

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 5

*By Faith Abraham...*

# Abraham

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

**Objective** To present Abraham's faith to the students and to commend them to walk in the same manner that he did.

## Key Verses

Hebrews 11:8-10

Genesis 12:1-10

Acts 7:2-4

## Memory Verse - Galatians 3:6

"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness."

## Hook

Review last week's memory verse, James 2:26.

Ask the class, "Would you find it difficult to go for a week without watching TV? How about a month? How about a whole year? Is there anything in your life that absolutely could not do without? What about your friends? What about your family?"

"What would you do if God asked you to get up and leave all of your friends and family behind? Would that be difficult for you?"

"Would it be more difficult if God didn't even tell you where you were going?"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

Hebrews 11 highlights two different aspects of Abraham's faith. The second shows us his obedience in offering up his son Isaac, and the first, which we study this week, looks at Abraham's leaving for the promised land and dwelling there in tents.

Genesis 12:1-5 needs to be contrasted with Acts 7:2 which shows us that Abraham's obedience was partial and delayed. He did not fully enter into the land of promise until after his father had died. Hebrews 11 shows us that God honors this anyway, and chooses not to remember Abraham's hesitance.

The greater measure of faith, however, is recognized in Abraham's decision to never settle in the land. He never bought land (except to bury Sarah), he never built a house. The reason for this, in spite of being told that his descendants would lay claim to the land forever, is found in Genesis 15:13-15, in which Abraham is told that his descendants would absolutely receive the land, but not for over 400 years.

## LOOK

The next hero of faith that is commended to us by Hebrews 11 is a man named Abraham. Like some of the men that we have already studied Abraham is recognized for his obedience. Abraham's obedience is not like Noah's, who obeyed without question and without doubt. Abraham was a bit more reluctant at first.

The Lord appeared to Abraham and told him to go to a place that He would show him. That is a scary prospect. Effectively He told Abraham to start walking and when he got where he was supposed to go God would say stop. How did Abraham's wife Sarah respond to that? To understand just how scary this is, we need to remember that Abraham was being asked to leave everyone and everything he knew behind, never to be seen again. Abraham would not be able to email his friends or talk to them on the phone. God was asking Abraham to take a HUGE step of faith.

And Abraham did, sort of. Acts 7 tells us that Abraham left his town called Ur, but did not go all the way to the promised land. He made a pit stop in a town called Haran.

Haran was not where God wanted Abraham to go, but Haran is where he

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK (Continued)

stopped. It should be pointed out here that partial obedience is disobedience. If your parents ask you to take out the trash and you take one can of soda outside to the trash cans, you have not done what your parents asked. We should also remember that delayed obedience is disobedience. If your parents ask you to take out the trash and you 3 weeks later you finally pick up the overflowing trash bag and take it outside you haven't done what they asked. It is unclear exactly how long Abraham stays in Haran, but we know that his father's death there is the impetus for Abraham to continue on. Why is Abraham commended for his obedience here? Because the Bible tells us that we serve a God who chooses not to remember our sins. In fact, the bible tells us that the LORD separates our sin as far as the East is from the West.

Abraham left everything he knew, all his people and his town, and followed God. It took him a little longer to get to the promised land than God would have liked, but his act of obedience is recognized here by the Lord. Abraham is also honored for never building a house or buying any land in Canaan. In Genesis 15 Abraham is told that his descendants would travel and journey in a foreign land for 400 years, and THEN would enter in and receive the land. Abraham therefore did not put down roots, but rather believed God's word to him and was prepared to travel and move whenever the Lord asked him to.

Abraham's example to us is to put away anything the Lord asks us to give up for Him, and to move in the direction that He asks.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

# TOOK

As a class memorize Galatians 3:6

Ask the class, "Is there anything that the Lord is asking you to put away, or to give up? Are there things in your life that don't honor Him, or maybe are just questionable as to whether or not you should be doing those things?"

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for His word to us. Praise Him that He loves us enough to ask us to give up broken things of the world and to yearn for something better. Ask Him for the ability to hear His voice and to move in obedience.

**Parent Question:** How did Abraham show that he trusted God?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Hebrews 11:8-10 and Genesis 12 by David Guzik.

Faith in the life of Abraham and the Patriarchs.

### 1. (8) Abraham's obedience by faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

a. **By faith, Abraham obeyed:** Abraham did step out in faith, going to the place God promised him; but his faith was less than perfect. This is seen by comparing Genesis 12:1-5 with Acts 7:2-4, where it is evident that Abraham first went half way to where God called him, and only *eventually* obeyed completely. Yet thousands of years later, God did not "remember" the delayed obedience, only the faith.

### 2. (9-10) Abraham's sojourning life of faith.

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

a. **By faith, he dwelt in the land of promise:** Abraham lived as a "sojourner" in the land God promised, never owning any of it except the plots that he and Sarah were buried on. **Dwelt** translates the ancient Greek word *paroikos*, describing a "resident alien" - one who lives somewhere, but doesn't have permanent status there.

i. A resident alien or a sojourner is evident. The way they talk, the way they dress, their mannerisms, their entertainment, their citizenship, and their friends, all speak of their native home. If someone is the same in all these areas as the "natives," they are no longer sojourners - they are permanent residents. Christians shouldn't live as if they are permanent residents of planet earth.

b. **Dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob:** Because they had no permanent home, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived in **tents instead of houses. They looked forward to a better city - the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

GENESIS 12

*Genesis 12 - God's Call of Abram; Abram in Egypt*

A. God's promise to Abram.

### 1. (1-3) God's previous covenant with Abram.

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. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 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.”

a. **Now the LORD had said to Abram:** We know from Acts 7:2-4 that this promise was made to Abram *before* he left Ur of the Chaldeans. Now that his father was dead and he was compelled to a more complete obedience, God repeated the promise.

i. Abram’s partial obedience did not take God’s promise away. Instead, it meant the promise was on “hold” until Abram was ready to do what the LORD said.

ii. Abram would certainly become a giant of faith, even being the father of the believing (Galatians 3:7); yet he did not start there. We see Abram as an example of *growing* in faith and obedience.

b. **To a land I that I will show you:** After stating He wanted Abram to leave his country and his relatives, God promised Abram a **land**. Specifically, God promised the land of greater Israel.

i. These are *God’s* promises; notice how often God says **I will** in these verses. Genesis chapter 11 is all about the plans of man. Genesis chapter 12 is all about the plans of God.

c. **I will make you a great nation:** God promised to make a **nation** from Abram. He will have enough children and grandchildren and further descendants to populate a nation.

d. **And make your name great:** God promised to bless Abram and to **make** [his] **name great**. There is probably no more honored name in history than the name of Abram, who is honored by Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

e. **I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you:** God also promised He would **bless those who bless you** and to **curse him who curses you**. This remains true today and is a root reason for the decline and death of many empires.

i. “When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple, they were soon conquered by Rome. When Rome killed Paul and many others, and destroyed Jerusalem under Titus, Rome soon fell. Spain was reduced to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; Poland fell after the pogroms; Hitler’s Germany went down after its orgies of anti-Semitism; Britain lost her empire when she broke her faith with Israel.” (Barnhouse)

ii. This is also one reason why the United States has been so blessed. The United States was one of the first modern nations to grant full citizenship and protection to Jewish people.

iii. This promise has also affected the church. The times when the church took upon itself the persecution of the Jewish people were dark times not only for the Jews, but also for the church.

f. **In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed:** Not only was Abram promised blessing, but God also promised to *make him* a blessing, even to the point where **all the families of the earth** would be blessed in Abram.

i. *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Galatians 3:8-9)*

ii. *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).* The work of Jesus will touch every people group on the earth.

iii. Luther said the promise **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed** should be written "in golden letters and should be extolled in the languages of all people," for "who else ... has dispensed this blessing among all nations except the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ?" (Boice)

2. (4) Abram's departure from Haran.

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.

a. **And Lot went with him:** This was partial obedience by Abram. God commanded him to go out *from his kindred*, and he brought his nephew Lot.

b. **Lot went with him:** Lot would not be a blessing to Abram. He would be nothing but trouble and inconvenience.

3. (5-6) Abram's arrival in Canaan.

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. 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.

4. (7-9) God appears to Abram in Canaan.

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. 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. So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

a. **Then the LORD appeared to Abram:** Once Abram was in the land, God reminded him of His promise. The land Abram saw belonged to Abram and his descendants.

b. **To your descendants I will give this land:** Abram never owned any of this land except his burial plot (Genesis 23:14-20). Yet God's promise was enough evidence to assure Abram that he did indeed own the whole country.

c. **And there he built an altar to the LORD:** Abram thought this was important to do. The altar was important to Abram because it was a place to meet with God, to offer sacrifice for sin, to show submission to God, and to worship God.

i. Christians have an altar also (Hebrews 13:10). We meet with God at our own place where we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for sin (Ephesians 5:2), where we submit to God as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), and where we offer the sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15).

d. **He pitched his tent:** Even in the land God gave him, Abram never lived in a house - he lived in a tent. Tents are the home of those who are just passing through and do not put down permanent roots.

i. We too are to live like tent-dwellers, as pilgrims on this earth (1 Peter 2:11). We should live as people who have their permanent dwelling place in heaven, not on earth. Too many Christians want to build mansions on earth and think they would be happy with tents in heaven.

ii. A pilgrim is someone who leaves home and travels to a specific destination. A pilgrim isn't a drifter; a pilgrim has a goal. Abram's goal (and our goal) was God's heavenly city (Hebrews 11:8-10, 14-16).