

God is Merciful!

Bible Lesson: Abram's Saving Faith – *Genesis 12:1-9 Romans 4:3,11-21*

Main Teaching: Faith is trusting in Jesus alone to be saved.

Word Up: Trust in Jesus alone!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “Jesus is the Good News” and “Do All to the Glory of God” - Worship (Sing About the King 1 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “Jesus is the Good News” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Up Rules Chart
- Plastic Ziplock bag filled with water and 3 round pencils – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “Abram's Saving Faith” – Bible Lesson
- Missionary Visual of Adhiambo – Missionary Story
- Glory vs Pride cards for each student – Small Group
- Quiet Time Week 2 handout for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Word Up / Worship
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group



SMALL GROUP

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

Who's Out?

For this game, have everyone stand up in a circle. Explain that you are going to make a statement, and if the statement is true about them, then they must sit down. For example, you might say, “Sit down if you have a cat,” or “Sit down if you have a sister.” Once the kids are sitting down, ask each of them to say their name and elaborate on the statement. For example, one kid may say, “My name is Jared and my sister's name is Malia.”

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to cefonline.com/freedemos

“Jesus is the Good News”

“Do All to the Glory of God”

CLUB RULES

Up Rules

In order to have a classroom where everyone feels safe and can learn, we need to have some rules. Let's go over our Up Rules! Have a co-teacher help you with this skit:

"I have a student here, help me tell her what rule she needs to follow. "

1. Student laying down (Sit Up!)
2. Student looking up in the air at the ceiling (Look Up)
3. Student whispering to a friend (Listen Up)
4. Student yells "I know I know – call on me!" (Hands Up)
5. Student interrupting the teacher to tell a story about her cat (Zip Up)



WORD UP!

"Trust in Jesus alone!"

Last week we talked about how we can trust Jesus with anything. He always does what is right and always wants what is the best for us. Our Bible character had to trust God in a situation he didn't understand.

Whenever I say "**Word Up**", stand up and say "**Trust in Jesus alone!**"

OBJECT LESSON

Trust Water Sandwich Bag

Materials: Plastic Ziploc bag filled with water and several sharp pencils. The pencils need to be round, not hexagon.

What You Do:

Choose a volunteer (either another club leader or an older child in club) to sit in a chair at the front of the meeting area. Hold the water-filled bag over the volunteer's head, and ask if they have faith that they won't get wet. Then, stab the SHARP pencil all the way through the bag! (You'll want to practice this before doing it with kids to determine how quickly to stab the pencil into the bag.) Continue to stab as many pencils through as you can!

****TIP:** Too many pencils will add mass to the bag and the pressure might be too much for the zip-top. Beware of the exploding bag!

What You Say:

I need a very brave volunteer who wants to come sit in my chair up front. *(Hold out bag filled with water)* Do you have faith in me? Do you trust that I won't spill this entire bag of water on your head? *(Bring out a sharp pencil and hold it next to the bag)* What about if I poke a hole in this bag with a pencil? Do you still believe me? Well, I'm going to do it. I'm going to poke this pencil through the bag, and you are NOT going to get wet. Do you still believe me? *(Hold the bag over the volunteer's head and stab the pencil through the middle)* Did you get wet? It seems impossible, doesn't it? Trusting me in this moment makes no sense. And yet, here we are with a bag full of water and two holes without any leakage.

Would you trust that I won't get you wet even if I poked another pencil through this bag? *(Bring out another sharp pencil and stab the bag again.)* How about another? *(Stab the bag with a third pencil.)*

Sometimes in life, we can feel like we're getting poked with holes. Friends move away, family members get sick, or our pet dies. It hurts, but trusting God is a bit like trusting that you wouldn't get wet when I held that bag of water over you. We CAN trust God, even when it seems like everything is going horribly wrong. He loves and cares for us, and He is the ONLY one who we can trust completely. **WORD UP!** *(repeat with the children)* **Trust in Jesus alone!** Today in our true story from the Bible, we are going to learn about a man who had to trust God when it was really hard.



BIBLE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Imagine your dad's boss telling him to move to a new place for his job but he doesn't tell him where that is. Your dad's boss just tells him to pack and be ready to go. What would you think? To move like that would take faith (trust) in that boss. Something like this happened to a person who lived long ago. Listen carefully to learn about his faith.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Flashcard 2--1

This man's name was Abram (AY-brum). God chose him to bring God's glory to all the nations! God didn't choose him because of the good things he had done. In fact, Abram lived in a place where people didn't love or follow the one true God. They worshiped (showed special honor to) statues and fake gods. They trusted these gods to save them.



What do you trust to save you? Maybe you trust in gods other than the God of the Bible. Or you trust in the good things you do to save you or to cause God to show favor to you. Trusting in anything or anyone other than God to save you and make you right with God is sin. There are many ways that we sin against God because everyone is born a sinner. (*Read Romans 3:10*). There is no one who does only right things and never sins. God, who is perfect, says there is a punishment for sin. It is to be separated from Him forever in a terrible place where there is no love, kindness or happiness. You need to be saved from sin by trusting in the one true God.

The people did not trust in the one true God. They were worshipping statues and fake gods.

One day God told Abram to leave his country and his father's house and go to a new land that God would show him. (*Read Genesis 12:1*.) God was telling Abram to go to a whole new place where he had never been before. God did not even tell him where he would be going! How do you think Abram might have felt about moving to a different country? (*Allow response*.) It would take faith in God for Abram to follow Him to this new land. Show me thumbs up if you think Abram would do it. Show me thumbs down if you think he would not. (*Allow response*.) Keep listening to find out.

Flashcard 2-2

God was not finished speaking to Abram. He also made amazing promises to him. (*Read Genesis 12:2*.) God would make Abram's name well known throughout the world because through Abram the world would see God's goodness and love. He even promised that Abram would have a lot of land and children! (*Hold up one finger at a time and have children say with you: name, land, children*.) All these things seemed impossible for Abram to believe. Abram didn't have any land and he wasn't anyone important. Abram was old and didn't have any children. How was God going to do these things? Why did God promise him all this? Abram had done nothing to deserve these things. God chose Abram and made these promises to him because God was going to bless all the families of the world then, now, and even in the future through Abram! That was God's plan! All people would know how great and awesome God is.



Do you know how great and awesome God is? He is your Creator—the one who made you. He loves you with a love that will never change. (*Read Jeremiah 31:3b*.) God's love for you will never end. No matter how bad you are or how good you try to be, God's love for you is still the same. You can trust His love for you because He is the perfect God who never lies. God wants you to know Him and how great He is.

God wants all people to know how great and awesome He is. God would bless all the people on Earth through Abram and his family. But how was God going to do this? How would God's plan show His glory to people from all nations? Even Abram did not know the details of God's plan. Abram did not know where to go but God knew. God knows everything—the past, the present and the future. Abram trusted the one who knows everything!

Flashcard 2-3

Abram took his wife, his nephew, all his servants and all their belongings and set out on their journey. (*Read Genesis 12:4-5.*) It must have been hard for 75-year-old Abram to travel. Let's imagine what Abram and his family might take on the journey. Stand up and choose some things to put in your bags. They would need things to cook with, clothes, and food for people and their animals. (*Do with children.*) Abram could have doubted God's plan for him. But he didn't. He had faith in God's promises and trusted that God knew what was best for him.



God knows what is best for you too! If you have put your faith in Jesus to save you from sin, you can **depend on the Holy Spirit to help you live by faith every day**. You can trust God because He knows everything about you. He will help you live in a way that pleases Him, bringing him glory. The Bible says, (*read Hebrews 13:6a then direct the children to use their fingers to say the five words in this verse, "The Lord is my Helper," starting with their little finger*). How does God help you? Through His Holy Spirit, who lives in you. For instance, when you are going through a hard time, the Holy Spirit might remind you that God cares. You can trust that He knows what is best for you. Maybe someone you love is sick, you have to move to another state, or your parents don't get along. Talk to God about what you are experiencing. Trust the Holy Spirit to give you faith to believe that God knows best. God knew what was best for Abram too and Abram trusted God to keep His promises. What were the three things God promised? (*Hold up one finger at a time and have children say with you: name, land, children.*) Abram didn't have land but he had faith that God would give him land as He promised. Abram wasn't famous but he trusted that God had a plan for his life. Abram and his wife, Sarai (SAR-eye), were too old to have children but Abram had faith that God would give them a family. In fact, God promised to make Abram's family into a great nation—the nation of Israel! Abram is called a patriarch, which means the head of the family or leader of the family.

Remember God had promised Abram he would be great. God would give him land and would make Abram's family a great blessing to all the nations of the world. Today we know what that meant. From Abram and Sarai came the 12 tribes of Israel and finally Jesus, the Savior of the world! That is the best thing that God has done for the people of the world! Abram's children had children, and they had children. Thousands of years later Jesus was born through Abram's family.

Flashcard 2-4



Jesus is God the Son. He lived a perfect life—He never sinned. He is the only one who could take the punishment for your sin upon Himself. He paid the penalty for your sin when He gave His own life on the cross. (*Read 1 Peter 2:24a.*) Jesus willingly gave His life's blood so that you can be forgiven of your sins. After He died, He was buried then He came back to life on the third day so you can be saved. He is alive now in Heaven reigning as King. Jesus died so you and I could be declared righteous—made right with God. When you believe in (put your faith in) Jesus alone as Savior, you are forgiven of your sin and made right with God.

"Word up!", "Trust in Jesus alone!" (*Say with children.*) What a wonderful Savior Jesus is! Jesus, the Savior, would be born through Abram's family! Abram's faith in the one true God would bless all the nations of the world. We can be thankful for the faith that Abram had.

CLIMAX

When Abram put his faith in God, it was counted as righteousness—he was declared right with God!

CONCLUSION**Flashcard 2-5**

In faith, Abram and his family journeyed until finally they came to the land of Canaan (*KANE-un*). In Canaan, the Lord appeared to Abram again, and told him this would be the land given to Abram's family. So in that place Abram built an altar to the Lord—praising God.

INVITATION

When you have faith in Jesus as your Savior, you become a part of the blessing promised to Abram thousands of years ago! Will you believe on Jesus so you can be made right with God? (*Read Acts 16:31.*) To believe on the Lord Jesus is to trust that only He can save you. You can't save yourself. It means you are choosing God's way instead of your own way. To be saved means your sin will be forgiven and you will have a friendship with God that starts here on Earth and one day you will live with Him in Heaven. Will you believe on Jesus today? Everyone, close your eyes. If you want to believe on Jesus today to save you, will you show me by looking up at me? (*Acknowledge responses.*) You may all open your eyes. If you looked up at me, showing me that you want to believe on Jesus to save you, meet me (*designate time and location*). I will show you from the Bible what it means to put your faith in Jesus.

**REVIEW GAME****Human Tic Tac Toe***Instructions:*

Begin by having nine children stand in front of the class in three rows of three. Divide the rest of the class into two teams and ask questions, alternating between the teams. Designate one team X and the other team O. When a child answers a question correctly, he may choose one of the nine children standing to make his team's symbol—an X by crossing his arms over his chest or an O by placing his arms in a circle over his head. The first team to get three in a row wins the game.

Variation:

If there are not enough children in your club for this game, create a tic-tac-toe board with masking tape on the floor. Have five markers (e.g. buttons, coins, beanbags, or crumpled paper) for each team. When a child answers a question correctly, he throws the marker at the board. The first team with three in a row, wins.

1. What was the name of the man in today's Bible lesson who had faith? (*Abram.*)
2. What hard thing did God tell Abram to do? (*To leave his country and go to a new land.*)
3. What were the three promises God made to Abram? (*He would have a great name, land, and children.*)
4. Why did God make these promises to Abram? (*He was going to bless all the families in the world through Abram.*)
5. Why did it seem impossible that Abram and Sarai would have children? (*They were both very old.*)
6. How did God bless all the nations of the world through Abram? (*Through Abram's family the Savior came into the world.*)
7. Why can you trust that God loves you? (*God says He does in the Bible and He never lies.*)

8. What is the punishment for sin? (*To be separated from God.*)
9. What happened to Jesus on the third day after He died on the cross? (*He came back to life.*)
10. Who can you depend on to help you live God's way? (*The Holy Spirit*)
11. Name some times you can depend on God to help you live by faith. (*Answers will vary.*)
12. Say our memory verse, 1 Corinthians 10:31, with your team. "*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*"

MISSIONARY STORY

Part 1: Adhiambo Can't Do Anything Right



"Can't you do anything right?"

Adhiambo's (*Ah-thee-AHM-bō*) stepmother yelled as she reached for a switch. "The ugali (*ooh-GAH-lee, cornmeal balls*) is not cooked well again! You are an embarrassment to this family. Who would want to marry someone like you?" Adhiambo hurried to clean up the kitchen, grateful that she had at least escaped another beating.* It wasn't easy to make ugali. No one helped her learn new things. If only she could learn to cook and visit her real mother. She could ask her if the things her stepmother said were true.

Adhiambo lived with her father and two stepmothers. Her father was often away and her own mother had stayed behind in her tribal village when the rest of the family moved to Mombasa. This sometimes happened

when a man had more than one wife.

Adhiambo sat on a rock looking into the sky. Big tears wet her face. She sniffled, wiped her nose and tried not to think of her unhappy life. Tomorrow she must be up at dawn to cook breakfast for the family, sweep the floors and walk to school. She was often whipped for no reason at school too.

Adhiambo lived in the country of Kenya in East Africa. In her city of Mombasa there are many beaches with little shops called kiosks and ships that come from many countries. In spite of the difficulties in her life, seven-year-old Adhiambo still had fun at school playing with the other children.

One afternoon at school Adhiambo's friend Atis (*Ah-tees*) ran up to her, eyes sparkling with mischief. "Let's go to the kiosks in town and steal candy!"

"All right. I'll keep watch while you take the stuff."

Atis went to a table of clay dishes filled with many kinds of sweet treats. She pretended to admire everything while her eyes were on the woman behind the table.

Adhiambo leaned against a pole of the kiosk, glancing in all directions. No one else was near

the candy table. Adhiambo faked a sneeze. "Ah-choo! Ah-choo!" That was the signal. The woman turned her back to Atis and glared angrily at Adhiambo. Was this child sneezing germs on her fresh candies?

In a flash Atis snatched dozens of candies. "Scoot!" she whispered to Adhiambo. "I got it!" But even while Adhiambo enjoyed the delicious goodies, she felt guilty. She knew standing guard while her friend stole was just as bad as stealing.

That night Adhiambo dreamed about Jesus, God's Son. She had seen

His picture in a storybook once. In her dream Jesus came to take people to Heaven. He called all kinds of people to go with Him. She dreamed she saw children going to Heaven but she was not one of them.

The dream was frightening! Adhiambo woke with her heart pounding. She had been left behind because she was a sinner—a thief! She was very afraid and made up her mind. *I will never steal again.*

Could Adhiambo be good enough to please God? Find out next time!



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Glory vs Pride

"Bring glory to God" written on one side and "Think only of yourself" on the other. Make one sign for each child. Use card stock if possible. As you read each activity below, ask the students to show the appropriate side of their signs. Discuss each activity and how it brings glory to God or shows that the person is thinking only of himself. If you do not have signs, you can use actions such as thumbs up and thumbs down.)

- Thanking God for a talent He has given you.
- Doing your best and giving God the credit for helping you.
- Doing your best so others will praise you.
- Doing your chores with a cheerful attitude
- Bragging about being the best athlete on the team.
- Helping a younger child learn to play a sport you are good at.
- Saying, "I'm sure I'll win the talent show. I always do!"
- Using your baking ability to make cookies for someone who is lonely.
- Telling a friend, "I think I understand the math assignment. I'd be glad to help you if you want me to."
- Bragging, "I always get a 100 on math tests. I'm the best!"
- Doing your homework while constantly complaining.

Let's pray and ask God to help us bring glory to Him in all we do. *(Close in prayer, praying also for the needs of the children.)*

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 3 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, tell the parents something good the kids did this week.

Abram's Saving Faith

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in you Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline

I. INTRODUCTION

What do you think of when you hear the word *faith*?

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. Flashcard 2-1 (Genesis 12:1)

1. God chose a man to bring His glory to all the nations.
2. Worshipping anyone or anything other than God is sin. [Romans 3:10]
3. God told Abram to leave his country and go to a new land that God would show him.

B. Flashcard 2-2 (Genesis 12:3)

1. God made three amazing promises to Abram (land, name, children).
2. God chose Abram and made him these promises because He was going to bless everyone in the world, then and now, through Abram.
3. God wants all people to know Him. [Jeremiah 31:3b]
4. Abram trusted the one who knows everything!

C. Flashcard 2-3 (Genesis 12:4-5; Romans 4:11-21)

1. Abram, his wife and his nephew set out on their journey.
2. You can depend on the Holy Spirit to help you live by faith every day. [Hebrews 13:6a]
3. Abram had faith that God would fulfill His three promises to him (land, name, children).
4. Today we know that through Abram's family God brought the Savior to the world.

D. Flashcard 2-4

Jesus was not guilty but took the guilt of our sin upon Himself and paid the penalty for our sin. [1 Peter 2:24a]

III. CLIMAX

Flashcard 2-5 (Genesis 12:6-9; 15:6; Romans 4:3)

When Abram put his faith in God, it was counted as righteousness—he was declared right with God!

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. God told Abram that Canaan would belong to his family; Abram built an altar to the Lord, giving Him all the glory.
- B. Put your faith in Jesus and become a part of the blessing promised to Abram thousands of years ago. [Acts 16:31]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text.
Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.