

Lesson 9

Trust in God Above All Things

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Genesis 12:1-5 and Genesis 15:1-6

MEMORY VERSE: And he answered, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Trust in the LORD with all your Heart and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5-6

CATECHISM:

The First Commandment: Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will know:

- God can be trusted at all times.
- God will always keep His promises.

MATERIALS: Map of Abraham’s journey, activity sheets, have memory verse written on the board, consider the family tree suggestion from Lesson 3

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson focuses on God’s call to Abraham to leave his country, his family and his culture. Abraham probably had many questions, but Abraham was to trust God without knowing where he was going. Abraham trusted and followed God. The main point here is that Abraham believed (15:6). Abraham’s trust made him right before God. The blessing came when Abraham trusted. God promised to bless Abraham, making his family into a great nation. You’ll explain about families having children and grandchildren (descendants) that over time become a great number of people. Many years later, Jesus would be born into Abraham’s family. And through Him all the world would be blessed.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What did God ask Abraham to do? 2) What did He promise Abraham? 3) What did God not tell Abraham? After the 2nd paragraph ask, 4) What did Abraham do? 5) What did God do for them as they traveled?

ACTIVITY 1: A letter with fill in the blanks to be completed telling the story of Abram.

ACTIVITY 2: A numbering activity to order the words of the First Commandment and its meaning. Would work well with Catechism review.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to be an example of one who trusts God only. Pray that you will wait upon the Lord as He guides you through this Sunday School year.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to bless these children.
- Pray that God always keeps His promises and can be trusted to be with us every moment of our lives.

Bible Background

Genesis 12:1-5 God Calls Abraham

The history of redemption, like that of creation, begins with God speaking. “The Lord said...” The Lord comes to Abraham and speaks. The covenant with Abraham is initiated by the Word of God. That word is both a command and a promise. Abraham is to forsake the way of sin and commit himself to the Lordship of Yahweh, the covenant God. This call to forsake everything and follow the Lord finds its nearest parallel in the Gospel call of Christ.

God promises to make Abraham a great nation (12:2) which includes territory as well as people. Abraham couldn't understand this, but he “saw” the result (Hebrews 11:8ff). By faith he went and without knowing where he was going. He saw in the promise the city of God, a better, heavenly country (Heb. 11:10-16). Yes, the promise included the heavenly Jerusalem promised to all who receive the blessing through Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ Himself.

“And so you shall be a blessing” (12:2) is both a benediction and a command. Through Abraham's obedience the blessing would come and it would be realized through the process of redemption. All families of the earth would receive this blessing through Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). Abraham's act of trust and obedience gave him the title “friend of God” or one who demonstrates loyalty to God.

Genesis 15:1-6 Abraham's Faith

The promise becomes more specific and Abraham's faith is refined and tested even more. After the call (12:1-5), he was a homeless man who traveled to a new country and encountered various problems (Gen. 12-14). But these tests are nothing compared to the one he would face.

The pressure builds around the promise of a son. To fulfill the kingdom promised of a nation, Abraham needs a son and heir. However, he and his wife Sarah are old and without children.

God promises a son shall come from Abraham's own body (15:4), a hope that would be deferred through six more chapters and about 25 years. Sadly, Abraham leans on his own understanding, and tries to work things out with tragic results (Gen.16:1-2). The birth of Ishmael creates a special series of problems, not only for Abraham, but for all the world. (The Arabs, descendants of Ishmael, or Edom, remain enemies of Israel even today.)

The main point here is that Abraham believes (15:6). He trusts the word and promise of God, against all odds. As he stood there looking up into the stars of heaven, it likely didn't make much sense to him, but he believed. Verse six is an immortal expression of that trust. From Abraham's time on, that faith

is the example and definition of saving faith for countless generations of believers and is essential in understanding the covenant of the New Testament. In the first place, when God made the declaration that “it was counted to him for righteousness,” He meant that Abraham, being yet sinful, was through faith looked upon by God as being perfectly righteous. That phrase is at the heart of the Gospel in Romans 4:3 and Galatians 3:6. Secondly the New Testament covenant is one of grace, not law (Gal. 3:17-22). This covenant of grace was made with Abraham before the Law was given at Mt. Sinai. It was in honor of this covenant of grace that God would one day bring His people out of Egypt (Exodus 2:24) and His Son into the world (Luke 1:72-73; Galatians 4:4).

Genesis 15:6 expresses trust in God and therefore confident assent to His revelation of supernatural saving grace. It is as though Abraham is saying “Amen”, meaning “Yes it shall be so.” That kind of faith that pleases God and because of it, God counted Abraham righteous.

Gospel Parallels

Abraham’s trust and obedience to the call and Word of God resulted in his salvation, a standing of righteousness before God. This righteousness was imputed to Abraham, credited to him from the merits of Jesus, Abraham's promised seed. At the center of this story, and at the center of history, stands the cross. When we trust Jesus, God sees us as perfect, for Christ is the object of our faith. Since Jesus is perfect righteousness, God sees us in Him as though we had never sinned – justification. God reckons it to us as righteousness. Abraham was hearing the Gospel too. Though far ahead of him in time, it was already complete in the mind of God in eternity. Whatever Abraham did or did not know about the promise according to the revelation given him, his knowledge alone did not save him. The blessing came when he trusted. This is true for us also.

Learn the New Words

bless: to bestow good or favor upon someone else

believed: accepted as true, trusted

possessions: things that belong to a person

vision: seeing things like in a dream, but which happens when the person is awake

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Ask them to think about any trip they may have taken.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students to tell one thing they remember from a trip they have gone on.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

And he answered, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”
Luke 10:27

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the First Commandment, the previous 2 lessons have focused on the 2 words from the explanation, fear and love, see if the students can remember something from the stories in the

last 2 lessons as this will wrap up the focus on the First Commandment. Peter and John displayed childlike fear of God and the rich young ruler heard that he was to love God first, nothing else must be more important than our love for God.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Show the students a map of Abraham's journey.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about trips the students have made, then this may not be needed here. Possibly expand to talk about why they went on their trip, did someone tell them to go? Was it for fun, to visit family?

Move on to the next paragraph. Questions to ask? **What did God ask Abraham to do? What did He promise Abraham? What did God not tell Abraham?**

Help the students find Gen 12:1-3. Read these verses.

What did Abraham do? Be sure the students note the words-believed and trusted. **What did God do for them as they traveled?** Discuss with students the issue of trust, to pick up and move everything and not even know where you are going. Possibly share a personal experience where you had to trust someone without knowing the outcome. Also, to consider that the students understand this was not just down the street, this was a long journey, probably they never returned to the place they left from. **Stress that even though God did not give them all the details of the trip, He kept His promise. God led them, He protected them, and He provided all that they needed.** He led them to the Promised land, where Israel is today. This helps the students connect the dots.

Move to the next 2 paragraphs. **What did God promise Abraham?** Note Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. **What did God add to this promise?** Family more than the stars in the sky. Read Genesis 15:5-6. (Genesis 17:15-19) may be helpful. God kept his promise to Abraham. God gave them a son who was named Isaac. The Israelites that Moses was leading to the Promised Land were descendants of Abraham, **do you remember how many people left Egypt? 600,000 men plus women and children.** The Israelites today are called Jews and they live in Israel, the land God promised Abraham. God does keep His promises. We are blessed too in this promise God made to Abraham, we are included in all the nations as God sent Jesus to die and pay for our sins. We can know that we have eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

Read the last paragraph together. Have the students underline "trust" and "always keep His promises" in the first sentence.

Repeat the Memory Verses

And he answered, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Letter Learning

Activity 1

Fill in the blanks in the letter to complete the telling of the story of Abram.

Activity 1
LETTER LEARNING

Write a letter to a friend or family member by filling in the blanks.

ACTIVITY CENTER

Date Today

Dear Friend,

Have you heard of Abraham? God told Abram and his wife, Sarah, to go on a long trip. God made promises to Abram. God promised Abram land and a son. God promised Abram that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him. Have you ever counted the stars? It would take a long time to count them! God told Abram the people in his family would be as many as the stars. God kept all His promises. God always keeps His promises. Jesus the Savior was born through Abram's family. God blessed all the families of the earth by sending Jesus the Savior. Do you know Jesus the Savior?

Love, Your Friend

Order the Stars

Activity 2

Number the stars in the correct order for the First Commandment and its meaning.

Activity 2
ORDER THE STARS

Abram trusted the one true God. The stars remind us that all people who trust in the LORD are part of Abram's big family. The LORD wants us to trust in Him above all things.

Number the stars in the correct order for the First Commandment and meaning.

The First Commandment

have 3 no 4 me 8 gods 6
before 7 Thou 1 other 5 shalt 2

What does this mean?

above 17 things 19 fear 11 should 10
We 9
God 16 all 18 trust 14 in 15 and 13 love 12

Read all the words in the correct order.
How can you show that you trust in the LORD?

©2000 ABC-CLAYTON CHILDREN'S BIBLE. All rights reserved.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class: