

# A CALL TO ACTION

Abram  
Genesis 12:1–9  
2091 BC

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God calls us to follow Him.

### BIBLE VERSE

I trust in You, O LORD. Psalm 31:14

### LEARNER GOAL

I understand that I am God's child and that He calls me to follow Him.

### LAW & GOSPEL

In our sinful fear and doubt, we do not trust God to lead us and do what He promises.

**God is faithful and carries out His promises, giving us faith in and through Jesus to trust and follow Him.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Abram responds to God's calling as he leaves his idolatry and homeland to follow the true God. Abram takes his wife, Sarai, and nephew Lot as they journey to the land of Canaan. The Lord's appearance prompts Abram to build an altar, celebrating God's promise to give this land to his descendants.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Genesis 12:1–9 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Read the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, its explanation, and related questions in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Suitcase or moving box
- Sock puppet or towel for headdress
- Old magazines
- Blanket, basket, and play dishes
- Trail mix and resealable bags
- Downloaded Unit 1 map from Planning Guide (digital resource center)

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

# LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

## BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

## SAY

- Have you ever gone camping or stayed in a tent? What was it like? Today we'll learn about a man who took his family on a long trip. At night they put up tents and camped out under the stars.**
- Show a suitcase or big moving box. **If you had to move from your house, what would be the hardest part? What would be the most exciting part?** Remind learners that God is with us during those times, just as He was with Abram.

## PRAY

Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your Word today. Help us to learn how You call us to follow You. Amen.

# LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

## TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

### DO THIS!

Use one or more of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Make an Abram sock puppet to use as you tell the story. Draw a face on a white tube sock. Cut a piece of cloth large enough to fit over the head of the puppet for a head piece. Use a needle and thread to attach it to the sock. Tie a piece of twine or yarn around it for a headband.
- FOR A WIDE RANGE OF AGES** After you've told the story or read it together, have students take a journey with Abram. Walk through the classroom to the different places that Abram went and act out what he did: (1) God calls Abram and then says, "Go!" (2) Abram goes to the land of Canaan and takes a lot of people with him. (3) When they get there, God makes three promises to Abram. (4) Abram builds an altar to God. (5) Abram continues to go wherever God leads him.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose a few questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- How did Abram know that he could trust God?
- How would you feel if you were moving to a new place? What could you remember?
- Is it ever hard to follow Jesus? When? What do you do when it's hard?

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- God's promises to Abram helped him to have faith in God. Abraham trusted God to keep His promises, and God did.
- You can remember that God loves you. He called you to be His child. He promises to be with you and take care of you.
- God called Abram, and God calls us. God was with Abram, and God is with us.
- We are God's children, and He calls us to follow Him. The Holy Spirit works in us to trust God and do what He wants us to do.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

All nations would be blessed through Abraham's offspring—Jesus!

# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Pretend to be Abraham telling his story. Put a towel over your head for a Bible-times headpiece, or use a sock puppet to represent him.

Let's listen to Abraham tell his story. *Pretend to be Abraham, or use a puppet.*

Hello, my name is Abraham. Once I lived in a city with many buildings. I lived with my father and brothers and our families. I was happy living there.

But one day, I heard a voice. The voice said, "I love you, Abraham. I want you to leave this place and go to the land I will show you. It will be your new home.

I wonder . . . do you know who was telling me these things? *Pause for answer.*

Let's find out.

It was God! He was calling me to a new land. God promised to be with me and bless me. He said, "I am going to give you many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Through you, I will show My love for all people."

Still, I wondered about this new place and what I would do there. But I knew God loved me and would take care of me. I trusted in Him. So, my family and I packed up all our things. What a big job that was! Finally, we were ready to start our big trip.

Day after day we traveled. Tromp, tromp, tromp went our feet over the sandy ground. Bumpety bump bump trudged the camels carrying our things. "Baa, baa," said the sheep. At night, we pitched our tents and slept under the stars. Finally, we got to our new home.

God promised again that this new land would belong to us. He promised to bless me with a big family and to show His love for all people through my family.

Do you know how? Many years later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to be born from my family! Jesus would die and rise again to pay for the sins of all people.

I took some stones and piled them up to make an altar. Then we all thanked God for our new home and for choosing us to be His people. And do you know what? God loves you too. He chose you to be His child and promises to bless you. You can trust in Him.

Let's tell God thank You together. *Say prayer.*

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# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Just like God chose Noah before, now He chose a man named Abram who came from the line of Noah's son Shem. Abram was married to a woman named Sarai. **Suddenly, unexpectedly, God came and called Abram by name.** He told him to get up and leave his home and travel to a land that God would show him.

God made three great promises to Abram. **The Lord's first promise was to make Abram's family into a great nation.** By itself, that was a promise that seemed too good to be true. Abram was already seventy-five years old, and Sarai was sixty-five. They didn't have a child, and now everyone thought she was too old to have a baby. But Abram believed God could do anything He wanted to do, no matter what people thought.

**God's second promise was to make Abram's name great.** That meant people all over would know Abram, they would remember him long after he died, and they would thank God for his faith.

**God's third promise was the most important of all. He would bless all the families of the earth through Abram's offspring.** This was the same promise God gave Adam and Eve back in the Garden of Eden. **God was now including Abram in the line that would lead to Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of the world.**

**Abram believed God.** He got up, packed his things, and took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew and all the people who worked for them and their families. Abram didn't know where he was going, just that God would guide him. **God led them to a land called Canaan** and made the promise to give this land to the offspring of Abram.

**The first thing Abram did was build an altar to the Lord.** Abram would never build a house in Canaan; he would live in a big tent and move it from place to place in the land. Canaan is called the Promised Land because God promised He would give that land to Abram's descendants afterward.

# LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

## Following Jesus Poster

Let students work individually or in groups to create posters using their own drawings or photographs cut from magazines to illustrate what it means to follow Jesus today. Talk about how the Holy Spirit guides us through the Word. Encourage them to add today's Bible Verse.



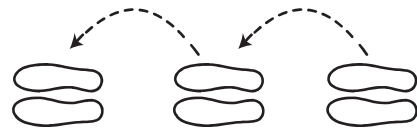
## Imaginary Trip

Have children pretend they are Abraham and his family going to the new land. Set out a blanket and play dishes. Put your snack for today in a basket. Have each child carry an item as you walk around your room, pointing out things that remind you of God's love. Stop and spread out the blanket. Say a prayer of thanks and take your snack out to eat.



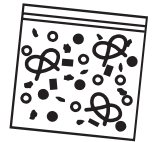
## Moving to the Promised Land

Have children stand on one side of the room. Designate the finish line as the Promised Land. Call out ways they can go to the Promised Land (jump forward three times; take two giant steps backwards; take five baby steps forward). When they reach the Promised Land, have them sit down. Talk about how God called Abraham to a new land and promised to bless him with a new home, a big family, and a Savior. Say, **Abraham trusted God to keep His promises, and God did. God called you to be His child when you were baptized. He talks to you in the Bible and promises to bless you too. Ask, How does God bless you?** (Family, home, food, healing, answering prayer, sending Jesus to be our Savior)



## Traveling Snack

Portion trail mix (pretzels, raisins, cereal, candy-coated chocolate pieces—or make up your own) into snack-size resealable bags. Talk about what Abraham and his family ate as they traveled. Say, **God provided for Abram's family as they followed Him. How does God provide for us as we follow Him?**



## Abram's Travels Map

Use the downloadable map for Unit 1 from the Planning Guide to show students where Abram was living and traveling. Have students identify other cities and places that they recognize to give them a sense of how these places are related.



## Bible Verse

After each phrase, lead children in saying the Bible Verse (Psalm 31:14). Say, **When I'm scared of the dark, . . .**  
*Children:* "I trust in You, O LORD."  
**When I miss my parents, . . .**  
**When I'm sick, . . .**  
**No matter where I go or how I feel, . . .**



# LEAVE

## SAY

Today we learned that God calls us to be His children and promises to bless us. He gives us many good things. Best of all, He sent Jesus to be our Savior. We can trust Him to keep all His promises.

## PRAY

Thank You, heavenly Father, for calling us to follow You. Thank You for blessing us through Abraham's offspring, Jesus! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.