God Asks Abram to Move to a New Land and Abram Obeys • Lesson 9

**Bible Point**

**God wants us to trust him.**

**Bible Verse**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5a).

**Growing Closer to Jesus**

Children will

- learn that trust leads to obedience,
- discover that Abram trusted and obeyed God,
- help Pockets learn how to trust, and
- realize that their trust and obedience make God happy.

**Teacher Enrichment**

**Bible Basis**

- **God asks Abram to move to a new land and Abram obeys.**

  **Genesis 12:1-5**

  What trust in God it took for Abram to leave his home, his country, and everything familiar and comfortable and set out for an unknown destination, having only God’s command to go on. Abram had not only the concerns of leaving the familiar behind but also the worries of keeping the things he took with him. Abram was a wealthy man, with a lot of sheep, cattle, and other livestock. In those days, traveling with herds in unknown territory was treacherous. Besides, Abram was 75 years old! How could he have known they’d be safe for even the first week of the months-long journey God was leading them on? But he trusted and followed God.

  What helped Abram on his way was a trusting relationship with God and the promises of blessing that would benefit not only his household but “all the families on earth”? Even though those promises might have been hard to believe, they were all Abram needed.

**Prayer**

- Read Hebrews 11:8.
- Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed strange or slightly risky? How did you respond?
- Pray: Lord, help me trust you more and be a good example of faith to the children I teach by…

**Before the Lesson**

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
### This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “World Name Tags” handout (p. 27), markers, tape or safety pins

• Bend down to make eye contact with children as they arrive.
• Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
• Thank each child for coming to class today.
• As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Ask questions such as “Did you see any rainbows last week?” and “What promises did you keep?”

• Say: Today we’re going to learn that God wants us to trust him.

• Hand out the world name tags children made in Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.

• Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What would it be like to live in a tent for a long time?” or “How would it feel to move to a new home?”

Option 1: Packing Up

SUPPLIES: suitcases, boxes or backpacks, dress-up clothes, kitchen utensils

Have the children pack a box or suitcase with items that would be necessary on a lengthy trip. Set out several items for children to choose from, such as dress-up clothes and items borrowed from the church kitchen. Tell the children that today they’ll hear a Bible story about a man who packed up everything he owned to move to a place that God would show him. Explain that he knew God wants us to trust him.

Option 2: Mix a Trail Mix

SUPPLIES: bowls, spoons, dried fruits, chocolate chips, raisins, sandwich bags, twist ties

Set out bowls of any of the following treats: raisins, dried fruit, chocolate chips, granola, sunflower seeds, or pumpkin seeds. Show children how to dump a spoonful of each item into a sandwich bag. Have kids hold the bags tightly closed, and help them use twist ties to seal the bags. Then have children shake the bags. Be sure they make enough bags of trail mix for each student to have one later. As kids work, ask them who supplies the food they eat. Tell children that today they’ll hear about a man who had to trust God for everything—especially his food—on a long journey.
Option 3: Sand on Your Soles

SUPPLIES: plastic tablecloth, sand, damp paper towels

Take children outside to a sandbox if weather permits, or sprinkle a few handfuls of sand on a plastic tablecloth. Allow children to take off their shoes and socks and walk barefoot in the sand. If girls are wearing tights, allow them to rub the sand between their hands instead. Talk about how there’s lots and lots of sand in the desert, but not very much grass. Explain that today they’ll hear a story about some people who traveled a long, long way in the desert to reach a special place. Ask children what it might be like to walk for a long time in sand. Remind children that wherever they go, God wants us to trust him. Provide damp paper towels for cleanup.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

SING

We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.

There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.
(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: none

Tell the children you’ll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they’re doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Have children line up against one wall.
Ask: • **Who can tell me what it means to trust someone?** (To believe in them; to follow what they tell you to do; to know they won’t hurt you.)

  • **Who are some people that you trust? Why do you trust them?** (My mom because she loves me; policemen because they protect us; my dad because he’s strong.)

Say: **Trust is when we believe that someone will do what they say. One way to show trust is to obey someone. Let’s show that we trust each other by playing a fun game. To play this game, you’ll have to close your eyes and keep them closed until I say to open them.**

Give children these simple instructions that will move them closer to you:

  • take three tiny steps toward me,
  • take two giant steps forward,
  • tiptoe three steps forward,
  • hop one time, and
  • jump twice on each foot.

Pause between each instruction to allow children the chance to follow along. Most children will open their eyes to peek at least once, but simply encourage them to close their eyes and trust you. When students are a few feet away from you, say: **OK, you can open your eyes now. If you’re far away or out to the side, point your toes out and waddle like a duck toward the rest of us. Let’s form a giant circle.**

Pause for children to follow your instructions. **You all were very trusting to obey me with your eyes closed! That makes me feel so good that I want to give you all a big hug.** Have a group hug, and then have children sit down.

Ask: • **What was it like to follow my instructions with your eyes closed?** (Scary; hard; weird; fun.)

  • **Why did you trust me and do what I said?** (Because I like you; because you love us; because you wouldn’t make us do something bad.)

  • **Would I ever tell you to do something that would make you get hurt?** Explain. (No, because you like us; no, because you only plan fun and safe things to do; no, because you’d get in trouble if you did.)

  • **Can you think of some other people you haven’t mentioned already that you can trust?** (My big brother; my friends; my neighbor.)

Say: **God wants us to trust him, too. We can trust God because he loves us more than anyone in the whole world. He would never tell us to do something that was bad. Today we’ll hear a Bible story about a man who trusted God when God asked him to do something very hard and a little scary.**

### Bible Song and Prayer Time

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box

Before class, make surprise cards by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the *star stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark *Genesis 12:1-5* in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your card until the song is over.**
Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD, to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.

**SING**

Now it’s time to read God’s Book,
Read God’s Book, read God’s Book.
Now it’s time to read God’s Book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.
(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person with the stars stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person today.**

Identify the Bible person, and have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: **[Name]** was our special Bible person today. Each week we’ll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that **God wants us to trust him.**

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God to help us trust him. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “God, please help me trust you.”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone’s surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today to trust you. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.**

### Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES: CD player**

Bring out the Learning Mat: Abraham. Have the children stand in a large circle around the mat. Be sure kids have at least an arm’s length between each other. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Ask: • **Have you ever had to move to a different house or different town?** Allow a few children to share briefly about their moving experiences.

• **What was the hardest thing about moving?** (Leaving my friends behind; getting lost in the new neighborhood; not living close to a park anymore.)

Say: **Today we’re going to learn about Abram, a man who made a big move because he trusted God. You can help me tell this story by doing actions when I say certain important words. When I say the word Abram, take two teeny, tiny steps forward. When I say the word God, take a small hop forward. When I say the word promised, cross your hands over your heart. As we do these actions, we’ll move toward the mat, like Abram moved toward the new land.**

Practice the words and actions a few times until the children are comfortable with them. Then read the following story, pausing each time you say “Abram,” “God,” and “promised.”
Say: Abram was 75 years old when God asked him to do a special task.

God said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you.” Well, that’s quite a thing to ask someone. Abram lived in the big city of Haran, where there were lots of people and beautiful buildings and a big marketplace. God asked Abram to move from a comfortable place, where he had lots of friends and family, out into the wilderness!

But God had a reason for telling Abram to leave. You see, the people in Haran didn’t worship our God—the one, true God. They worshipped the moon god! God wanted Abram to go where all people would worship the one, true God.

And that’s not all. God promised Abram many wonderful things. God promised, “I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others... All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” God had great and wonderful plans for Abram. He was going to make Abram famous, and the whole world would be blessed by him. God also promised to be with Abram and protect him.

Have children sit around the mat. Then ask:

• What if God promised you that you would be famous someday? How do you think that would make you feel? (Excited; a little scared; important.)

• How do you think Abram felt after God promised these things to him? (Happy; special; loved by God.)

Say: I’m sure that Abram felt many different things, but the Bible tells us only one thing that Abram did in response to God’s command. Abram obeyed God. Point to the picture of Abram, Sarai, and Lot traveling. Our Learning Mat shows Abram taking his wife, Sarai, and his nephew Lot. They packed everything they owned, and they moved a long way away. The trip was over 400 miles! Today, in a car, that would take us about seven hours. But since Abram was just walking, it would have taken him about 27 days! That’s almost a whole month of walking! Abram showed God that he trusted him by obeying God’s command.

Ask: • How do you think Abram felt moving from his comfortable home? (Scared; excited; uncertain.)

• What do you think Abram thought about as he traveled for many miles on his journey? (God’s promises to him; that he must keep trusting God; he probably wondered what it would be like in the new place.)

Return the Learning Mat to the Learning Lab.

Say: Abram loved God, and he showed God how much he loved him by trusting and obeying him. Did you know that God has a special plan for you, too? The greatest plan God has for us is that we believe in Jesus. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins—for all the wrong things we do. If we believe in Jesus, we will be forgiven for our sins, and we can live with Jesus in heaven someday. What a great plan that is!

God wants us to trust him and believe that he’ll keep his promises. Now find a partner, and we’ll sing a song about trusting God.
Lead children in singing “Trust and Worship” (track 19) to the tune of “London Bridge” with the CD. Have pairs link arms and point to heaven on the words *God* and *him* and clap hand to hand with partners on the words *trust in*. Then, on the words *every day*, have children find a new partner for the next verse. Instruct children to do the same motions with the second verse, clapping with partners on the word *worship*.

**SING**

God wants us to trust in him,
Trust in him,
Trust in him.
God wants us to trust in him
Every day.

God wants us to worship him,
Worship him,
Worship him.
God wants us to worship him
Every day.

**Do the Bible Story**

**SUPPLIES:** cups of juice, CD player

Before this activity, set up an area with cups of juice in one corner of the room.

Say: Abram took a lot of people and animals on his trip. They made a long, traveling line called a caravan. Let’s pretend we’re in Abram’s caravan, traveling to a new land.

Form a line and have children hold onto the waist of the person in front of them. Lead the children around and out of the room on a long “journey.” Say: Whew, it’s hot out in this desert sun! Let’s look for an oasis—that’s a place where there’s shade and cool water to drink. Continue on your journey, finally arriving at your “oasis” of juice. Allow children to enjoy the cool drink. Then ask:

- What was it like to go on our journey? (It was fun; it was long; I got tired.)
- Why did you follow me? (Because I wanted to see where we’d go; because you said to; I knew we’d have fun.)
- How do you think Abram felt as he journeyed to a place that he didn’t know about? (Scared; nervous; a little weird; like he was on an adventure.)
- Why do you think Abram obeyed God? (Because he trusted him; he knew God would take care of him; he loved God.)

Say: Sometimes it may be hard to trust and obey God, especially when we don’t understand why he wants us to do something. But when we trust God, it’s easier to obey him, too.

Our Bible verse is from Proverbs 3:5, and it says, ➔“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Have children repeat the verse with you. When you do something with all your heart, you do your very best at it. That’s how much we can trust God. Let’s listen to a song about that.
God Asks Abram to Move to a New Land and Abram Obeys

Play “With All Your Heart” (Proverbs 3:5a) on the CD (track 20). Lyrics for this song can be found at the end of your teacher guide. Play it through a second time, and encourage children to try to sing along with the CD.

Say: God wants us to trust him, and he gives us lots of reasons why we can. I’ve got a special trick I want to show you to let you know how much you can trust me. Ready? Here we go!

**Dress Up and Drama**

**SUPPLIES:** sheet of paper, tape, crayons

Before this activity, tape a sheet of paper over the fish stencils so the stencils aren’t visible.

Say: Abram trusted God, even though Abram didn’t know where God would send him. And God wants us to trust him, too.

Hold up the paper you prepared ahead of time so children can’t see the fish stencils. Continue: I need you to help me make a picture appear on this paper. You won’t draw the picture. It will just appear when you color on the paper. It will be quite an amazing trick!

Ask: Do you trust that I’m telling the truth? Why or why not? (Yes, because I like you; no, because you’re tricky.)

Do you think Abram believed God? Why or why not? (Yes, because he loved God; no, maybe he wasn’t sure what God would do.)

Say: Abram trusted that God would do what God said. You can trust that I’ll do what I say, too. Let’s see what happens with our paper.

Set the paper down on the floor, and ask a volunteer to color over the paper to make the fish shapes appear. Let children take turns coloring on the paper, or hand out sheets of paper to each child and let them create their own fish stencil rubbings.

Say: Your fish pictures look great! I’m glad that you could trust me that something special would happen with our paper. And you know something? When God says he will do something, you can believe it will really happen, too! Abram trusted God, and God wants us to trust him, too.

Return the fish stencils to the Learning Lab. Do you think Pockets would like to hear about Abram, too? Let’s see if she’s around.

**Closing**

**Moving Jitters**

**SUPPLIES:** none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.
Pockets: Oh, dear! Oh, me! Oh, my! (Hops about nervously.)
Teacher: Hi, Pockets. My goodness, can’t you sit still? What are you so worried about?
Pockets: Well, my family’s moving to a new house this week, and I’m very worried about it.
Teacher: Moving to a new place can be a little scary.
Pockets: Yeah! I’m scared because I don’t know anybody in my new neighborhood. I don’t know where the parks are, or the library, or…or anything!
Teacher: You know what, Pockets? Today we’re learning about trusting God even in scary situations like yours. We just heard about a man named Abram who made a big move, too.
Pockets: Was Abram scared like me?
Teacher: He might have been. Children, can you tell Pockets what Abram did when God asked him to move? (Encourage children to tell about Abram obeying God and taking Sarai and Lot to Canaan.)
You see, Pockets, God had a special plan for Abram’s life. Abram trusted God and did just what God told him to do.
Pockets: Did Abram like his new home?
Teacher: Yes, Pockets. It took a long time for all of God’s plan to work out, but Abram kept trusting in God.
Pockets: Well, I guess if Abram could do it, so can I! I’m sure glad I came today. I really needed to hear that God wants us to trust him. I’d better go help my mom pack my stuff. We have to take my favorite blanket, my posters, my toys… (fading)
Happy Trails

**SUPPLIES:** napkins, bags of trail mix from Option 2

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes or at a nearby sink. Distribute napkins and the bags of trail mix that children made in Option 2.

Say: **God wants us to trust him.** When we do, it makes God happy! Use the pieces of your trail mix to make a happy face on your napkin.

When children have finished, say: **Let’s ask God to help us trust him and thank him for our trail-mix treat.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for your plan for us. Help us trust you and follow you this week. Thank you for our special treat today. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Allow kids to enjoy their trail-mix smiles.

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.

web-tip

Want even more activity ideas for this lesson? Check out HandsOnBible.com/tips.
For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

**Lively Learning: Packing Relay**

Form two groups and have each one line up at one end of the room. Place a box or suitcase at the other end of the room, opposite each line. Next to each suitcase, set a stack of items such as dress-up clothes, old shoes, a stuffed animal, and some borrowed items from the church kitchen. Be sure there’s an equal number of items in each pile. Say “Go!” and have the first student in each line move to his or her team’s suitcase, place one of the items inside it, travel back in the same way, and tag the next child, and sit down at the end of the line. Have each child in line add an item to the suitcase. Encourage children to move to their suitcases in unique and fun ways, such as shuffling their feet, bopping and dancing, giant steps there and baby steps back, walking backward, or duck walking.

Continue until each child has had a turn. Then remind children that Abram trusted God and that God wants us to trust him, too.

**Make to Take: Backpack Bags**

Before class, punch two holes in the bottom of a paper grocery sack. Prepare enough sacks so you have one sack for each child. Distribute two 3-foot lengths of string or yarn to each student. Show children how to poke the string through each hole and then tie it together (see diagram). When children have tied both strings together, help them wear the sack like a backpack. Children may decorate their backpacks with the star stamp, crayons, or markers. Remind children that Abram took everything he owned on his long trip.

**Treat to Eat: Desert Desserts**

Give each child a flour tortilla and a handful of raisins. Show kids how to spread cream cheese across the tortilla to represent a sandy desert. Allow children to make raisin footprints across the sand to represent Abram’s trek across the desert. Explain that God wants us to trust him, just as Abram did.

**Story Picture: Abram Trusts and Obeys God**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Place small pieces of felt and material on the table for the children to glue on the blankets and packs in their pictures. Explain that this picture can remind them that God wants us to trust him, just as Abram did.
Verse to Learn
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5a).

Ask Me...
- What did Abram do when God asked him to move?
- How do we know we can trust God?
- What is one way we can show God that we trust him?

Family Fun
- Go on a day trip to a park or hiking area. Pack a backpack with food for the trail. Have children look at a map in a phone book to decide where they want to go and how to get there. Pretend to venture into a new land! What would it be like to travel for months, even years like this?

Abram Trusts and Obeys God (Genesis 12:1-5)