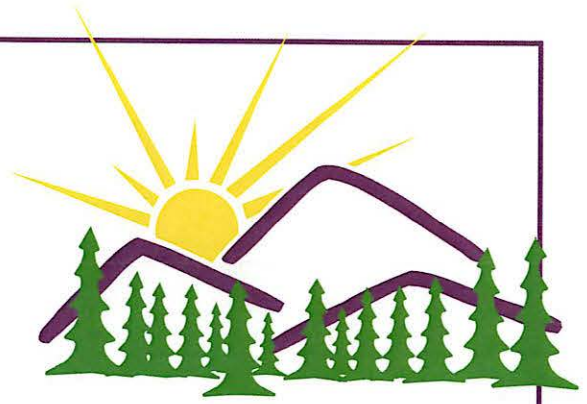


Faithful Abraham

Theme: Faith — Trusting and obeying God



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Make a fill-in-the-blank worksheet as on page 79 in this Guide, but without “New” in the title. This helps prepare students for reciting the Memory Verse in class.

Bible Facts: Brush Up On Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each one completes it, the children may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Have the Memory Verse printed on a sheet of paper or enlarged on a poster. Begin a display that will eventually feature all Memory Verses and the names of students who said them. Prepare a card for each student with his or her name and the Memory Verse citation ready to put on the display. A sample wall display is shown on page 11.



Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Telling the Story

1. In the classroom Bibles, find, read together, and discuss Genesis 11:1 and Genesis 12:1-4.
2. Move to the Floor Map Bible Story Center. Have a student use a pointer to point out on the time line approximately when today’s lesson events took place.
3. Have in the *All Things Made New Gift Box* the Lesson Graphics and some wooden blocks. Tell the story of the tower of Babel, using the blocks to build.
4. Using the floor map and, from the *All Things Made New Gift Box*, the Lesson Graphics, tell the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Lot going to new land.
5. Have students participate in a “Trust Walk.” Abraham trusted God to lead him to a land he had never seen. Pair up the students. One of each pair is blindfolded and trusts the other to lead him or her around the room. Then switch roles. Discuss that this is similar to the way Abraham trusted God and the way we must trust God.
6. Sing “Our God is an Awesome God.”

Telling the Bible Story

- Prepare yourself to tell the Bible story to children by doing the three most important activities for all Bible study – read, read, read.
- Know the Bible story well enough that you can tell it without reading, except for short passages that you may want to read directly from Scripture.
- As you tell the story, have your Bible open in front of you. Make sure you always read at least one verse from the Bible text so children will know the story is from God.
- Be enthusiastic in telling the story to children to capture and keep their attention.
- As you tell the story, ask questions such as, “Why do you suppose he did that?” or “What do you think will happen next?” Let the students be active listeners as they participate in the storytelling.
- Keep the graphics and props hidden until the appropriate time in the story and then bring them out to illustrate and reinforce. An element of suspense gives students a purpose for staying engaged in the story.

Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Have a worksheet featuring a map showing Ur, Haran, and Canaan. Younger students may connect the dots to show Abraham's travels and then color the map. Older students can label the key places and draw the travel line.

Bible Facts: Brush Up On Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about God. Genesis 1:1-3 tell of God's power.

Prayer

Starter

How would you feel if your parents sat down after dinner and told you that next week your family will be moving to South America? They tell you that your family will not buy a house, but will live in a tent. You find out that you don't know the language spoken where you are going in South America. Your dad will leave his good job in the United States and have to look for work there. Finally, your parents tell you there is a strong church in South America where you are going, and you need to have faith that God will care for you and your family.

How does this news make you feel? What are the positive and negative parts of moving? Abraham must have felt something like this when God told him to leave his family, friends, and hometown and go to the place God would show him.

Briefly Review the Lesson Story from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story

1. *Objective: Demonstrate how confusing people's language stopped them from building*

Have five small wooden blocks for each student. Have them hold the blocks still until you get to the part of the story about building the Tower of Babel. While telling this part of the story, have each student quietly build a small tower. After covering the lesson, place all the blocks on the table or floor. Appoint a student as the building supervisor and others as advisors. Explain that the students can only talk gibberish — nothing that can be understood by others. Now have the students plan and build a tower together from all the blocks. Without a means of communicating, the project is difficult if not impossible. Stop them before it is completed and question them about how hard it is to build this way. Discuss how God stopped the Tower of Babel project by making people's languages so they could not understand each other.

2. *Objective: Illustrate how God's promise to Abraham to make him a great nation started out small, but after many years God did what He promised*

Prepare a map of Canaan and surrounding lands. You might want to place the map in a shallow

box or pan. Point out Canaan as the land God promised to Abraham. First, put three drops of glue somewhere in the area of Canaan and attach three beads or three small objects to represent Abraham's small beginnings. Next, spread glue all over the area of Canaan and scatter many beads, small objects, or confetti over the whole land. Discuss the good land God promised to Abraham and his many descendants who would live in the land. Talk about the fact that God is a God of great promises!

3. *Objective: Reinforce God's three promises to Abraham and where to find these key verses in the Bible*

Have a metal board or a magnetic draw erase board about the size of a piece of poster board. Title the board GOD'S GREAT PROMISES. Print on cards the following references or words, and attach a magnetic tape strip to the back of each card:

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Matthew 3:1-12
- Land
- Nation
- Seed
- Nice house
- Great car
- Designer clothes
- Money
- Power

Have students take turns drawing a card and deciding if it should be on the board as God's promise or if it should be rejected.

4. *Objective: Supplement the lesson by reviewing the covenant scene in Genesis 15:5-18*

Provide a cauldron, such as a black plastic one that is available around Halloween, and a flashlight. Assign students to be animals which God and Abraham used in the covenant ceremony. If you don't have enough students, provide graphics of birds, rams, and bulls. Make a path having students and/or graphics lying on the floor as animals. Turn off the lights and the teacher passes through the animals with the cauldron and flashlight/torch to confirm God's covenant with Abraham.

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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