



# Lesson Six

## God Called Abraham



### Growing as a Teacher

#### Scripture

Genesis 11:27–12:10; 15

#### Bible Truth

God made a covenant with Abraham and blessed him. Abraham trusted and obeyed God.

#### Lesson Aim

To learn what Abraham did to show he trusted God, and to name ways we can show we trust God.

#### Memory Verse

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

JOHN 14:21

After Noah, God continued to prepare the world for the eventual coming of the Savior, the One who would bring eternal life by taking away the sin of the world. Part of God’s plan was to select one man—one family—through whom he would reveal himself and his purposes.

God chose to establish his covenant with Abraham, promising to raise up from his descendants a people to serve the Lord. God told him to leave behind his homeland, relatives and friends to go to another country—one that the Lord would show him and give him. God promised to bless his servant and to make *him* a blessing (Genesis 12:1–2, 7). And even though he did not know where the new land was, Abraham did what God said, trusting God to lead.

In faith, Abraham set out from Haran with his wife, Sarah, his nephew Lot, his servants and his livestock. Abraham was 75 years old when he undertook this momentous journey, and at this stage of life it must have been difficult for him to say a final good-bye to his friends and relatives and move on. But Abraham was called by God, and because he believed in God’s faithfulness he was willing to risk all—his relationships, his great wealth, his personal comfort and much else—to do God’s bidding.

The journey south to the land of Canaan was long and eventful. After Abraham arrived, God appeared to him time and again, affirming specific covenant promises, assuring Abraham of his protection and blessing, and promising to give him a son (Genesis 15:1, 4). Abraham believed, and the Lord declared him righteous because of his faith (Genesis 15:6).

The wonderful story of Abraham will be taught in these next three lessons. You and the children will learn important spiritual truths as you focus on God’s work in his life and throughout his journey. Pray that the Lord will encourage the hearts of his children to walk in faith and obedience as Abraham did, trusting God’s Word.

God appeared to Abraham time and again, affirming covenant promises and promising him a son.

## Lesson Six at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
<b>1</b> Welcome	5–10	③ Sing “Come, Let Us Worship” (Songbook, p. 8).	○ <i>Optional</i> : song poster, <i>Younger Elem. Vol. 1</i> CD
<b>2</b> Bible Time	15–20	Listen to the story of the call of Abraham and God’s covenant with him.	○ TA 6 Abraham map* ○ SA 6 Abraham map** ○ Large marker
<b>3</b> Memory Verse	5–10	Memorize John 14:21.	○ TA 1a Memory Work poster, TA 1a Verses poster* ○ <i>Optional</i> : pushpins, glue ○ John 14:21 door hanger**
<b>4</b> Activities	10–15	Do <i>At Home 6</i> activities.	○ <i>At Home 6</i> ** ○ Pencils ○ Crayons or markers
<b>5</b> Final Focus	5	Say a responsive prayer.	

Total time: 40–60 minutes

\* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*  
\*\* *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*

③ “Come, Let Us Worship”  
*Younger Elementary*  
*Vol. 1* CD



### Enrichment

Give the children a Bible handbook or dictionary and tell them to try to discover why Abraham had two names. First he was called *Abram* and then God changed his name to *Abraham*. From their research, they should find out that *Abram* means “honored father” and *Abraham* means “father of many.” God changed Abram’s name to Abraham as a sign of his promise to make his chosen servant the father of many nations.



## Practical Preparation

You will open this week with a new song, “Come, Let Us Worship” (Songbook, p. 8). Make a song poster to help the children learn the words (see p. 10). Plan to use the *Younger Elementary Vol. 1* CD or rhythm instruments in the classroom.

You will be learning from the life of Abraham in the next several lessons. Study the Scripture passages, Abraham’s journey and major events. Your objective is to make God’s covenant with Abraham, and his relationship of faith and obedience to God, real to the children. Practice teaching the story while using TA 6 and SA 6 Abraham maps, showing the students Abraham’s journeys.

Memorize John 14:21 so you are ready to lead the children in learning this new memory verse. Set aside a door hanger for each child.

During Activities, the children will work in their *At Home 6* papers. If there is time, read the story *Amy Trusts God*.

Go over the closing responsive prayer. You will lead the children in saying this prayer.

# 1

## Welcome

5–10 minutes

Welcome the children. *Then say* We are learning about families, about living together and about the family of God—God’s people scattered all over the world. Now we are going to sing a song about members of the family of God coming together to worship him. We are part of God’s family and we want to praise him, so let us sing this song together.

Display your song poster with the words of the song “Come, Let Us Worship” (Songbook, p. 8). This is a simple song with a catchy tune, so the children will learn it easily. Use the *Younger Elementary Vol. 1* CD or clapping to accompany the singing. Explain to the class that *alleluia* means “praise the Lord” and *hosanna* means “save us now.” In the time of Jesus, *hosanna* was used as a shout of joy to God.

**What are some things we can praise God for?** (*for creating us, for giving us homes and families, for his promises, for sending the Savior, for forgiving our sin, for loving us and making us part of his family*)

After the children are familiar with the song, have them clap as they march around the room in a circle, singing the song one last time. Then have the children settle down for Bible Time.

*Say* Today we are going to learn about a man who became the father of a very large family! Listen as I tell you about Abraham.

# 2

## Bible Time

15–20 minutes

Display TA 6 Abraham map and pass out one SA 6 to each student. Show them how to separate the Abraham figure on the map and fold it at the bottom so it will stand. You will use both the TA and SA throughout the lesson to point out important places in Abraham’s life story. As the children move their Abraham figures on their maps, you may want to use a marker to go over Abraham’s journeys on TA 6.

Open your Bible to the lesson’s Scripture passages and keep it open as you teach. Abraham was born in Ur (ER) in Mesopotamia (MES-uh-poh-TAY-mee-uh). *Say* Place your Abraham figures on Ur. But now older, he had settled with his wife, Sarah, in Haran (HAIR-uhn). *Say* Let’s move Abraham to Haran.

One day God spoke to Abraham. This is what he said: “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”

*Ask* What command did God give Abraham? (*to leave his country and his people*) What promises did God give Abraham? (*to make him*

## Early Arrivals

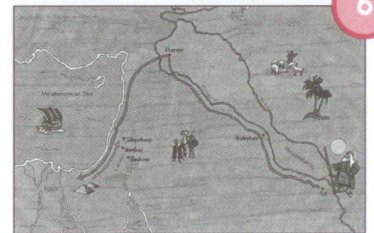


Help children identify some of the promises God has made. Read these verses aloud: Psalm 9:10; Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; Isaiah 54:10; 1 John 1:9. Discuss why these promises make you glad.

3

“Come, Let Us Worship”  
Songbook, p. 8

6



Save TA 6 for Lessons 7 and 13.

SA 6





## Fast Facts: Abraham

Abraham, a primary figure in Israel's history and also the New Testament's leading example of faith, lived for 175 years. His long, nomadic journey took him from Mesopotamia all the way to Canaan. He was born in Ur, but later moved to Haran and settled there. When God called him to move to a new land, Abraham gathered his family, tents, servants and animals and started his trek into Canaan.

*into a great nation, to bless him, to make him known and to make him a blessing to others)*

The Bible doesn't tell us how Abraham *felt* about God's call, but it does tell us what Abraham did. He *trusted and obeyed* God right away. Even though Abraham was 75 years old when God called him, he willingly packed up his belongings and moved. Abraham and Sarah, with his nephew Lot, his servants, his tents, his possessions and all his animals, left Haran and set out for the land of Canaan.

As they traveled slowly away from Haran toward the land God had promised, Abraham and Sarah may have felt both sad and excited—sad to leave relatives and friends behind, but excited about going to the new place God would give them.

Finally, Abraham and his family arrived in Canaan. *Say* Let's move Abraham to Canaan on the map. God spoke to Abraham again and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." That meant God would give the land to his children and grandchildren. But imagine Abraham's disappointment when he found that the land was not just waiting for them—it was filled with sinful Canaanites, people who did not believe God or obey him.

Still, Abraham trusted God. He settled at Shechem (*SHEK-uhm*) and built his first altar there. *Say* Let's move Abraham to Shechem on the map. Abraham knew that the land of Canaan belonged to the Lord in a special way, and he wanted to thank and praise God for guiding him safely there.

After this, Abraham and his family moved on to a place near Bethel. *Say* Move Abraham to Bethel. Once again, Abraham pitched his tent, built an altar to the Lord and prayed.

God was with Abraham as he traveled from place to place. (Although the following information is not included in the lesson texts, include it to tie the first part of the story to the last part, and to point out that Abraham's journey was not easy.) Sometimes life was hard. When there was not enough food in Canaan, Abraham and his family had to travel to Egypt for food. *Say* Move Abraham to Egypt. Later, they moved back to Canaan. *Say* Move Abraham back to Canaan. Abraham and Lot pitched their tents in different parts of the land because their herdsmen had begun to quarrel among themselves. Abraham lived near Bethel and Shechem, but Lot moved to Sodom. *Ask the children to point to Sodom. Then ask* Do you think it was hard for Abraham to trust God when things did not go well? *Listen actively as the children express their ideas. Then continue the story.*

Through easy times and hard times, Abraham had faith in God, and God was with Abraham. One night, God spoke to Abraham, reminding him of his presence and his promises. "Do not be afraid. . . . I am your shield, your very great reward."

Abraham could not help asking, "How can you keep your promise to bless me and make me a great nation? I am getting old and I don't even have one child yet."

Then God led Abraham outside his tent. "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them," God said. "So shall your offspring be."

God was telling Abraham that he would have children, and his children's children would be many in number, like the stars in the sky. God was talking not only about the people of Abraham, the Jews, but also about those who would believe and obey God, as Abraham did.

Once again God reminded Abraham that he would give the place where Abraham was now living to Abraham's offspring. God promised, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates."

And Abraham trusted God. He believed that God would be faithful to him. One day, he would have children, and his people would have a land of their own. God said it would be so.

*To conclude Bible Time, make it clear that Abraham was like you and me. He had a sinful heart and needed to be saved. But he trusted in the promise of God, just as we must. And the Bible tells us that many years later God sent a Savior through Abraham's family. The Lord Jesus would come to pay for the sins of all who trust in him. He gives each of his children a new heart that loves God and wants to obey him.*



## Memory Verse

5-10 minutes

Gather by TA 1a Memory Work. (Or you may just post this week's verse, John 14:21.) Read the verse aloud. Point to the words as you say them. Have the children read it or say it with you. Talk about John 14:21.

*Say* In the first part Jesus says "whoever has my commands." Where can we find God's commands? *(in the Bible)* What does it mean to have God's commands? *(read; study the Bible; listen to parents, pastor and teachers to learn God's commands)*

*Say* So another way we could say this phrase is "whoever has learned and knows God's commands."

*Ask* Is it enough just to have or know God's commands? *(no)* Why not? *(because God also wants us to obey them)* What does the verse say about people who have God's commands and obey them? *(they really love Jesus)*

What three things does Jesus say God will do for those who truly love him, and know and obey his commands? *(God the Father will love them; Jesus, God's Son, will also love them; Jesus will show himself to them)* What do you think it means that Jesus "will show himself" to us? *(Jesus will help us understand what his Word, the Bible, tells us about him. We will then get to know Jesus better and better and become more like him.)* *Say* Even though Abraham lived long before Jesus spoke these words, Abraham knew what it meant to have God's commands and obey them.

Memorize the verse by saying it in sections, then saying it together. Set out the John 14:21 door hangers to hand out after the lesson.



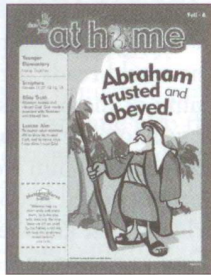
## God's Choice

The first thing God did to make the world ready for the coming of the promised Saviour was to pick out one man, and separate him from all the other wicked people in the world, so that knowledge about God and trust in God would not be entirely lost again, as had nearly happened before the flood.

The man God chose was Abraham.

Catherine F. Vos,  
*The Child's Story Bible*





### Time to order the next quarter!

See your Christian education director.  
**800-695-3387**  
[www.gcp.org](http://www.gcp.org)



### Teaching Tip

As the children get ready to leave, remind them to share their take-home papers with their families. Also, make sure they have their memory verse door hangers and map activities. Say good-bye to each child and encourage everyone to have a good week.



### Items to Send Home

- At Home 6*
- SA 6 Abraham map
- John 14:21 door hanger

## 4

## Activities

10-15 minutes

Hand out copies of *At Home 6*, pencils and crayons or markers. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *I Trust God*, read the first part of the sentence and each ending to make a complete sentence for each item. Help the children decide which picture goes with which phrase.

In *Believing and Obeying God*, talk about each picture and how the person is or is not believing and obeying God as the children color.

If you have time, read aloud the story *Amy Trusts God*. Some of your children may have had the experience of moving. Give them opportunity to express what that was like. Talk about why Amy was not eager to move at first. Relate her feelings to Abraham's experience.

## 5

## Final Focus

5 minutes

Gather the children around you in a circle and tell them that you are going to close in prayer. Tell the students that when you speak they must listen to your words. When you stop speaking, they are to say each time, "I will trust you and obey." At the end, after you say "in Jesus' name," everyone will say "Amen."

Teacher: **Dear God, thank you for making promises to us.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **Thank you, God, for keeping your promises.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **Thank you for loving us.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **Thank you for giving us what we need.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **Thank you for taking care of us and guiding us.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **Thank you for your Word.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **Help us to believe like Abraham did.**

Children: I will trust you and obey.

Teacher: **We offer this prayer in Jesus' name.**

All: **Amen.**