



# Calvary Curriculum

## RESOURCES & TRAININGS

for THOSE WHO MINISTER to CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

- Lesson 1: Creation p2
- Lesson 2: God Makes Adam and Eve p10
- Lesson 3: The Garden of Eden p16
- Lesson 4: Adam and Eve are Tempted p20
- Lesson 5: Cain and Abel p27
- Lesson 6: Enoch p32
- Lesson 7: Noah Builds the Ark p37
- Lesson 8: God Sends a Great Flood p45
- Lesson 9: God's Covenant p50
- Lesson 10: The Tower of Babel p55
- Lesson 11: God Calls Abram p59
- Lesson 12: Abram and Sarai Visit Egypt p65
- Lesson 13: Lot Leaves Abram p69
- Lesson 14: Lot's Captivity and Rescue p74
- Lesson 15: God Makes a Promise to Abram
- Lesson 16: Hagar and Ishmael
- Lesson 17: Abraham Bargains with God
- Lesson 18: Sodom & Gomorrah
- Lesson 19: Isaac is Born
- Lesson 20: Abraham Offers Isaac
- Lesson 21: A Bride for Isaac
- Lesson 22: Jacob & Esau
- Lesson 23: Isaac Blesses Jacob
- Lesson 24: Jacob's Dream
- Lesson 25: Leah & Rachel
- Lesson 26: The Sons of Jacob
- Lesson 27: Your Name Shall Be Israel
- Lesson 28: Joseph is Sold by His Brothers
- Lesson 29: Joseph & Potiphar
- Lesson 30: Joseph in Prison
- Lesson 31: Joseph Tests His Brothers
- Lesson 32: Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers
- Lesson 33: Jacob Moves to Egypt

**Lesson 011**  
**God Calls Abram**  
**Genesis 11:26-12:9**

**MEMORY VERSE**

HEBREWS 11:8a [consider memorizing the highlighted part only if too long]

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance.

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

- White construction paper or poster board. Cut out credit card shaped pieces before class (as many as the number of children in your class). Markers or crayons. Scissors.
- As many plain, white sheets of paper as the number of children in your class and crayons or markers.

**ATTENTION GRABBER! Fall Back on God**

Have some of your students volunteer to “fall back” on you. Tell them to close their eyes and fold their arms in front of them. Position yourself to catch them as they fall back into your arms. If they have complete faith in you, they will be able to fall back without turning their heads, folding their bodies, or opening their eyes. When they fall back, make sure to catch them!

When they have finished “falling back,” ask them some questions. Establish that they fell back on you because they trusted you. Ask them what they would have done if they felt the person they were falling toward was not strong enough to catch them, or worse, were mean enough to let them fall.

Explain that the object of our faith must be strong enough and faithful enough to not let us down. It is really not our faith that is the most important thing, but the one we place our faith in. God is the only one with a perfect track record; He is the only one worthy of our faith.

**LESSON TIME!**

A time period of about two thousand years is covered in the first eleven chapters of Genesis. The next thirty-nine chapters of Genesis only cover four hundred years. What we see is God dealing with Abram and the first three generations of his descendants.

This is the beginning of the nation of Israel. This lesson will introduce us to Abram, the friend of God. Abram teaches us to trust completely in the promises of God.

### *GENESIS 11: 26- 30*

*26 Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.*

*27 This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. 28 And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. 29 Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child.*

Here we have the beginning of the story of Abram. His father, Terah, had three sons, Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran was the father of Lot who was the nephew of Abram. It is said that Haran died before his father, Terah. In verses 29 and 30, we are introduced to Sarai, the wife of Abraham who "had no child." In that day, people felt being "barren" was a major problem. If couples had no children, people often believed they must be out of favor with God.

This would become a faith-building experience concerning the promises of God for Abram's life. We will see what the Lord does in their lives over the next few weeks. God is going to make some pretty awesome promises to Abram, and we will see how he responds to those promises.

### *GENESIS 11: 31- 32*

*31 And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. 32 So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.*

In the next two verses, we see Abram and his wife, father, and nephew leaving the land of Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. Now, we know that the city of Ur was located in Southern Mesopotamia. Ur was also a very idolatrous city as we can see from Joshua 24:2, "...Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the river of old, even Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor; and they served other gods."

The Lord told Abram to leave Ur as we see in Acts 7:2-4; " 2 And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, 3 and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' 4 Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell."

Abram left Mesopotamia with his father and Lot. They traveled as far as Haran, about 550 miles from Ur. Now the Lord had commanded him to do three things:

- 1) Leave his own country,

- 2) Separate himself from his kindred,
- 3) Go forth unto a land which God had promised to show him.

Although Abram's obedience was complete in his heart, yet it was partial in its execution; He first departed from Ur of the Chaldeans, together with his father Tareh. We do not know why did Tareh go with him ? Is it because he was closely attached to his son Abram, or he found it a chance to forsake the pagan worship ? ... Anyway, Abram departed with Tareh to Haran, where the procession stalled for 15 years; Abram could not set forth from it before the death of his father Tareh, who could not move easily, so hindered the whole procession. Finally, Terah died; and after fifteen years Abram could obey the divine call, not partially but with great Zeal, setting forth to Canaan, which he probably reached in less than a year.

The land of Haran was the point at which caravans for Canaan left the river Euphrates to cross over the desert, and Haran means "parched".

In Isaiah 51:2, we are told that God said, "I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him."

In the New Testament, it is said in Hebrews 11:8, "By faith Abram, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed, and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

I wish we would not have in our departure from Ur of the Chaldeans, the company of Terah, so as not to stop in Haran for so long a time; but let us swiftly set forth toward the heavenly Canaan, to enjoy God's promises without hindrance.

#### *GENESIS 12: 1- 3*

*Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

In these verses, God makes a wonderful promise to Abram. He tells him that He would make him a great nation, bless him and make His name great, make him a blessing to others, and bless all the families of the earth through him. These are some pretty amazing promises.

Notice that it is God doing the work, not Abram. Sometimes we feel that we have to do great things in order to be great. Abram was just someone willing to believe the Lord and be available to be used by Him. When we look at anyone who is great in the Bible or even today in God's work, we always need to look at the great God behind that person who is doing the work.

The Bible says that a nation would come from Abram. This is the nation of Israel. The nation would come from Abram's descendants (children and grandchildren, etc.) Ultimately, this nation would be a blessing to the entire world. There was also a promise of blessing upon those individuals and nations that bless Abram's descendants, and a curse lay upon those who persecute the Jews.

We also see four personal promises given to Abram:

- 1) to be the father of numerous descendants.
- 2) to receive personal blessing, materially and spiritually.
- 3) to receive personal honor; and
- 4) to be the channel of blessing to others.

The promise to the Gentiles, those that honor Abram, is that they will be blessed. A curse is upon those who curse Abram.

There is only one slight problem with all of this. How can Abram have a lot of descendants and begin a great nation if he does not have any children. Why would God ask such a thing of a man whose wife was unable to have any children? Has there ever been a time in your life when something seemed to be impossible? Abraham may have thought this was such a time. However, God will often do the impossible to show Himself strong in our lives. This was no exception. If this promise was to come true, it would happen because of God and His power, not because Abram was strong, smart, or even clever enough to make something happen.

The only thing that was necessary on Abram's part was faith and obedience to God's call. God would perform all that He said He would do. In the first three verses, we see the call upon Abram, as we saw in the book of Acts. It was a call that demanded absolute confidence in and obedience to God's Word. Abram was to be separated from all the ties of his past, from the natural man. He was called upon to go from his kindred and go to a place he did not know.

### **Reflection:**

In the same way we are called from our "home" here in this world to look forward to our home in the heavenly city. Abram is a picture of every believer who leaves this world and its ways in order to gain eternity. Of course, the only way we can gain eternity is through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. [Trust completely in the promises of God.](#)

### **God's Promise Card**

Explain to your class that when a person wants a "credit card," they have to establish a good credit history. This is a person's track record as to how well they have kept their promises about paying what they owe.

Ask your class how well God has kept His promises. Did Abram believe that God would keep the promises God had made to Him?

Using white construction paper or poster board, cut out credit card shaped pieces. Before class, you can write God's "Promise" Card with a marker. Allow the children to cut out and decorate their "credit card." Remind the children how that God keeps all of His promises. You may also want to write a reference to a verse on the card concerning how God keeps His promises.

Abram is an example for us of the life of faith. He was called to separate himself, to leave his father, who was an idolater. The same God who required Abram to leave his "home" gave him tremendous promises and he believed in God, embracing His promises. **God calls us to be "separate" from the world. He desires that we live a life of faith, embracing the rich promises that are ours as we walk in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Trust completely in the promises of God.**

*GENESIS 12: 4- 6*

*4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So, they came to the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.*

Now in verse 4, we see Abram departing from the land of Haran. It was not until after Terah's death that Abram left Haran and came into Canaan. That which held Abram back was now dead. Perhaps this is a picture of our "old nature." The old nature—our former self, ruled by our own desires—must die before we are to enter into God's promises. As Christians, we have been crucified with Christ; now, Christ is to reign in our hearts and govern our actions (Galatians 2:20). Shechem is situated on the eastern side of the pass between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim in central Palestine.

*GENESIS 12: 7- 9*

*7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. 9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.*

In verse 7, after Abram obeyed God, we see that "the Lord appeared unto Abram." Prior to this, God had told Abram that He would "show" him the land, but now upon Abram's obedience, God now says that He will "give" the land to his seed. At this appearing, God reveals Himself to Abram for communion, and the result is that Abram builds an altar. We have no record of an altar in Ur or Haran. With the separation from the world, the obedience of faith, there is sweet communion and fellowship with God.

Then Abram moves southward along the ancient highway to Bethel, which means "the house of God." It is situated about ten miles north of Jerusalem. Ai was the site of an ancient ruin about two miles southeast of Bethel. It was in this area that Abram spread his tent, built an altar, and "called upon the name of the Lord." The altar and tent can be symbolic in Abram's life. The altar represents his fellowship with God and the tent represents his earthly pilgrimage from place to place in utter reliance upon God. **Trust completely in the promises of God.**



Hebrews 11: 10 tells us, "For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." In verse 9 it says, "Abram journeyed on" (literally "pulled up stakes"), still going toward the Negev, that is, the South. This geographical reference is deeply significant; southward was Egypt.

Abram was a man of faith. Of Abram, God said, "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance" (Hebrews 11:8). He was called the "friend of God," and the "father of faith." Abram teaches us that we can trust completely in the promises of God.

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of faith in the promises of His Word.

