



Date: _____
Series: Pass The Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 11

God Calls Abram

Take Home Point: *You can trust God to lead you.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 12-13: God leads Abram out of Ur into a land God promises to give to him.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7: "Indeed, our lives are guided by faith, not by sight."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Abram being called to a new land and a new promise.
- We can trust God to lead us to new places in the future.

We will help kids feel:

- Confident to trust God and live by faith.
- Excited about their future since God will lead them.

We will help kids do:

- Experience a trust walk.
- Identify future events that may cause them anxiety.
- Place their confidence in Jesus as they know him as their Savior and follow him as Lord.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up</p> 	3-4	<p>Children will go through an obstacle course blindfolded. They discuss what it is like when the future is scary and you don't know where you are headed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> roll of masking tape for each group three blindfolds for each group Optional: set up a larger obstacle course for all groups with chairs, cones, etc.
<p>Large Group</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>6-7</p> <p>8-10</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Changes Schools"---Gordy is afraid of the future and going to a new school. He wants to take the matter into his own hands instead of trusting in God to take care of him.</p> <p>Bible Event Interview: "God Calls Abram"---covers the Bible Event from Genesis 12-13. God calls Abram out of the land of Ur to the land of Canaan. Abram has faith and trusts God's promise. God also promises to bless Abram with many descendants and that the Messiah would also be one of his descendants. Abram walked with faith.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy small backpack or suitcase for Gordy actor dressed as Abram (must have a beard) football with a cross drawn on it with masking tape
<p>Small Group Application</p> 	5-6	<p>Children eat trail mix while talking about their journey and trusting God. They pray for the child whose shoe they drew from the bag.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trail mix snack bag to hold shoes for each group

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

For the following warm-up event your group will need a roll of masking tape and three blindfolds. These items will help you create an obstacle course and blindfold the participants that will be navigating it. Use your own imagination to improvise other materials better suited for your setting.

Gather the kids in your group. Blindfold three children. Ask them to keep their eyes closed under the blindfold as well. Give the other children several three-foot sections of masking tape. Have the second group of children make an obstacle course by placing the masking tape on the floor. One part of the room should be the starting point and the other part of the room should be the end.

Every place that is marked with masking tape becomes an imaginary wall. If a blindfolded participant bumps into any of the “walls,” he must be escorted back to the starting point.

The blindfolded participant will have a partner to help guide him through the obstacle course. The helper can only guide the participant with verbal directions. The trick is for the blindfolded participant to listen to one voice from amongst the group.

The game could be made even more difficult if all three blindfolded children go through the course at the same time. Each would have to listen for a different voice that is leading him.

Option: In advance, set up a larger obstacle course for all groups in a large open space i.e., a gym, a large hallway or outside. It can be as simple as setting up chairs or cones the kids must maneuver around to get to a destination, or just taping a maze on the floor.

Have kids in each small group form pairs, one wearing the blindfold and one to give directions. Let pairs line up at the start of the course and move as quickly as possible allowing only several seconds before starting the next pair. After the pair has reached the end of the course, let them trade roles and begin at the start again.

Option 2: Using the same large course, make different starting and finishing points.

Gather in small groups again to discuss the following:

What was the hardest part of trying to get through the obstacle course?

What was the hardest part of telling someone how to walk through the obstacle course?

What did it feel like when you didn't know where you were going and you were afraid of making a mistake?

Have you ever had to move to a new place or go to a new school? Before you moved, did you think about the future and did it seem very scary? You didn't know what was going to happen in the future, did you?

Let kids share their stories of not knowing what was to happen in the future. After discussion, introduce today's Bible event.

Today we will continue to watch as God passes the promise to his people. We will learn about how God passed the promise to a man named Abram. God told Abram to move and Abram didn't even know where he would end up. Abram had to walk by faith and not by sight. He had to trust God to lead him.

Today you will find this is true for you, as well. **You can trust God to lead you.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Changes Schools"

Gordy is afraid of the future and going to a new school. He wants to take the matter into his own hands instead of trusting in God to take care of him.

Bible Event Interview: "God Calls Abram"---covers the Bible Event from Genesis 12-13. God calls Abram out of the land of Ur to the land of Canaan. Abram has faith and trusts God's promise. God also promises to bless Abram with many descendants and that the Messiah would also be one of his descendants. Abram walked with faith.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Pass out a snack of trail mix to the kids as you discuss today's lesson.

Kids, this trail mix reminds us of how we sometimes have a snack when we are taking a hike or a long walk. We are all on a journey in our lives. Sometimes we don't know where our journey will end, but we do know we can trust God to lead us.

Have kids refer to Genesis 12:1-3 in their Bibles.

What are some of the promises God gave Abram? (*Land, descendents, a blessing.*)

What is the greatest promise God passed on to Abram? (*The promise that through him all the nations would be blessed. Jesus was born through Abram's family. The Old Testament talks about how this promise was passed down from generation to generation until Jesus was born.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think would be the hardest thing about Abram going to a new place?

What would be the hardest thing about believing Abram would have children when he was 75 years old?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Have all the children take off one shoe and put it in a bag in the middle of the group. The shoes will be used as a discussion starter.

As each of you pull a shoe out of the bag, you are invited to share an example of something in the future you might worry about. For example, some of you might worry about going to a new school or starting a new grade.

Let each child talk about something in the future he doesn't know about and might cause him to worry. You start with your own worry, then draw a shoe from the bag. The child who owns that shoe is the next person to share something. He then draws a shoe from the bag and the child who owns that shoe goes next and so on.

Ask the children to remember whose shoe they pulled from the bag and that child's concern about the future. They will be asked to pray for each other and those concerns during prayer time.

Questions to help kids discuss:

Would you be troubled about moving to a new town? What about going to the next school year and a new teacher? Could you be worried about what you are going to be when you grow up?

The key verse for today from 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "*Indeed, our lives are guided by faith, not by sight.*"

In our warm-up activity, you could trust your partner to lead you even when you couldn't see where you were going.

So just as Abram trusted God to lead him even though he did not know where he was going, **You can trust God to lead you.*

God is a great big God who loves you. You can know for sure he will keep his promises.

What promises of God are you thankful for today?

Closing Prayer:

Have the children sit in a circle as they pray. Each child should pray for the child whose shoe he drew out of the bag and how God will lead him/her into the future. Go around the circle as your group prays.

Thank God for all the promises he keeps and especially for passing the promise of Jesus to us from Abram.

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Large Group Presentation

“Gordy Changes Schools”

Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: **You can trust God to lead you.*

Mr. King: Kids, I understand you have just done some faith walking before coming to large group. Maybe you are getting ready for what it says here in the Bible in 2 Corinthians 5:7, *“Indeed, our lives are guided by faith, not by sight.”* In other words, you can trust God to lead you.

Should we check on Gordy and see if he is here?

(Children chant, “Gor-dy! Gor-dy! Gor-dy!”)

Gordy: *(Appears with backpack in hand.)* Hi, Mr. King! Hi, kids! I’m glad you caught me. I was just leaving.

Mr. King: **Where were you going?**

Gordy: I don’t know, but it’s gotta be better than where they were going to send me.

Mr. King: **What are you talking about, Gordy? What’s with the backpack?**

Gordy: Can’t you tell I’m running away?

Mr. King: **Why are you running away?**

Gordy: Because they are going to send me to a new school next year!

Mr. King: **Gordy, what’s so bad about that?**

Gordy: Are you kidding?! I’ll probably get a mean teacher who hates new kids and likes to sit on them!

Mr. King: **I don’t think...**

Gordy: And the school will probably have machines just for torturing kids!

Mr. King: **Oh, Gordy.**

Gordy: And none of the kids will like me. They will all make fun of me because I’m smarter than everyone else!

Mr. King: Gordy, I certainly don't think...

Gordy: I hate it when something new happens and I have to go to a new place and I don't even know what to expect!

Mr. King: Gordy, the Bible says that sometimes you can't know everything about the future. Still you can be confident that it will turn out okay.

Gordy: How does the Bible know I won't have a mean teacher who sits on new kids?

Mr. King: The Bible says that our lives are guided by faith, not by sight. In other words, we should trust that God would go with us and show us the way to go. Even if we can't see into the future, we should know that God would take us there.

Gordy: I don't know. I think I'll just take my chances out on my own.

Mr. King: I suppose you could, but that's when I would really be scared if I were you.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Mr. King: God wants to guide you and lead you to the best places. He even gives you parents and teachers to help you with that. But if you say you want to go do it all on your own, then you might just be stepping away from what God wants. You wouldn't be guided by following what God wants. Instead, you would be doing just what you want.

Gordy: Oh, and that's not good?

Mr. King: No, it's not.

Gordy: But I'm scared about going to a new school.

Mr. King: It's okay to be scared because you can't see the future. When you tell God about it **you can trust God to lead you.* I'll tell you what. I have a special guest here today that I'm going to interview. He will help you understand how God led him to a whole new place. Because this man followed where God was leading, God blessed him and made him a big blessing to many people.

Gordy: Who is it?

Mr. King: I would like to introduce my friend, Abram.

“God Calls Abram”

Bible Event Interview

(Abram enters dressed in a costume and long beard that shows his old age. He is carrying the football with the cross on it.)

Mr. King: **How do you do, Abram? Thank you for joining us today.**

Abram: *It’s a pleasure to be here.*

Mr. King: **I see you are a football fan.**

Abram: *Football? Is that what this is? No, we never had football when I lived thousands and thousands of years ago. I’m carrying this because you have been talking about God passing a promise.*

Mr. King: **That’s right. We have been talking about that.**

Abram: *God passed me a promise.*

Mr. King: **What was it?**

Abram: *He promised he would give me a land and many descendents. Through me all the people of the earth would be blessed.*

Mr. King: **Why don’t you tell us your story.**

Abram: *Okay. I was the beginning of a family known as God’s special family. It didn’t start until I was 75 years old. You see, I lived in the city of Ur of the Chaldeans. Here people worshiped the moon god, Ur. They even named their city after this god.*

My father, Terah, was a shepherd farmer living outside of Ur. He did not worship the moon god, but he followed the true, living God.

I had moved from the city of Ur to a place in Haran. I lived with my wife Sarai until I was 75 years old.

Mr. King: **Wow! That’s as old as a grandpa. Did you have grandchildren?**

Abram: *No. Sarai and I were sad because we were never able to have a child. Now Sarai was too old to have a child. We thought we would never have a family of our own. But that was something God was ready to change with a promise.*

Mr. King: **What happened?**

Abram: *It all began with a command from God. He told me, “Abram, rise up. Leave your country, your relatives, and your father’s house. Leave them. Go to a land that I will show you. You don’t know it yet, but it will be a land that I will give you.”*

Mr. King: **That sounds exciting.**

Abram: *Not as exciting as the next thing God said. God told me, “Abram, I will make you a father, a grandfather, and even a great grandfather. Your children shall multiply until they are a family of thousands. I will bless you so you shall be a blessing to all the nations. In you, Abram, shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”*

Mr. King: **What did God mean by that?**

Abram: *God was passing the promise to me, like this football. That meant that through my descendents the Messiah, Jesus, would some day be born. Through Jesus, all the people of the world would be blessed.*

Mr. King: **But, Abram, you were such an old man. How could you have a baby?**

Abram: *I didn’t know. I also didn’t know where God would lead me. I just knew I had to obey God.*

I gathered my possessions and told Sarai that we were going to a new home. She asked me where it was, and I said I didn’t know. God knew and he would tell us.

We traveled hundreds and hundreds of miles. Finally we stopped in the land of Canaan. Here the Lord gave me another wonderful promise. He told me to look to the west as far as I could see. Then he told me to look to the east, the north, and the south. One day all of that land would belong to my children. God would give it to them.

I didn’t even have any children! But I had faith that God had a plan for me. I built an altar and worshiped God.

Mr. King: **So you settled in the plush, green lands of Canaan?**

Abram: *Yes. With me was my nephew, Lot. He, too, had many livestock and shepherds taking care of his animals.*

Our shepherds began to fight over the water and the land. Lot and I realized we couldn’t be together anymore. We decided to part ways.

I said to him, “Go to whatever part of the land you want to and I will go to the other.” Lot chose the plush, green Jordan River. It looked like the best to him, and the area even had two cities in it. What Lot did not see was the evil in the two cities, Sodom and Gomorrah.

I took my flocks to the bare, brown hills of Canaan. There I wandered with my flocks, waiting for God to keep his promise of giving me descendents and the promised land.

Mr. King: **What did you learn, Abram?**

Abram: *I learned that you could trust God to lead you. He passed the promise to me that he would lead me, give me a land, children, and a promised Messiah to be born in my family many years later.*

Mr. King: **That’s fantastic! Thank you very much, Abram. Thank you for being an example of trusting God to lead you.**

Gordy: Hey, wait a minute, Mr. Abram! Weren’t you ever scared when you didn’t know the future?

Abram: *Of course, it was scary. When you get scared that is when you need to trust God. He passes the promise that he will always be with us and lead us in the way we should go. Here. Catch. (Passes the football to Gordy.)*

Gordy: You mean, I have a promise too?

Abram: *Of course, you do. Just like Jesus was promised in the Old Testament in my day, Jesus is promised in your day. You already know he has done all you need for him to be your friend forever. Jesus died on the cross and rose again.*

Gordy: Oh, I know that. So he has passed me the promise, too.

Abram: *That’s true. You can trust God to lead you.*

Gordy: Cool! Well, I think I’ll take the football and—who knows—maybe it will help me make some new friends at my new school.

Mr. King: **Great, Gordy! Go give it a try.**