

Growing Together!

For Children Ages 4 Through 11
To Be Used by Teachers and Students

SUMMER QUARTER
2019

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

NEW!

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A Children's Version of the Adult Lessons

Growing Together!



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June, July, August 2019

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Union Gospel Press is pleased to present the Summer Quarter 2019 issue of the newest publication in the “Christian Life Series,” *Growing Together!* This quarterly was developed to serve the needs of our customers who desire the adult and children’s Sunday school lessons to be based on the same Scripture passages.

Growing Together! serves both as a learning tool for students ages four through eleven as well as a teaching tool for teachers.

We trust that this resource will help the children and adults in your Sunday school program GROW—together!

FAITH AND PROVIDENCE

Success in life can often depend on those we trust. “If you will simply leave your home and loved ones, someday, I will give you a vast piece of prime land!” Would you trust a person who made this promise to you? Abram did just that. The fact that he did faithfully trust God to fulfill that and other amazing promises proves why he deserves to be called the father of the people of faith (Galatians 3:7).

The lessons for this quarter focus on the great faith of Abraham and God’s providence and sovereign work as He began to fulfill His promises to Abraham and his family.

In the first unit, you will study how God nurtured Abraham’s young faith. God called him to leave his homeland, and he depended on God’s leading to find the land God had promised him. By faith, Abraham came to dwell in Canaan, and he later received a divine blessing through Melchizedek, king of Salem. His faith fully bloomed when he humbly believed God’s promise that his descendants would be as countless as the stars. God deemed Abraham’s faith to be true righteousness.

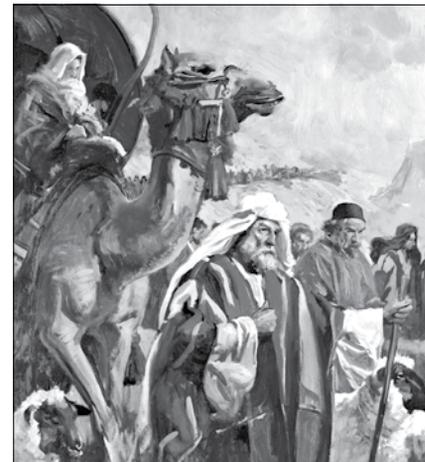
In the second unit, you will see Abraham’s faith be severely tested. Despite the promise of numberless descendants, Abraham followed Sarah’s anxious advice and fathered a child through Hagar. Abraham’s faith also staggered when he laughed at God’s promise of a child being born to him and Sarah in their old age. God kept His promise, however, and the couple laughed with joy at the birth of Isaac. Sadly, family strife arose, and Abraham grieved when Hagar and Ishmael were banished; but God, in His providence, took care of them. The greatest of Abraham’s faith tests came when God commanded him to sacrifice Isaac, the son of promise. That test revealed the astounding depth of Abraham’s faith and God’s provision.

The final unit focuses on events surrounding Isaac. God’s sovereignty was on display when He guided Abraham’s servant to find a wife for Isaac. The reality that Isaac was the son promised by God is seen in the continued blessings that he received from the Lord, such as the birth of twins to barren Rebekah.

There is much to learn as you explore the lives of Abraham and Isaac. They were two men of faith, and they trusted in God’s faithful providence.

Abram Called by God

GOLDEN TEXT: “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee” (Genesis 12:1).



By faith, Abram obeyed God’s call to leave his home and go to a new land.

Genesis 11:31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son’s son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram’s wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s

son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, *having* Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.



Teacher Helps

Moving for Abram’s family meant setting out by faith, going to a new land with which they were totally unfamiliar, and trusting that God would lead and guide them to the place where He wanted them to settle.

Here is a suggestion for a project to be used throughout the quarter. On a sheet of poster board, design a board game called “Abram’s Journey.” Outline the shape of the Promised Land. Locate Ur in Mesopotamia, Haran to the west and north of Ur, and Hebron south of Haran. Trace Abram’s route from Ur to Haran and then to Hebron, the end point of Abram’s journey. Use a square of cardboard as a game piece representing Abram’s family. Choose a way to advance the piece along the route (dice, a spinner). On index cards, write out the various events that occur to Abram’s family (kidnapping of Lot, war with pagan kings, meeting with Melchizedek, casting out of Hagar and Ishmael, etc.) and assign positive or negative values for moving the game piece depending on the event. Add to the game board weekly.

Stylize the game however you would like. The visual representation of events on the game board will help children have a reference point for the Bible stories they are learning this quarter.

Themes to Stress

- God sometimes calls us to step out in faith and simply trust in Him.
- Blessings from God depend on our obedience.
- As we continue to follow the Lord’s leading, worship of the Lord is appropriate and necessary.

Learn It and Live It!

- Consider choosing children to act out the story as you tell it. Designate parts of the classroom to be Ur, Haran, and Canaan.
- Ask: Have you ever had to move before? How did it feel? How do you think Abram felt about moving?
- Ask: Has there ever been a time when you had to trust God for something big? What was it?

The News

A Fictional Story Relating to Genesis 11:31—12:9

Crissy found Mom and Dad sitting at the table, wearing party hats. Each held a party horn. That was weird. It was not anyone's birthday.

Mom saw Crissy and smiled. "Good news," Mom said. "Your dad got a job!"

Dad blew his party horn.

Crissy's face lit up as she jumped up and down.

Dad had been searching for a job for months. They had to get fewer TV channels and slower Internet. And they could not even go do fun things like swimming at the waterpark or bowling. But now the wait was over.

Dad laughed. "That's not all," he said.

Crissy frowned now.

"We're moving," said Dad.

Crissy's smile melted off her face. "But Daddy, I don't want to move. I love my room. I love church and my school and my friends."

Mom patted Crissy on the back. "I know, sweetie. We love our friends and our church too."

Dad nodded. "It's hard to move, but God will take care of us."

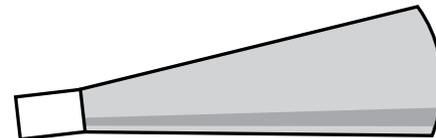
"If He took care of us, we wouldn't be moving," Crissy huffed.

"He's taking care of us because He gave your dad a job. There's a reason He's moving us to this new town. Maybe there's someone there He wants you to be friends with."

Crissy's eyes widened. "Really?" She looked at both Mom and Dad.

"Really," they both answered.

Mom blew the party horn one more time, just for good measure.



God had a plan for Crissy's family. When God told Abram to move, He had a plan for him too.

Bible Doctrine Link: God's Call—Ephesians 4:1-4

Imagine a child outside playing with his friends. All at once, he stops to listen because he hears his mother calling him in to do his chores. Similarly, Abram was going about his life when God called him to leave it behind and take on the new life that God had chosen for him.

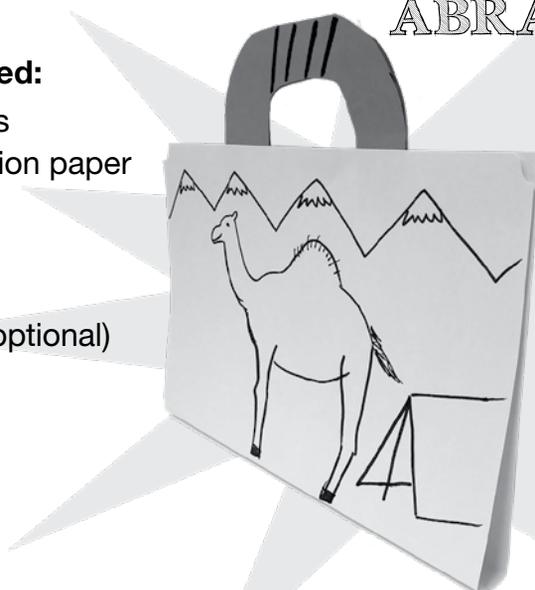
Ephesians 4:1-4 indicates that all believers receive a call from God to a life of love and goodness. The church is a group of people called by God (the Greek word for "church" means "called out ones").

May we all obey God's call for our lives. We have been called according to God's purpose (Romans 8:28).

ABRAM'S SUITCASE

You will need:

- file folders
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- stickers (optional)



Instructions:

1. Trim any tabs off the top of the folder so that both sides are even.
2. Cut out two handle shapes from construction paper.
3. Glue to the open flaps of the folder.
4. To make pockets, cut square or rectangular pieces of construction paper that will fit inside suitcase. Glue along three edges of these pieces (not the top) and place inside folder.
5. Decorate your suitcase with markers (Canaan or bust!) or stickers. Now you are ready to travel like Abraham!



Bible Lesson

How would you like it if all of a sudden your parents told you, “Pack up all your stuff. We’re moving!”? The thought of moving might seem fun, but it might also seem a bit scary. You would probably have a lot of questions, especially if you were moving to a place you had never even visited before. A man named Abram was called by God to do just that: leave his home and move to a place that was unknown to him.

Leaving Ur (Genesis 11:31-32). As God began to prepare His special plan to bring the gift of salvation to the world, Abram received special attention. Abram had grown up in a city called Ur, but now he was living in Haran. Sometime earlier, God had called him to leave Ur (see Acts 7:2-3). Abram had started for the land of Canaan with his family, but along the way they stopped and settled down in Haran.

Receiving God’s promises (Genesis 12:1-3). There was something that Abram had not been aware of his whole life. The one true God had been watching over him. And now, the Lord was ready to make Himself known to Abram in an amazing way!

The Lord called for Abram to leave Haran and to go to a land that He would show him (12:1). The false gods that people worshipped in Ur and Haran were not real and were unable to speak. But the Lord spoke to Abram and gave him some amazing promises.

At this point in Abram’s life, he and his wife Sarai were already too old to have children. But that did not stop God from promising that Abram would become the father of a

great nation of people (12:2). God’s promises are always connected to God’s power, and He can do the impossible.

God’s words to Abram also included this promise: “In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (12:3). God was actually talking about the coming of His Son, Jesus, two thousand years before it happened. Both Mary and Jesus’ earthly father, Joseph, were descendants of Abram. God’s promise did not fail!

Even though Abram did not have all the details, he trusted God. He believed that God would keep all His promises. By reading the Bible, we see that God did keep His promises to Abram. And through faith in Jesus, God’s wonderful blessing of salvation can be received by everyone on earth.

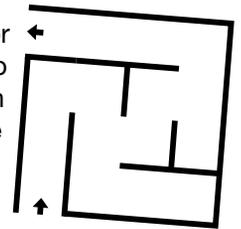
Moving with faith (Genesis 12:4-9). You do not need to know where you are going as long as you are with someone who does. Abram acted in faith when the Lord told him to leave Haran. He trusted that the Lord would be with him for protection and guidance.

After Abram arrived in the land of Canaan with his wife Sarai and nephew Lot, the Lord appeared to him. He was then given another promise. The Lord promised to give Abram’s offspring the land in which he had now arrived. Abram then built an altar and worshipped the Lord.

God already knows everything. But the way our faith is shown to others is through our actions. Abram’s faith was shown when he trusted the Lord and followed the Lord’s guidance to Canaan. You can become more familiar with God’s promises by continuing to study His Word, the Holy Bible. Then show others your faith by trusting Him no matter where you go in life.

Trust Walk

Abram trusted God and followed His command to go to an unknown place. Arrange chairs, seats out (or use other safe obstacles, such as cardboard boxes), to create two short mazes. Divide children into two teams. Blindfold a child from each team. Choose a caller for each team to guide his teammate through the maze by giving him directions. If the blindfolded child touches a chair (or whatever obstacles you are using), that player must start the maze over again. The first team to get its blindfolded player through the maze gets a point, and the round is over. Choose two different children to be blindfolded and two to be callers for the next round. Play until one team gets five points. If you do not have room for two mazes, time how long it takes to complete the maze. If the blindfolded child touches an obstacle, he forfeits his turn, and the other team gets a turn. The best time wins.



Correct Order

Number the following events from Genesis 11:31 through 12:9 in the correct order in which they happened.

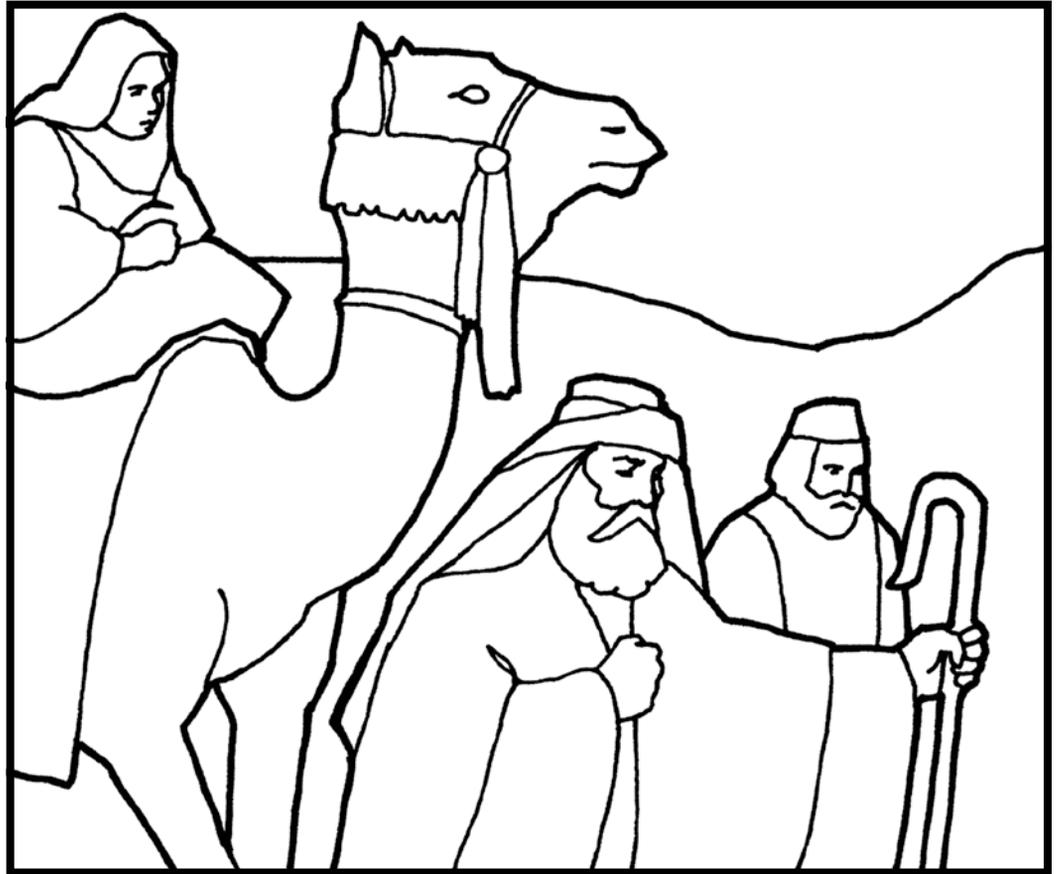
1. ____ The Lord spoke to Abram in the land of Canaan and told him that He would give the land to Abram’s descendants.
2. ____ The Lord told Abram that He would make his descendants a great nation and bless him.
3. ____ Terah took Abram, Sarai, and Lot from Ur of the Chaldees and settled in Haran.
4. ____ Abram built an altar to the Lord.
5. ____ Abram gathered Sarai, Lot, and all their servants and journeyed from Haran to the land of Canaan.
6. ____ Terah passed away in Haran at the age of 205.

BIBLE PICTURES TO COLOR



Lesson 1

By faith, Abram obeyed God's call to leave his home and go to a new land.



Lesson 2

Abram lived in the land that God promised to give to him.