

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Genesis

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-7

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Eight

[0080]

AIM: to teach my class that after you get saved, God has a brand new life for you.

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A tool, or a picture of a tool, representing hard work.
Money, to represent wealth
A picture of a large farm and farmhouse
A blueprint
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Kids, how many of you have ever had to move out of your house, into another house? You know what it is like to leave a house that you have enjoyed living in, the room that you loved, the street that you liked living on, the friends who lived there, the school that you attended, and all of the things that you enjoyed about the old place, to move to a new house, a new street, with new neighbors, and a new school. It's hard to leave a place where you have loved to live, isn't it?

How many of you have lived in the same house all of your life? Imagine how difficult it would be if all of a sudden your dad or your mom said, "We are moving out of this house to a different house, a different street, a different town. You will have to go to a new school and make new friends." That would be hard to do, wouldn't it?

Now imagine that your dad or mom told you that you were moving, and you asked them, "Where are we going?" and they answered, "I don't know, but we are leaving right now." Can you imagine packing up, getting in the car, and moving...without any idea where you are going?

Today we are going to learn about a man who did exactly that. Why did he do it? Because God had told him to. The man's name was *Abraham*. Abraham was 75 years old, but **God had a brand new life for Abraham to live.**

STORY: Let me begin by telling you a few things about Abraham.

First, I want us to remember that Abraham was a hardworking man. He had worked hard all of his life, and taken good care of his business and his money.

Because of the fact that he worked hard and took care of his money, Abraham was also a rich man. You see, kids, there is only one right way to get money, and that is by **hard work**. It is not wrong to be rich, but it is wrong to try to get rich without working hard. Because Abraham had worked hard all of his life, he had become a rich man. In fact, in all of Ur of the Chaldees where Abraham had lived, he was the richest man of all.

One more thing that we know about Abraham is that over the years he had built a large farm with many animals. In fact, Abraham's farm was so big that we would probably call it a ranch. A ranch is like a great big farm with hundreds and hundreds of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and other animals.

So Abraham was a hardworking man who had become very rich, and had built a large ranch with many animals. But God had a **brand new life** that he wanted Abraham to live.

God came to Abraham one day when Abraham was seventy-five years old. God told Abraham to do something that would seem very difficult, knowing all that we know about Abraham. God told Abraham to pack up all that he owned, take his wife, leave his house, leave his relatives, leave his farm, leave all that he had built, and go.

You say, "Go where?" God did not tell Abraham where. He just said leave, and He would tell him later where he was going.

Don't forget, Abraham was seventy-five years old! He was at the age when most men would spend the rest of their lives enjoying the things that they had spent years working for. Nowadays most people have retired from their jobs by the time they are seventy-five years old. And to leave all of that and not even know where he was going? That seems like too much to ask!

But Abraham did not ask any questions. He did not complain. He did not say, "I'd like to think about that for a few days." He just obeyed. Abraham said, "If God has a brand new life that He wants me to live, I want to live it."

God told Abraham that if he would pack up and leave, God would do 7 wonderful things:

1. He would make a great nation from Abraham's children.
2. God's blessing would be upon Abraham.
3. Abraham would be known around the world.
4. Abraham would help many people.
5. God would bless Abraham's friends.
6. God would fight against Abraham's enemies.
7. Every family on earth would be helped by Abraham

So even though Abraham did not know exactly where he would be living, he knew that God had something big planned for Him.

Kids, let me tell you some of the greatest news in the whole wide world: **Just like God had a plan for a brand new life that He wanted Abraham to live, God has a plan for a brand new life that he wants you to live after you get saved.**

You say, "How do you know what God has planned for me?" Well, the Bible says, "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*" After you receive Jesus as your Saviour, God has a brand new life for you to live. God has plans for you to live an exciting life, a happy life, an adventurous life—but only if you CHOOSE to.

Do you know what this is? This is a picture of a **blueprint**. If you were going to build a house, you would have to use a blueprint. A blueprint is a set of plans for building a house. God has a Blueprint for your life. If you will follow His Blueprint, your life will be the exciting life that God has planned for you. His Blueprint is the Bible. Let me tell you what the Blueprint says you have to do after you get saved in order to enjoy the life that God has planned for you.

The first thing that God tells you to do after you get saved is to get **baptized**. If you have received Jesus as your Saviour, but you have never been baptized, you ought to ask me after Sunday School how you can do that. That's the first step in the blueprint.

Another thing that God says you ought to do is to **go to church every Sunday**. Before you got saved, maybe church wasn't important to you. You probably know people who think that church is not important. But if you want to follow the Blueprint for the brand new life that God has for you, you must be sure to go to church every Sunday.

You also must **read your Bible every day**. If you don't know how to read, you should ask your mom or dad to read it to you.

You must also take some time to **pray each day**, if you want to follow God's blueprint for a brand new life. Pray for God to bless your family, your church, your country. Ask God for things that you need or that others need.

In order to follow God's Blueprint, you must also **keep away from sin and worldliness**. I'm talking about staying away from bad movies, bad TV shows, bad music, bad pictures. You shouldn't see things where people use bad words or where people take their clothes off. You shouldn't listen to rock music, or say bad words, or listen to dirty jokes. You should not ever drink beer or smoke a cigarette or try drugs. You shouldn't spend time with people who do those things. God's Blueprint tells us to stay away from sin.

God's Blueprint, the Bible, also tells us to tell other people how to receive Jesus as **their Saviour**. That's called *soul winning*. Maybe you don't think you know how to go soul winning. Then you should ask someone who does know, like me, or Pastor, or Miss Amy, if you can go soul winning with them.

If you will do these things after you receive Jesus as your Saviour, God will begin to show you more of His Blueprint for your life. You will find out that the life that God has for you is the most exciting, most fun, most enjoyable life you could possibly live. Other people live by their own plans, and they find out that their own plans lead to sorrow, heartache, pain, and slavery. But God's plan is better than anything else you could do with your life.

God said to Abraham, "I have a brand new plan for your life. Follow me, and I will show it to you." And God says to you, "I have a brand new plan for your life. Follow me, and I will show it to you."

Let's learn our memory verse: **Romans 10:13 – For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

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Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Eight

[0080]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **GOD HAS A DESTINATION PLANNED FOR EACH OF US.** Abraham's destination was certainly a magnificent one—God was going to make a great nation out of him. But God's destination for you is just as real, and just as magnificent. You will never reach that destination, however, until you first BELIEVE that God has something great ahead for you.
- II. **REACHING GOD'S DESTINATION FOR YOU WILL REQUIRE YOU TO LET GO OF SOMETHING.** Abraham had to leave his homeland and his family to reach God's destination for him. Noah had to let go of the old world in order to come into the new. Jacob had to let go of home in order for God to bring him to his purpose. Joseph had to let go of his dreams in order to reach his dreams. David, Daniel, Peter...there are no exceptions. Do you want God's best for you? There is some leaving, some "letting go" that will be required.
- III. **THE DESIRE TO REACH GOD'S BEST OUGHT TO CAUSE US TO RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL WITH AN INSTANT "YES!"** When Abraham let go of everything, he did not know the geographical location to which he was heading; all he knew was that he was heading for God's promises. But God's promises were all that Abraham needed. God never does lay out the details when He calls; but a man would be a fool to say "no" to God's best. "He is no fool who let's go of what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
- IV. **WHEN YOU ANSWER GOD'S CALL, YOU ARE ENROLLING IN GOD'S SCHOOL OF FAITH.** Abraham was not a finished product when God called him. He had many lessons to learn and many tests to face. He did not pass every test, but he never stopped learning at the hand of God. The road to God's best is not an easy road, but it is a road where you are under God's care and supervision. As long as you stay submitted and obedient, He will take you to His destination for you.
- V. **LIVING BY FAITH IS TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD.** When God called Abraham, He gave him a seven-part promise. Through many ups-and-downs, Abraham hang on to those promises. There will be times in your life when you will see the promises of God's Word with great clarity, and you will put you faith in those promises. Living by faith is when you proceed on those promises, taking God at His Word in every decision you make.

The Call of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-7

[0080]

God Chooses Abram to Establish A New Nation

I. GENESIS 12:1 God's Call to Abram

- 1a God instructs Abram to leave his home
- 1b God instructs Abram to leave his family
- 1c God instructs Abram to leave his heritage
- 1d God sends Abram to an unknown destination

II. GENESIS 12:2-3 God's Covenant with Abram

- A. I will make of thee a great nation
- B. I will bless thee
- C. I will make thy name great
- D. Thou shalt be a blessing
- E. I will bless them that bless thee
- F. I will curse him that curseth thee
- G. In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed

III. GENESIS 12:4-6 Abram's Response to God

- 12:4 Abram left as God told him to leave
- 12:5-6 Abram went where God told him to go

IV. GENESIS 12:7 Abram's Relationship with God

- 12:7a God confirms His pleasure with Abram's obedience
- 12:7b God declares His promise for Abram's descendants
- 12:7c Abram establishes a place to meet with God

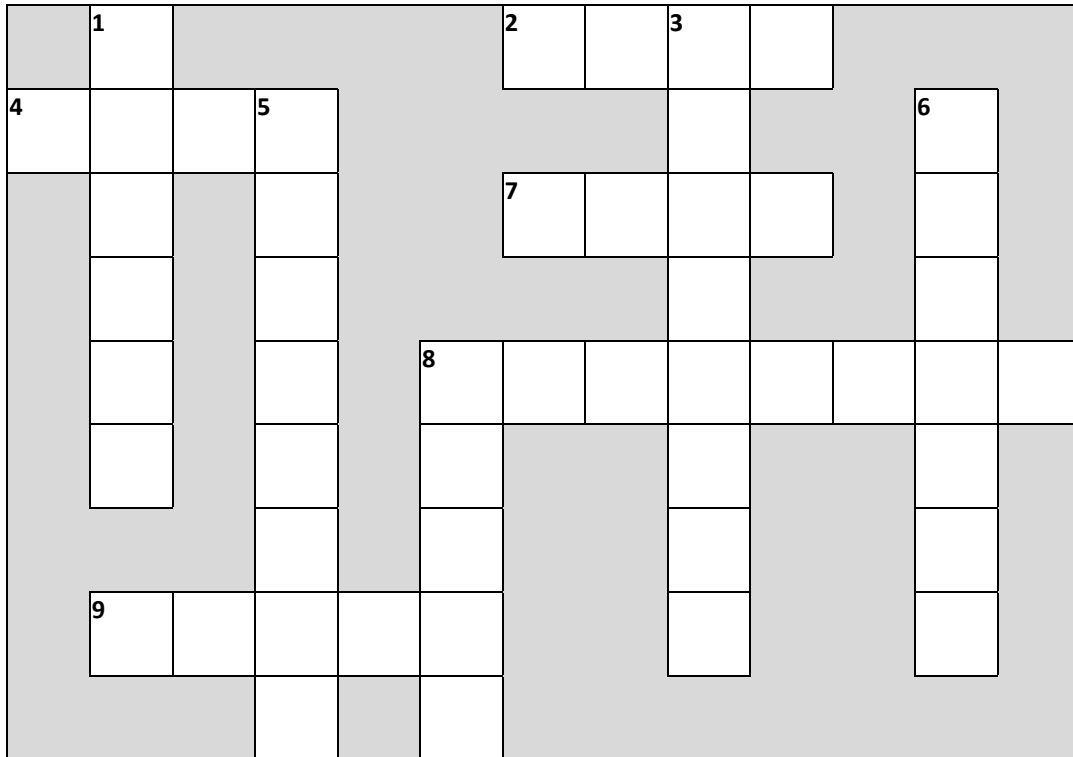
Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

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Complete the crossword puzzle below using words from the Scripture passage and information from today's lesson.



ACROSS

- 2 Sarai was Abram's _____
- 4 "Unto a _____ that I will shew thee."
- 7 "And make thy _____ great"
- 8 Abram left Ur of the _____
- 9 I will _____ them that bless thee

DOWN

- 1 "I will make of thee a great _____"
- 3 "In thee shall all _____ of the earth be blessed"
- 5 "So Abram _____"
- 6 Abram was _____-five years old
- 8 I will _____ him that curseth thee

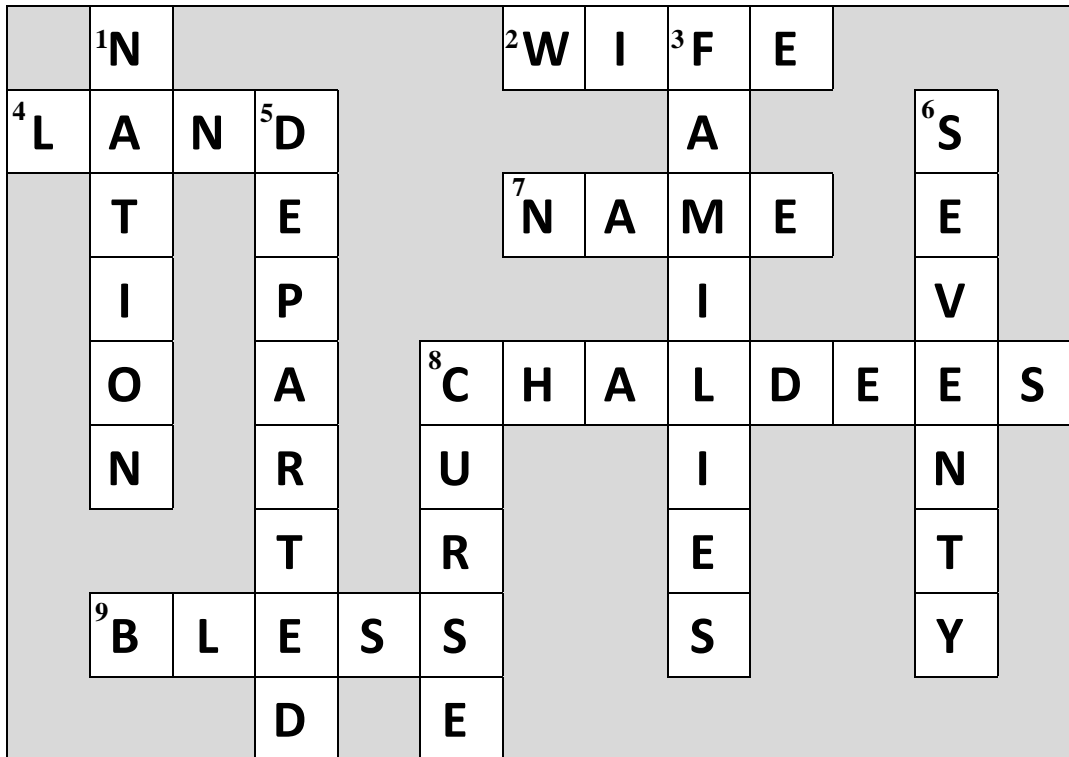
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
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The answers to this week's puzzle



ACROSS

- 2 Sarai was Abram's _____
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- 1 "I will make of thee a great _____"
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