the new land. Set out a blanket and play dishes. Put your snack for today in a basket. Have each child carry an item as you walk around your room, pointing out things that remind you of God's love. Stop and spread out the blanket. Pretend to pile up some rocks or use blocks to build an altar. Say a prayer and eat your snack.

WELCOME PACKS

15 minutes

Make welcome packs for children who are new to your church. Have children make a card or "come to class" invitation for the packs. Suggest they bring new or gently used Bible story books to put in them. Ask what else they would like to put in the packs (e.g., a snack, a coloring book). Ask your pastor to give these to the new families with young children in your church.