



Date: _____

Series: God Keeps His Promises
Fall Year 2, Lesson 19

The Call of Abram

Bible Event: Genesis 12:1-5

Take Home Point: *GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – *I follow God.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: We are brought into God's family through Jesus.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that there are times in life when God will guide us in our hearts to do certain things. We won't always know God's reasons, but we will always know that God keeps his promises no matter what. Just like when Abram left his home to follow God's instructions, God will keep his promises to us, too. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – *I follow God.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Here is a true event from the Bible about God who made a promise and kept his promise to a man named Abram. Abram was a very old man who lived long ago. One day, he heard the Lord call to him. God spoke to Abram and made a very special promise to him. God said (read the following paraphrase or read from the Bible, Genesis 12:1-3), "Leave your country, your people, and your father's house and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, and all the people on earth will be blessed through you."

Abram knew that was a big promise from God. Abram said to himself, "God keeps his promises – I'll follow God." So Abram gathered up his wife and his servants and his nephew and his animals and they all started on a long journey to the land that God had promised. They kept walking and walking. (Have children walk in place.) Nobody knew where he was going or how far away it was. They would ask Abram, "Are we there yet?" (Have children repeat this line. As the story goes, cue the kids to say this line.) And Abram would

answer, **“God keeps his promises – I’ll follow God.”** *(Also cue children to fill in this line when prompted.)*

The first day they traveled, it was very windy. *(Have children walk in place and pretend to be blown around by the wind.)* **The people were tired and they would ask Abram, “Are we there yet?” And Abram would say, “God keeps his promises – I’ll follow God.”**

The next day, it was dusty and dirty in the desert. *(Have children walk in place, squint their eyes, and brush off dust.)* **The people were tired and they would ask Abram, “Are we there yet?” And Abram would say, “God keeps his promises – I’ll follow God.”**

The next day, it was hot and the people were thirsty. *(Have children walk in place, fan themselves, and pant.)* **Do you know what those tired people asked Abram? “Are we there yet?” Abram answered, “God keeps his promises – I’ll follow God.”**

Then, Abram had all of the people sit down for a rest. *(Have children sit.)* **Abram said to the people, “We still have further to go. God will tell us when we’re there. Just be patient!”**

Do you know what happened next? You’ll have to wait until next week to see what happens when Abram and his people get to the land God promised!

(Show a cross.) **Let’s close by looking at this cross. Does this cross remind anyone of a promise God made? This cross reminds us of the most important promise God ever made for us. He sent Jesus to take away our sins so we could be friends with God forever. That promise is still good today! Remember: *GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – I follow God!**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Trail mix. Options include pretzels, raisins, cereal, M&Ms, marshmallows, etc. (Be creative – use leftovers from your pantry.)

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Trail mix is great! Use nuts and dried fruit and talk of what Abram might have taken on his trip for food. Discuss how the food that God created for us to eat is a great way to energize us for the trips we may go on for HIM!

Drama Zone: Provide dress-up clothes and suitcases for children to practice packing. *Option:* Place five numbered locations around the room for children to “travel” to, in order, after they pack their suitcase.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of “The Call of Abram” from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #10 “God Blesses Faithful Abraham” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Puppet Zone: Part of following God means to be nice to others. Have puppets brainstorm ways they can be nice to others.

Craft Zone: Provide blank paper, six-inch lengths of yarn, and various colors of paint. Have children hold one end of the yarn, dip the other end in the paint, and pull the yarn along the paper to create Abram’s path. Provide sponge brushes or markers for children to draw in trees, mountains, etc. if time permits. Attach a pre-made label: “Abram’s Travels – I follow God.”

Play Zone: Play “Simon Says.”

Quiet Reading Zone: *Abraham Big Book* and a basket of books.

Music Zone: “*Father Abraham*”



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba peeks out on stage with a blanket over his head. He's hiding. The large group presenter wants to know why. Bubba says he just left his other Sunday school group because they wanted him to do things he didn't want to do. The teacher wanted him to clean up the room, be quiet for story time, and wait in line. He didn't want to do any of those things, so he decided to hide instead. The large group presenter thinks that Bubba doesn't like to follow directions. He explains that today's lesson is about following God. One way to follow God is to follow directions.

The large group presenter uses the *Abraham Big Book* as a guide to help the kids tell Abram's story to Bubba. The large group presenter concludes by explaining to Bubba that Abram didn't even know where he was going or how long it would take, but he still followed God's directions. We should follow God's directions, too, by doing what we are asked to do and being nice to others.

Remember, ***GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES – I follow God.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- cross

Action Zones:

Snack:

- trail mix
- *Options* include pretzels, raisins, cereal, M&Ms, marshmallows, etc.

Craft:

- blank paper
- six-inch lengths of yarn
- newspaper to cover tables
- various colors of paints
- sponge brushes
- markers
- Avery 5160 labels that read, "Abram's Travels—I follow God."

Drama:

- dress-up clothes
- suitcase or bags
- sheets of paper numbered one to five (*optional*)

Music:

- "Father Abraham"

Puppet:

- various animal puppets

Felt:

- use felt board Bible characters to act out the story of "The Call of Abraham." One resource is "Betty Lukens through the Bible in Felt," Lesson #10.

Quiet Reading:

- *Abraham Big Book*
- basket of books

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- small towel or blanket

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books