

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
KINDERGARTEN
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 5

God Calls Abraham



God calls Abram

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To continue the story of the Bible by showing God choosing Abram and promising the land to his descendants.

Key Verses

Genesis 12:1-9—Main Teaching Passage
Matthew 1:1-16

Memory Verse - Galatians 3:6 (October Memory Verse)

"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness."

Hook

Ask the class, "Would you find it difficult to go for a week without watching TV? How about a month? How about a whole year?"

"Is there anything in your life that absolutely could not do without? What about your friends? What about your family?"

"What would you do if God asked you to get up and leave all of your friends and family behind? Would that be difficult for you?"

"Would it be more difficult if God didn't even tell you where you were going?"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

So far, we have studied the introduction of sin into the world through Adam and Eve, the affects of sin in the world in Cain and Abel, and the spread of sin to all people in the days of Noah. In Genesis 12, we begin to see the way that God would move in order to reunite man to Himself and overcome the problem of sin.

God began to put His plans into place by choosing one man who would become the father of a great nation (the Israelites), and in turn, through them the whole world would be blessed. God appears to Abram and told him to leave Ur of the Chaldeans and go to a land that he would be shown. After getting sidetracked in Haran for a brief time, Abram came to a land called Canaan, where God made him some incredible promises. Abram was told: "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

All of these things came about exactly as God promised. Through Abram, the nation of Israel was born and planted in the land, and eventually out of Israel came the Messiah, the one who would restore the relationship between God and man, and make all things new. Truly through Him were all the families on earth blessed.

The interpretation/ exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Imagine how difficult it must have been for Abram to obey God. God showed up and asked him to leave everything that he had ever known and start walking to a land that God would show him. Abram wasn't even given the name of the place he was supposed to go. God just told him to start going, and when he got there God would let him know.

Abraham would need to leave everything and everyone that he had ever known behind. The only people who went with him were his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and his father Terah, who died in a town called Haran. What's more, Abram would never be able to contact his old friends and family again. There was no email, no cell phones, and there wasn't even a mail system to send letters. He was going to have to leave everyone behind for good. Abram chose to obey God, and he left, eventually ending

LOOK (Continued)

up in a place called Canaan, which would later be renamed Israel. When he arrived at Canaan, God did something incredible. He promised that Abram's family would become a great nation, and that one of his descendants would bless the whole world.

In Matthew 1:2, we see a record of Abram's family tree. You will notice that Abram's name is written as Abraham (we will look at that later) and that it shows us his son's name, Isaac. If you look all the way down, it lists all of the generations and their sons until we get to verse 16, where we see the promised descendant who would bless the whole world. Matthew 1 tells us that Jesus is the promised one of God. The reason that God chose Abram was so that thousands of years later, Jesus Christ could be born into the world, live a sinless life, die on a cross for the forgiveness of our sin, and rise from the grave conquering death. Truly through Christ the whole world was blessed. God delivered on His wonderful promise, but it all started with Abraham leaving home and following God.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking why it would have been hard for Abram to leave Ur. Why did he end up going anyway?

Pray: Thank the Lord for His word to us. Praise Him that He loves us enough to ask us to give up broken things of the world and to yearn for something better. Ask Him for the ability to hear His voice and to move in obedience.

Parent Question: What did God promise to give to Abraham's descendants?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Genesis 12:1-9 by David Guzik

Genesis 12 - God's Call of Abram; Abram in Egypt

A. God's promise to Abram.

1. (1-3) God's previous covenant with Abram.

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

a. **Now the LORD had said to Abram:** We know from Acts 7:2-4 that this promise was made to Abram *before* he left Ur of the Chaldeans. Now that his father was dead and he was compelled to a more complete obedience, God repeated the promise.

i. Abram's partial obedience did not take God's promise away. Instead, it meant the promise was on "hold" until Abram was ready to do what the LORD said.

ii. Abram would certainly become a giant of faith, even being the father of the believing (Galatians 3:7); yet he did not start there. We see Abram as an example of *growing* in faith and obedience.

b. **To a land I that I will show you:** After stating He wanted Abram to leave his country and his relatives, God promised Abram a **land**. Specifically, God promised the land of greater Israel.

i. These are *God's* promises; notice how often God says **I will** in these verses. Genesis chapter 11 is all about the plans of man. Genesis chapter 12 is all about the plans of God.

c. **I will make you a great nation:** God promised to make a **nation** from Abram. He will have enough children and grandchildren and further descendants to populate a nation.

d. **And make your name great:** God promised to bless Abram and to **make** [his] **name great**. There is probably no more honored name in history than the name of Abram, who is honored by Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

e. **I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you:** God also promised He would **bless those who bless you** and to **curse him who curses you**. This remains true today and is a root reason for the decline and death of many empires.

i. "When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple, they were soon conquered by Rome. When Rome killed Paul and many others, and destroyed Jerusalem under Titus, Rome soon fell. Spain was reduced to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; Poland fell after the pogroms; Hitler's Germany went down after its orgies of anti-Semitism; Britain lost her empire when she broke her faith with Israel." (Barnhouse)

ii. This is also one reason why the United States has been so blessed. The United States was one of the first modern nations to grant full citizenship and protection to Jewish people.

iii. This promise has also affected the church. The times when the church took upon itself the persecution of the Jewish people were dark times not only for the Jews, but also for the church.

f. **In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed:** Not only was Abram promised blessing, but God also promised to *make him* a blessing, even to the point where **all the families of the earth** would be blessed in Abram.

i. *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Galatians 3:8-9)*

ii. *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).* The work of Jesus will touch every people group on the earth.

iii. Luther said the promise **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed** should be written "in golden letters and should be extolled in the languages of all people," for "who else ... has dispensed this blessing among all nations except the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ?" (Boice)

2. (4) Abram's departure from Haran.

So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

a. **And Lot went with him:** This was partial obedience by Abram. God commanded him to go out *from his kindred*, and he brought his nephew Lot.

b. **Lot went with him:** Lot would not be a blessing to Abram. He would be nothing but trouble and inconvenience.

3. (5-6) Abram's arrival in Canaan.

Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

4. (7-9) God appears to Abram in Canaan.

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

a. **Then the LORD appeared to Abram:** Once Abram was in the land, God reminded him of His promise. The land Abram saw belonged to Abram and his descendants.

b. **To your descendants I will give this land:** Abram never owned any of this land except his burial plot

(Genesis 23:14-20). Yet God's promise was enough evidence to assure Abram that he did indeed own the whole country.

c. **And there he built an altar to the LORD:** Abram thought this was important to do. The altar was important to Abram because it was a place to meet with God, to offer sacrifice for sin, to show submission to God, and to worship God.

i. Christians have an altar also (Hebrews 13:10). We meet with God at our own place where we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for sin (Ephesians 5:2), where we submit to God as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), and where we offer the sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15).

d. **He pitched his tent:** Even in the land God gave him, Abram never lived in a house - he lived in a tent. Tents are the home of those who are just passing through and do not put down permanent roots.

i. We too are to live like tent-dwellers, as pilgrims on this earth (1 Peter 2:11). We should live as people who have their permanent dwelling place in heaven, not on earth. Too many Christians want to build mansions on earth and think they would be happy with tents in heaven.

ii. A pilgrim is someone who leaves home and travels to a specific destination. A pilgrim isn't a drifter; a pilgrim has a goal. Abram's goal (and our goal) was God's heavenly city (Hebrews 11:8-10, 14-16).