

# A CALL TO ACTION

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

### 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 pages 20–23 of *Know the Bible Now*. Read Genesis 12–15 for a broader context of the lesson's text.

**IN DEPTH** Read Questions 186–200 on the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Suitcase or moving box
- Blue construction paper and glue

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities
- [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



### LEADER NOTE

To introduce the lesson and get students moving, play follow-the-leader. Take the students on a trek through your learning area or even to the sanctuary if possible.



### GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 4.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Try one of the bonus activities with maps, found on the back page.

## LAUNCH

**PRAY** Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your word today. Help us to learn how You call us to follow You. Amen.

**SING** “Hooray! God’s There!”  
“I Shall Dwell in the House of the Lord Forever (Psalm 23)”  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**SAY** Show a suitcase or big moving box. **If you had to move from your house, what would be the scariest part? What would be the most exciting part?** Be sensitive to students who may have had to move numerous times or under difficult circumstances. Remind them that God is with us during those times, just as He was with Abram.

## LEARN

### READ “A CALL TO ACTION”

Read the Bible narrative aloud to your students, or ask volunteers to take turns reading sections.

### DO SOMETHING

After you’ve told the story or read it together, have students take a journey with Abram. Walk through the classroom to the different places that Abram went, and act out what he did: (1) God calls Abram and then says, “Go!” (2) Abram goes to the land of Canaan and takes a lot of people with him. (3) When they get there, God makes three promises to Abram. (4) Abram builds an altar to God. (5) Abram is on the go, pitching his tent and making altars all over Canaan.

**FOR A LARGER GROUP** As you do the above activity, assign different people to be Abram at each place in the story. Then move the rest of the class from place to place to witness each event.

**FOR A SMALLER GROUP** If you have a smaller group, have all your students act out the part of Abram at every stop along the story route.

### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- God makes three promises:

**To make Abram’s family into a great nation** (This was a big deal because Abram was seventy-five and didn’t have any children.)

**To make Abram’s name great** (Again, that doesn’t make any sense to Abram; he had nothing about him that would make his name great.)

**To bless all the families of the earth through Abram’s offspring** (Jesus will come from the line of Abraham!)

- Abram trusts that God is leading him, even though he doesn’t know where they are going.
- God called Abram, and God calls us.
- God was with Abram, and God is with us.
- We are God’s children, and He calls us to follow Him.
- Later God changed Abram’s name to Abraham. That is how we usually refer to him. Clear up any confusion students might have about this.

# LIVE

## EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about Abram and his journey.

## TALK ABOUT IT

- ▶ **When you're playing follow-the-leader, is there ever a time when you stop following that leader? How do you know whether you can trust the leader?**
- ▶ **How did Abram know that he could trust God?** (God's promises to Abram helped him to have faith in God.)
- ▶ **How do we know that we can trust God?** (God has been faithful by sending His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise again.)
- ▶ **How do we follow Jesus?**
- ▶ **Who helps us?** (The Holy Spirit)
- ▶ **Is it ever hard to follow Jesus? When? What do you do when it's hard?**

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Read or listen to **Galatians 3:14** for further connection.
- God ordered all this so that we might have a Savior.
- The promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament in Jesus.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

As a check for understanding, watch and listen as the students do the sequencing activity on the downloadable activity page. Take this time to clear up any misunderstandings about the story or pieces that students have missed. Review the Bible Truth as you close for the day.

# LEAVE

**SAY** Praise God for His promises. We thank God that He is our faithful leader. Our verse for today reminds us of that: "I trust in You, O LORD" (Psalm 31:14).

**SING** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
"The Lord's Prayer"  
Find music in the digital resource center.

**PRAY** Thank You, heavenly Father, for calling us to follow You. Thank You for blessing us through Abraham's offspring, Jesus! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



### DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page, found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

All nations would be blessed through Abraham's offspring—Jesus!

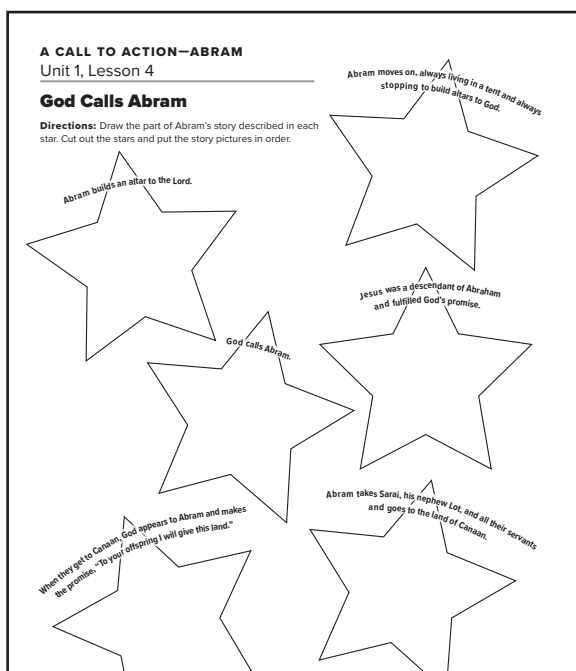
## DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page by accessing the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

This is the correct order of events:

(1) God calls Abram. (2) Abram takes Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all their servants and goes to the land of Canaan. (3) When they get to Canaan, God appears to Abram and makes the promise, “To your offspring I will give this land.” (4) Abram builds an altar to the Lord. (5) Abram moves on, always living in a tent and always stopping to build altars to God. (6) Jesus was a descendant of Abraham and fulfilled God’s promise.

Students can draw small pictures on each star. Then students can either put numbers by the stars to show the correct order or cut out the stars and physically put them in the correct order. If there is time, they could glue the stars to a piece of dark blue construction paper. Assist students with reading and writing as needed.



### 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

### PICTURES AND POSTERS

10 minutes

Let students work individually or in groups to create posters using original art or photographs cut from magazines to illustrate what it means to follow Jesus today. Encourage them to add today’s Bible verse.

### MAP

10 minutes

Using the map on page 33 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*, show students where Abram was living and traveling. Have students identify other cities and places that they recognize to give them a sense of how these places are related.

### COMMUNITY MAP

Times may vary

Make or show a map of your community and surrounding area. Identify all the churches in the area, including yours. Show students the map to remind them how people travel to those churches to praise God and share His Word, just as Abram built an altar wherever he was.