

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GOD ASKS ABRAHAM TO GO TO CANAAN

📖 Genesis 12:1-5; 15:5; 17:5,15-16 God calls Abram

🎯 Aim: To know who Abraham was

In today's session we will start to discover more about a character in the Old Testament, way back in the book of Genesis. Abraham trusted God and made a huge decision to follow his command and leave the safety of his home. God blessed Abraham and his family and made them an important part of his story.

Each child will need:

- Bible verse wristband
- Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

💬 Say: In today's Bible story, God made this promise to Abraham.

'I will make you famous.'

— (Genesis 12:2 *ICB*)

We will find out later what kind of fame God promised to bring to Abraham.

Discuss:

- What does it mean to be famous? Definition: known about by many people.
- Have you ever met a famous person? Who was it, and where did you meet them?
- Who is your favourite famous person? Explain why you like them so much.
- Would you like to be famous? If so, what would you like to be famous for?
- What do you think are the positives and negatives of being famous?
- Do you think your personality would change if you became famous? If so, how?

After you have discussed the above questions, take a vote within the group, answering the question, 'Would you like to be famous?' Some of the children might find it difficult to decide, and this is a further opportunity to discover the positives and negatives of fame.

Sing It

💬 Say: Throughout May we will learn about people in the Bible who did not always manage to follow God the way they should. While living their lives for God they faced good times and bad, but God kept working in their hearts. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that God is working in our hearts as well.

Memory verse

Share the memory verse together and give each child a wristband.

'And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.'

— (Philippians 1:6 *ESV*)

Say: Our song for today will help you to learn this month's memory verse.

'He who began' (Philippians 1:6) by Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc (1 min 5 mins)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpCNBrBwSt0

Tell It

Ask: What do you know about the Bible character Abraham?

Say: Today's story is found near to the beginning of the Old Testament in the book of Genesis. Abraham was then known as Abram and was a successful businessman living in a bustling city called Haran. One day, God had some important news to share with Abram.

Read:

'Then the Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make you famous. And you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you. I will place a curse on those who harm you. And all the people on earth will be blessed through you."'

— (Genesis 12:1-3 ICB)

Ask:

- How do you think Abram felt when God asked him to leave his country? Explain your answer.
- Where did God ask Abram to go, and what did he say would happen?
- God told Abram that he would bring him fame. What would Abram be famous for?
- What word is repeated throughout verses 2-3, and what does it mean?

Say: God promised to make Abram famous so that he could be a blessing to others. Abram's fame served God's purpose and helped the people of his land.

Read:

'So Abram left Haran as the Lord had told him. And Lot went with him. At this time Abram was 75 years old. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot and everything they owned. They took all the servants they had gained in Haran. They set out from Haran, planning to go to the land of Canaan. In time they arrived there.'

— (Genesis 12:4-5 ICB)

Ask:

- Why do you think Abram decided to leave Haran?
- Do you think you would have made the same decision? If so, why?

Say: Watch the clip to find out what happened next.

Video

Abram to Abraham (Genesis 15-21) by Saddleback Kids (1 min 32 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDz-7OX4C9k

Ask: God promised to bless Abram and make his name famous. Did that happen straight away? How do you know?

Say: Abram and Sarai were getting old and didn't have any children, but God made a beautiful promise to them.

Read:

'Then God led Abram outside. God said, "Look at the sky. There are so many stars you cannot count them. And your descendants will be too many to count."

— (Genesis 15:5 *ICB*)

Say: God gave them both new names. Abram would be known as Abraham, and Sarai would be known as Sarah.

Action It

Ask:

- What would you like to do when you grow up?
- Do you think you need to decide now? Explain your answer.

Say: Abraham was 75 years old when God promised to bless him and his descendants. It would have been easy for Abraham to have decided his life was drawing to an end, and there was nothing more for God to do with him. No matter how old we are, God always wants to use us to bless others.

One way that people in The Salvation Army can choose to live a life in which they bless others is to become an officer or church leader. On Sunday 7 May members of The Salvation Army across the UK and Ireland are given time to think about God's direction in their life and whether they would like to be officers. This is part of a corps or church service called Candidates Sunday. A candidate is somebody who puts themselves forward to be considered for a role.

Ask: Do you think you could be a Salvation Army officer? Explain your answer.

Say: We may not feel that God is asking us to be a Salvation Army officer, but he still calls each one of us to be a blessing to others. Watch the clip to find out more.

Video

Candidates Sunday Advert 2022 by The Salvation Army (2 mins 54 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nH5IsEFo7Qs

Pause the end of the clip and read the *VOICE* translation of Philippians 1:6 out loud together. Ask the children if they recognise the verse from earlier in the session. Discuss with the children their response to the clip and the different people involved. Using their ideas from discussions about the clip, ask them to create their own version of this month's memory verse.

Pray It

Say: At the beginning of today's session we spent time thinking about what it means to be famous.

Ask: As part of the discussion, we took a vote to decide whether you would like to be famous. Has your opinion changed? If so, how?

Say: God told Abraham that he would make him famous, but the reason for that fame was to bless others. Abraham was 75 years old at this stage, and God had loved him from the moment he was born.

Say: Yes, God promised to make Abraham famous in the eyes of many, but he was already famous in God's eyes. Regardless of how popular you are or what others think of you, you are famous in God's eyes.

Discuss

Watch the song together, and sing along if you know it. What do you think is the main message of the song?

Video

'He Knows my Name' by Francesca Battistelli.
Lyric video by Gospel Classic Lyrics (3 mins 24 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFkpl_ONOtc

Prayer

Give each child a piece of paper to write their own prayer. Encourage them to think about the lyrics of the song and thank God that we are all loved and famous in his eyes. If they feel confident, then they can share their prayer with the rest of the group to bring the session to a close.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MAY
SESSION 01

GOD ASKS ABRAHAM TO GO TO CANAAN

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FOR ME



Create

Using the song from our prayer time, create a dance or actions to go with the words.

'He Knows my Name' by Francesca Battistelli.
Lyric video by Gospel Classic Lyrics

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFkpl_ONOtc

TOGETHER



Share

Share this month's memory verse with someone at home. What do they think it means for them?

Watch the clip from this week's session together.

Candidates Sunday Advert 2022 by The Salvation Army

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nH5IsEFo7Qs

Throughout the clip, the line 'God's not finished with me yet' is repeated. How do these words inspire you to bless the people you meet in your everyday life?



Song for the week

'He who Began' (Philippians 1:6) by Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc (1 min 5 mins)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpCNBrBwSt0



Memory verse

'And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

— (Philippians 1:6 *ESV*)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

