

# ABRAHAM: CALLED TO A NEW LIFE

Abraham Genesis 11:26-22:19

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# SESSION 1 CALLED TO A NEW LIFE

Big idea: God calls us to a new life

Abraham is called to leave his father's house and the way people lived in Babel/Babylon and learn a new way of living. God promises to bless Abraham

5-9 years

# SESSION 1: CALLED TO A NEW LIFE

GET TO KNOW YOU GAME - Fruitsalad

## INTRO

Cut out the pieces of Genesis 1-11 and set the scene by putting the events of Genesis 1-11 in order as a group

## BIBLE STORY - CALLED TO A NEW LIFE

GAME - New way

**PRAYER** - As we follow Jesus, we are called, like Abram, to show the love of God to others. To do this, we need to **unlearn** some things that people around us do or things we did before we made Jesus our King and **learn a new way of living**. What sort of things? Ask Jesus to help you to learn to live His way.

## MEMORY VERSE

We are going to learn the first part of our Bible verse. The next part will be added in in session 4 and the last part in session 7.

You were taught to leave your old self—  
to stop living the evil way you lived before. Ephesians 4v22

**CRAFT** - Worksheet, Abram and Sarai are called to a new life



# GAME: FRUIT SALAD

## *Equipment:*

*Chairs in a circle equal to the number of people playing minus 1 chair*

Go around the circle labelling everyone a fruit: "apple" "pear" "banana" or "orange"

Person in the middle calls out a fruit, e.g. "orange!"

All the oranges switch seats with each other and the person in the middle has to try and sit on one of their seats

The new person in the middle has a turn to call

You cannot go back to your own seat. You must find a new one each time

# GAME: NEW WAY

*Abram was going to have to learn a completely new way of living and thinking if he was going to represent God well to the world. Imagine if you had to learn to pick objects up with your feet instead of your hands?*

## *Equipment:*

*Balls or beanbags, 2 hoops and 2 buckets*

1. Divide into 2 teams lined up at one end of the room behind a start line
2. At the opposite end of the room, place a hoop with beanbags in it and a bucket next to it for each team. Ensure equal number of beanbags per team
3. Contestants must travel on their hands and feet (feet first, tummy to the ceiling, in a crab position) to the hoop, pick up a beanbag and move it from the hoop to the bucket using only their feet
4. Then travel back in the crab position to the start line and the next player goes
5. First team to get all of their beanbags in the bucket wins

Did you think that was tricky picking things up with your feet? Abram is going to find it tricky to live a different way, trusting God without fear. He is going to make some mistakes, but God is going to be very **VERY** patient with Him.

5-9 years

# SESSION 1: INTRO GENESIS 1-11

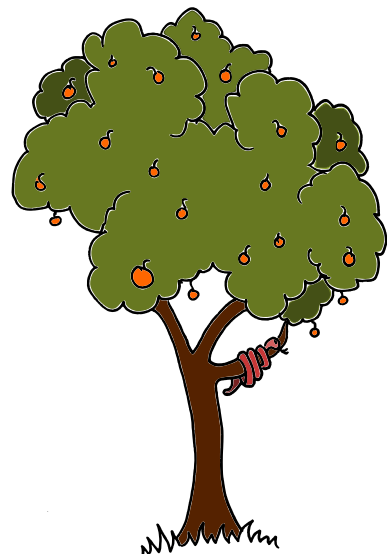


God created the world

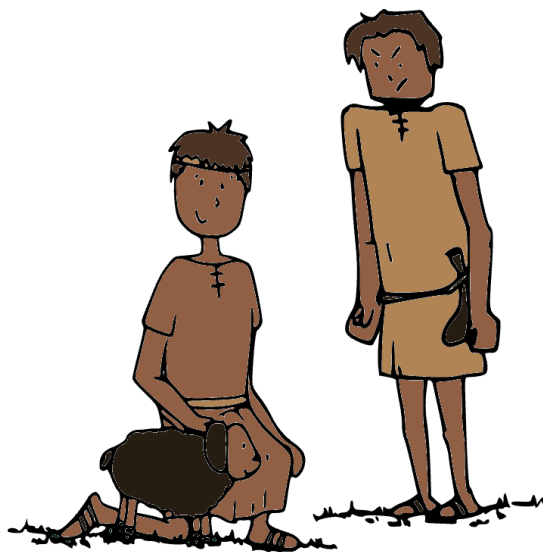
He put Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden and gave them a special job.

They were to represent God and rule on His behalf over creation, looking after it.

The snake slithered up to Eve and tricked her into disobeying God instead of trusting God. The Bible calls this sin. God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden in Eden into the wilderness where life was difficult, but promised that one day someone would be born who would crush Satan (the snake)

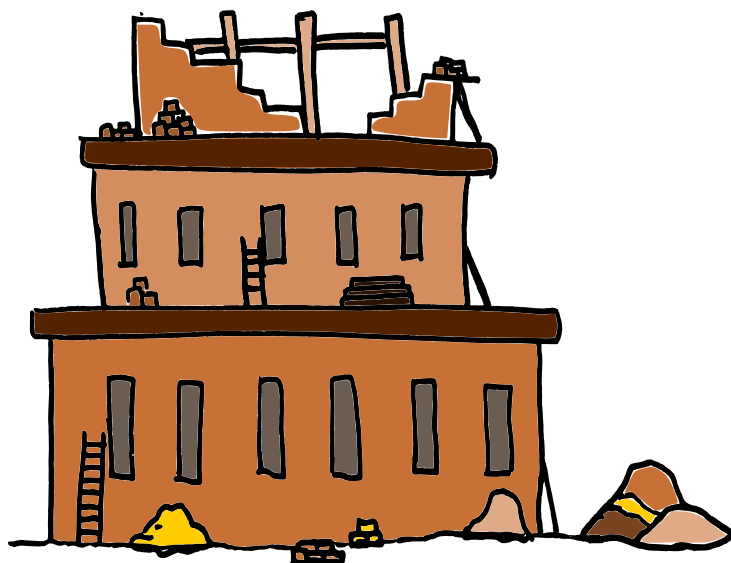


Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was jealous of Abel and killed him. God sent Cain further away from Eden and Cain built cities where people became more and more violent



The world was filled with violence and sin, so God said He would wash the earth clean with a flood, but He saved Noah and his family. God promised never to destroy all of humanity with a flood again and gave Noah and his family the same task he had given Adam and Eve, to represent God to the world and look after creation.

After Noah, people still did evil and built more cities where the poor were not looked after and people were violent to one another. One of these cities was called Babel or Babylon. The people decided to build a tower to show everyone how strong and powerful they were and to try and reach up to Heaven and be like God. God confused their languages and scattered the people across the earth



5-9 years

# SESSION 1: BIBLE STORY - CALLED TO A NEW LIFE

In the cities like Babel, the rich and powerful people cared about having lots of money and making other people do what they said. To get what they wanted, they might steal, hurt people and force people to be their slaves. They were not ruling the way that God intended Adam and Eve to rule.

What do you think it would have been like to live in one of these big cities if you were poor? Sick? A slave?

Read Genesis 12v1-7

God chose a couple named Abram and Sarai. He called them out of one of these big cities and called them to go to the land of Canaan, which means "lowland". Abram was 75 years old and he and Sarai had not been able to have children, but God gave them a special promise. Reread Genesis 12v1-3

What does it mean to be a **blessing**?

How would God bless the whole earth through this family?

God was calling Abram and Sarai and their family to be His representatives on the earth. They were called to show the world who God was and how much He loves the world. They were called to show the world a better way to live, how to care for others and how to know God and walk in His love. To do this, they would need to **unlearn** many of the things they had done in the cities of their fathers and to **learn** a **new way of living**.

Why do you think Abram and Sarai needed to **leave** the city of his fathers to learn this new way of living?

5-9 years

# ABRAM AND SARAI ARE CALLED TO A NEW LIFE

Can you draw Abram, Sarai and their nephew Lot traveling from the land of mountains and cities to the land of Canaan?



You were taught to leave  
your old self — to stop living  
the evil way you lived before.  
Ephesians 4v22

# SESSION 2

## RESCUED FROM EGYPT

Big idea: God is committed to helping  
Abram, even when he messes up

Abram saw famine and fled to Egypt for help. He lied to protect his life, but God helped him and Sarai, even though Abram hadn't trusted God. God sticks with us, even when we make mistakes.

5-9 years

# SESSION 2: RESCUED FROM EGYPT

## INTRO

Recap Genesis 1 using the intro cards from last session.

We have started learning about Abram who was called out of the mountain cities of Ur and Haran and called to learn a new way of life so that God could bless all the earth through him. Abram and his family would have to learn to leave the evil ways that they used to live behind and learn to live God's way. Let's see how Abram does in today's story.

**BIBLE STORY** = Genesis 12:9-20. See script

**GAME** = Clean up the mess/Stick together

## MEMORY VERSE

You were taught to leave your old self—  
to stop living the evil way you lived before. Ephesians 4v22

## PRAYER

God promises to never leave us. He keeps on loving us even when we do bad things. Thank God for loving us and pray for each other that you would know that God is with you always. Share anything you are worried about and pray for each other for these things.

**CRAFT** = stick together



5-9 years

## SESSION 2 SCRIPT PAGE 1: RESCUE FROM EGYPT

The story is from Genesis 12:9-20

This is a dramatized. Two adults can act this out. One being Abram and the other being Sarai and Pharoah (Perhaps take on or off a head covering to make it obvious when you switch characters). If you wish to involve the kids in the acting, they could be part of Abram's family or one of them could play the role of Sarai.

**Abram:** Sarai, something is worrying me. We need a family meeting.

**Sarai:** What is it, Abram?

**Abram:** We have followed God's instruction to move to Canaan and He promised that He would bless us here, but look around you. It hasn't rained for months. There's almost no grass left and it is becoming harder and harder to find water for our flocks. I don't think we can stay here any longer.

**Sarai:** But God told us to go to Canaan.

**Abram:** Egypt has always got water from the Nile river. We should go and talk to the king of Egypt and see if he can help us. I don't think God can help us here.

*To the group: What was the problem that Abram and his family faced? What do you think he should do?*

**Abram:** We're going to Egypt. Come on everyone....

**Abram:** Sarai, something else is worrying me.

**Sarai:** What is it?

**Abram:** You are very beautiful. Supposed the king of Egypt wants you as his wife. He will kill me and take you.

**Sarai:** That is a scary thought!

*To the group: What is Abram worried about? What do you think they should do?*

**Abram:** Here's what you must do. Pretend to only be my sister. Then he won't kill me.

**Sarai:** But he will take me as his wife!

**Abram:** At least you won't die and I won't die either and the king will let us stay there. That's good isn't it?

*To the group: Do you think that is a good plan?*

5-9 years

## SESSION 2 SCRIPT PAGE 2: RESCUE FROM EGYPT

**Pharoah:** Wow, who is this beautiful person coming from Canaan? I would like to have you as my wife.

**Abram:** This is my sister, Sarai.

**Pharoah:** I will give you great riches, animals and male and female slaves, Abram, in exchange for this beautiful woman.

**Abram:** Phew! That worked out well. I am still alive.

*To the group: Do you think God is happy with how Sarai has been treated?*

**Pharoah:** Abram, what is going on? Ever since I took Sarai to be my wife we have had terrible sicknesses in my house. It is as though God is angry.

**Abram:** Well, technically she is actually my wife.

**Pharoah:** What?! Why didn't you say so?!

**Abram:** I thought you would kill me.

**Pharoah:** You must take your wife and leave. Keep the things I gave you. Just leave the land so this sickness will leave my household.

*To the group: What did God do to show that Sarai should not have been given away and Pharoah should not have taken her?*

*Abram was so afraid of dying that, instead of trusting God, he left the land where God had promised to bless him and he betrayed his wife.*

*How do you think he is doing at leaving his evil ways behind and walking in new life at this point in the story? He made a series of massive mistakes.*

*Did God give up on him and Sarai or did God help them out? Even when we make mistakes, God does not give up on us.*

# GAME: CLEAN UP THE MESS

## *Equipment:*

*Small balls or beanbags and two buckets*

Divide the group into two teams.

Line up the teams at a start line with a bucket for their team at the start line.

Scatter the balls around the room

Children go one at a time in a relay to find a ball from somewhere in the room and run it back to their bucket

When all the balls are collected, see which team has the most in their bucket

# GAME: STICK TOGETHER

## *Equipment:*

*Small balls or beanbags*

Divide the group into pairs and line these pairs up at one end of the room.

The pairs have to race to the other end of the room while keeping a beanbag held between one elbow of one child and one elbow of the other. Then try holding the beanbag between a wrist of one child and a wrist of the other. In a third race you could hold the beanbag between the thumb of one child and a thumb of the other. If they find this too difficult, you could have a three-legged race instead

Draw a picture of yourself  
on the person labelled  
"ME" and draw Jesus on  
the person marked  
"JESUS". Cut out the two  
people and stick them  
back-to-back

**JESUS**

God  
promises to  
stick with  
me...

**ME**

...even  
when I  
make a  
mess!

Abraham Session 2  
5-9 years

# SESSION 3 LOT PARTS WAYS

Big idea: Abram acted as a peacemaker and  
God blessed him

Lot chooses the greenest, but wickedest place  
to live. Abram acts wisely and is a peacemaker.

5-9 years

# SESSION 3: LOT PARTS WAYS

## INTRO

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

WARM UP GAME - Can we fit?

## STORY RECAP

We have been learning about a man called Abram who was called from a land of cities where people did not trust God and he was invited to come to Canaan where God said He would bless Abram and bless nations through Abram's family. Abram first had to learn how to leave his old way of life and learn a new way of life, which was going to be difficult. When Abram got into the land of Canaan there was a famine and Abram got scared and went to the Pharaoh of Egypt for help, but God showed Abram that He would look after him and his wife Sarai, even when they made big mistakes,

Use the recap cards of Genesis 1-11 to help the children remember what has gone before Abraham's story.

BIBLE STORY - Lot parts ways Genesis 13

DISCUSSION - See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

GAME - Opposites...if you go one way, I'll go the other

PRAYER - Abram made a wise choice in this story and was a peacemaker. Pray for one another for wisdom and for situations where you can be peacemakers.

CRAFT - Lot moves away moving picture

## MEMORY VERSE

You were taught to leave your old self—  
to stop living the evil way you lived before. Ephesians 4v22



5-9 years

## SESSION 3 BIBLE STORY: LOT PARTS WAYS

The story is from Genesis 13

This is one way of dramatizing the story. One adult can be the narrator who gives instructions marked *[in italics]* and the children can take the parts of Abram and his herdsmen, Lot and his herdsmen and the Canaanites. Use a hoop to mark where a well is at one end of the room and start all three groups at the other end.

**Narrator:** Abram and Lot have come a long way. All the way from Egypt, through the dry land and back to the same hills where God spoke to Abram before. They decide to put up their tents here. *[Everyone pretend to put up your tents]*

Good work everyone! Then they worshipped God on the altar that Abram had made before and thanked God for bringing them back from Egypt safely. *[Everyone lift your hands and say "thank you God."]*

Their flocks were thirsty so they walked them to the nearby well. *[Lot and Abram and herders start walking your flocks to the well]* But...oh no! The Canaanites got there first! *[Canaanites come and draw water from the well]*

Abram and Lot had to wait their turn, but eventually they managed to water their flocks. *[Abram and Lot and your herdsmen, give your flocks water]*

Then they went back to the fields and rested. *[Everyone back to the start and pretend to go to sleep]*

The next day, Abram and Lot's herds needed water, so they went to the well, but the Canaanites had beaten them to it again! *[Canaanites come and draw water]*

After a while it was Lot and Abram's turn, but they argued about who should go first. *[Abram and Lot's herdsmen say "me first!", no "me first"]* Eventually they all got water and they went back to rest. *[Everyone go back and sleep]*

But in the morning, Abram and Lot's shepherds got up super early and tried to beat the Canaanites and each other to the well. They all argued again! Abram said to Lot "that's enough!" Let's talk. *[Abram and Lot meet to talk]*

Abram said "Let's not argue. We are family. Is not the whole land before you? Let us separate from each other. If you go left, I will go right, If you go right, I will go left."

Lot looked around and saw that the Jordan Valley looked beautiful. There were wicked cities there that were against God, but he thought it would be a good idea to camp outside the cities and enjoy all the beautiful trees and river. So, Lot went East. *[Lot and his herds and flocks go one way and Abram and his herds and flocks go the other]*

Then God said to Abram "Look around you, north, south, east and west. Everywhere you look, All the land that you see I will give to you and your family that come after you. I will make your offspring as many as the dust of the earth. You won't be able to count them they will be so many, Walk through the land, because I am going to give it to you." So Abram and his herd walked to a place called Hebron and worshiped God there.

# GAME: CAN WE FIT?

*Equipment: either 2 hoops or 2 double pages of newspaper or a series of large shapes depending on how you play the game*

In today's story, we are going to see what happens when Abram and his nephew Lot find that they are struggling to fit all their workers and animals on the same patch of land. In this game, we will see how many people we can fit in to a small space.

**1<sup>st</sup> variation:**

Split the group into two teams with one hoop for each team. Lay the hoop on the floor and challenge the kids to see how many team members they can balance in the hoop at the same time. You could give them three attempts to get the highest possible number of people.

**2<sup>nd</sup> variation:**

Give each team a double page of newspaper and ask them to balance all their team members on the paper without a toe on the floor. When they have succeeded, get them to fold it in half and try again. Keeping halving it until it is not possible.

**3<sup>rd</sup> variation:**

Have a number of large shapes ready or mark with tape on the floor a series of shapes and as a whole group or in teams see how many people you can fit into each space.

# GAME: OPPOSITES...IF YOU GO ONE WAY, I'LL GO THE OTHER

*No equipment needed*

Abram said to Lot, "if you go one way, I'll go the other." This is a game of opposites.

Stand the children facing the adult leader and follow the leader, but doing the opposite...

If the leader touches their head, the kids touch their toes

If the leader touches their toes, the kids touch their head

If the leader says "I'm standing up!", the kids sit down

If the leader sits down, the kids stand up

If the leader goes to one end of the room, the kids go to the other

# DISCUSSION: SESSION 3

## GENESIS 13 LOT PARTS

### WAYS

Abram and Lot are on a journey to learn to live God's way and that involves learning to make choices differently to how their fathers in the cities in Babylon would have made them.

Have a think about where someone makes a wise/foolish decision and how Abram makes peace with Lot.

These are some possible questions:

*What problem did Abram and Lot face?*

*Who tried to make peace and how?*

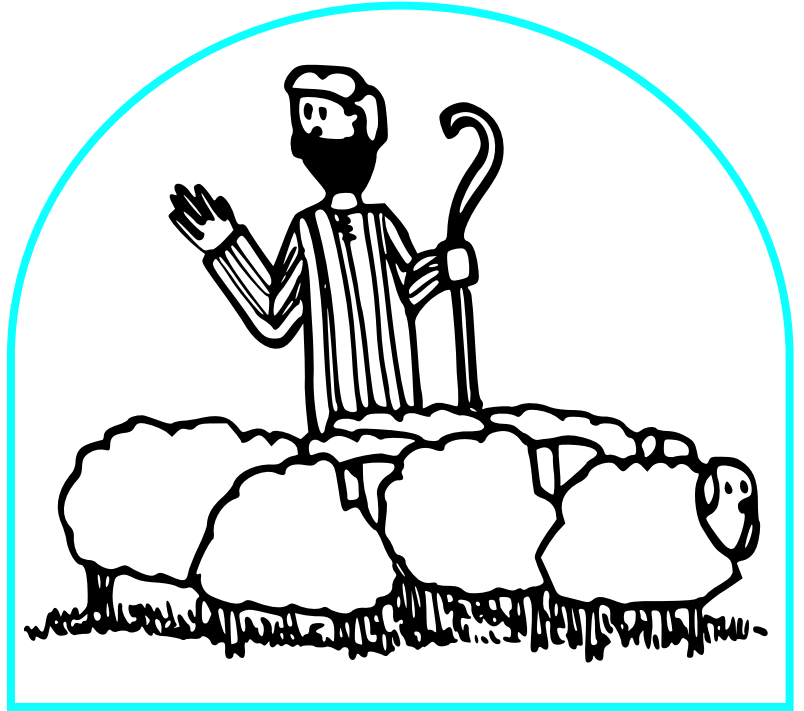
*Why did Lot choose the Jordan valley? Do you think it was wise to camp outside of a city that was against God? What does wise mean?*

*In the story last week, Abram left the promised land when there was a problem, but now he is choosing to stay. What do you think he might have learnt from his time in Egypt?*

*One way that Abram represents God well in this story is as a "peacemaker". He is generous and makes peace with his nephew. How can you be a "peacemaker"?*

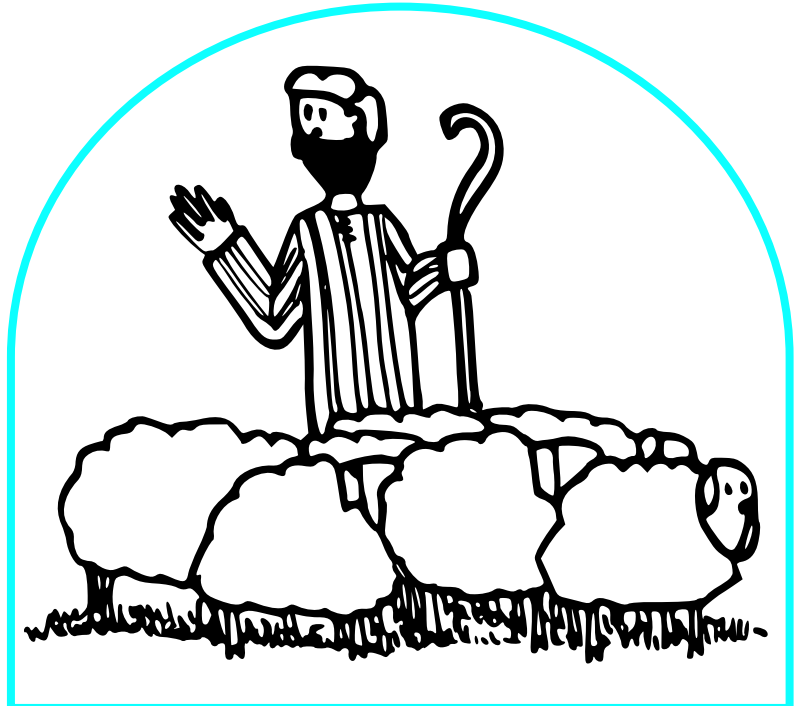
# CRAFT: LOT MOVES AWAY

Colour in and cut out Lot and his herds and stick it to a lollypop stick. Then cut the two straight lines marked on the picture of Abram and Sarai and thread the lollypop stick through the lines to make a moving picture.

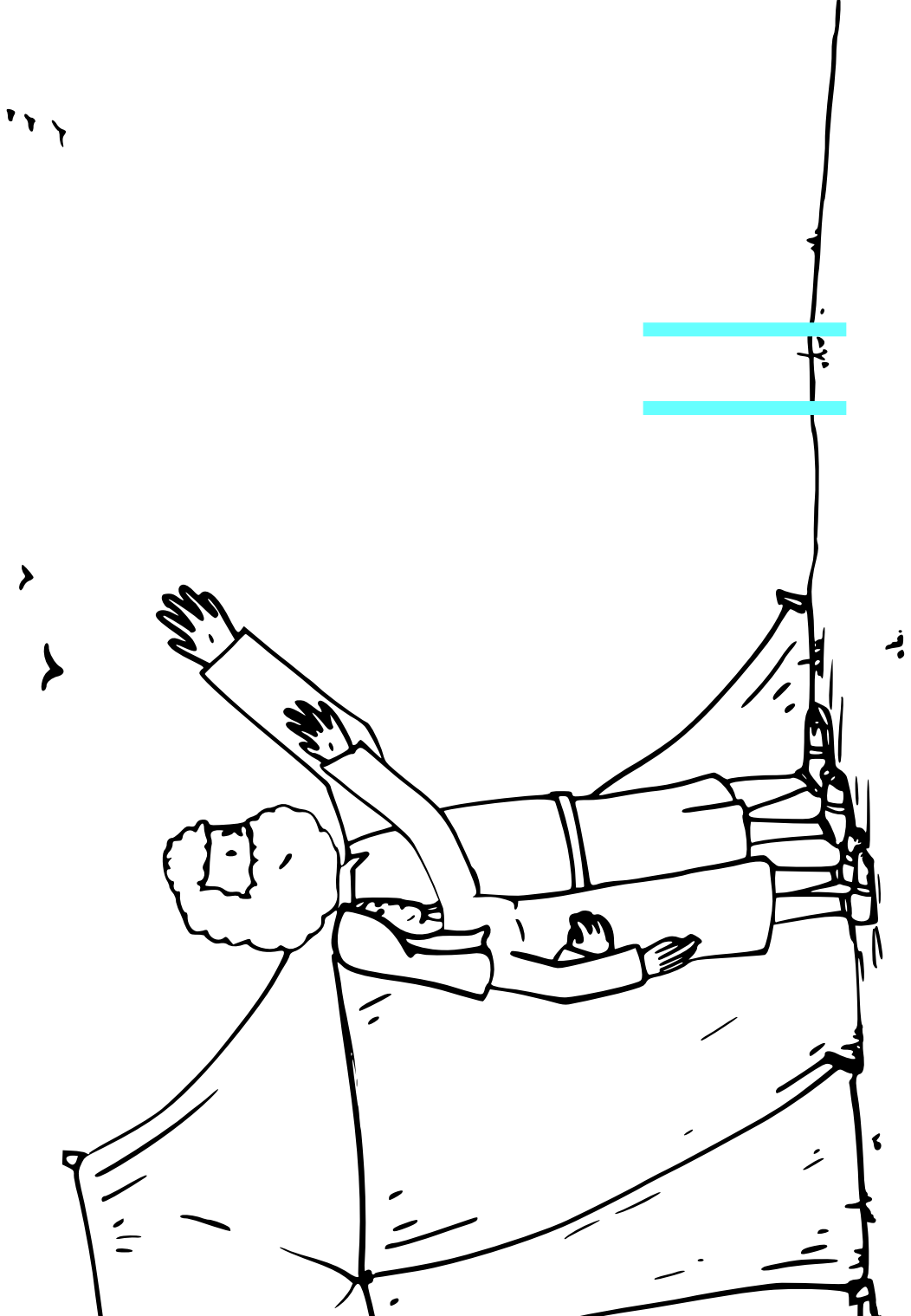


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ABRAHAM SESSION 3: GENESIS 13 - LOT MOVES EAST



# SESSION 4

# MELCHIZEDEK THE

# PRIEST

Big idea: Abram trusts God for victory and celebrates with bread and wine.

Abram trusts God to help him rescue his nephew. The first battle against God's enemies in the Bible is marked with bread and wine. Melchizedek priest of God points forward to Jesus.

5-9 years

# SESSION 4: MELCHIZEDEK

## INTRO

What is a priest in the Bible?

ACTIVITY – Priest in the middle

RECAP – We have been learning about Abram who was called away from the land of his fathers to the land of Canaan to learn a new way of living. He is learning to trust God and God said that through Abram, he would bless the nations. God is inviting Abram and Sarai and their family to become priests of God, God's representatives on the earth. They are on a journey, learning how to do this. In today's story, he is going to learn how to fight battles God's way and will meet another priest of God in today's story.

BIBLE STORY – Battle and Blessing

CLUE HUNT – See how Melchizedek and Abram point to Jesus

BREAD AND WINE AND PRAYER

MEMORY VERSE GAME

We are adding on the next bit of our memory verse today:

You were taught to leave your old self—  
to stop living the evil way you lived before.

You were taught to become a new person.

Ephesians 4v22 and 24

GAME – Piggy in the middle

CRAFT – Melchizedek blesses Abraham



# ACTIVITY: PRIEST IN THE MIDDLE

You will need: one ball or beanbag

Stand one person on one side of the room holding a beanbag as God

Stand one person in the middle of the room as a priest

Stand everyone else on the other side of the room as people



A priest is like someone in the middle between God and people.

God wants to bless people and a priest can pass on God's blessing to people

**Throw the beanbag from God to the priest. The priest throws the bean bag to the people**

People may want to talk to God and a priest can pray for or on behalf of the people

**Pass the beanbag back from the people to the priest to God**

God can speak to people through the priest

**Pass the beanbag to the priest and then the people**

The priest can make a sacrifice on behalf of the people so they can come close to God

**Pass the beanbag back the other way**

A priest can teach people Gods ways

**Beanbag: God – priest – people**

A priest can help people worship

**Beanbag: people – priest – God**

(Repeat until they get the idea)



5-9 years



## SESSION 4 BIBLE STORY: BATTLE AND BLESSING

*The story is from Genesis 14*

*This is one way of dramatizing the story. One adult can be the narrator who gives instructions marked [in italics] and the children can be divided into three groups:*

**Group 1** Chedorlaomer and his armies start in the “North” of the room

**Group 2** Lot and the 5 cities (Sodom, Gomorrah, Zoar, Admah, Zeboiim) start in the “South” of the room

**Group 3** Abram and his household start seated peacefully in the middle of the room

**Narrator:** After Lot, Abram’s nephew had separated from Abram and chosen to camp outside the wicked city of Sodom, trouble struck.

King Chedorlaomer with three other kings and their armies came from the North. They were mighty and terrifying. **(Group 1 look terrifying)**

They marched South to fight against the city of Sodom, where Abram’s nephew Lot was, and the cities of Gomorrah, Zoar, Admah and Zeboiim. **(Group 2 look scared)**

Chedorlaomer’s armies defeated the 5 cities and carried the people, their belongings and all their possessions away to the North, including Abram’s nephew Lot. **(Group 1 carry away Group 2 to the North)**

A messenger ran to Abram and told him what had happened. Abram had a choice to make. Would he let his nephew be captured or would he trust God to help him defeat these wicked kings? Abram and his neighbours gathered the men that were with them and went to fight against Chedorlaomer’s terrifying army. **(Group 3 marches North)**

Abram snuck up on them at night and defeated Chedorlaomer and his army in a surprise attack. **(Group 3 sneaks up on and defeats Group 1)**

Abram’s small band of men carried back all the possessions, men, women and children that Chedorlaomer had taken from the 5 cities. **(Group 3 rescues Group 2 and walks them South)** Abram had trusted in the Lord and he had won. Lot was rescued!

On the way back, they passed the city which would one day be called Jerusalem. A priest of God Most High came out to meet them carrying bread and wine. His name was King Melchizedek and he said to Abram:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of Heaven and Earth; And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

5-9 years



## SESSION 4 BIBLE STORY: CLUE HUNT

For the hundreds and hundreds of years that happened between Abraham and Melchizedek talking and Jesus coming as the Saviour of the world, God's people found many clues in the story of Melchizedek and Abraham about who the coming Messiah, the anointed one who would save God's people, was going to be. We will look for some clues and think about how they might tell us something about who the Messiah would be.

*Hide the clues around the room and discuss them when you have found them all.*

*These are some answers to the questions on the clue cards:*

- **PRIEST OF GOD MOST HIGH** - In the book of the Psalms, the writers prophesy that the coming Messiah would be a priest forever like Melchizedek. Jesus brought blessing to Abraham's family by offering Himself as a sacrifice, so that we could come into God's family. Through Jesus, we receive blessing from God.
- **BREAD AND WINE** - Jesus celebrated a special meal with His disciples just before He went to the cross to die for our sins. Jesus said the wine represented His blood poured out for us and the bread represented His body broken for us.
- **KING OF JERUSALEM** - A long time after Melchizedek, a man called David became King in Jerusalem and from there ruled over all of God's people, the twelve tribes of Israel. The Bible says Jesus sits on "David's throne" forever, which means that Jesus is King over all of God's people and God's kingdom.
- **RESCUED FROM ENEMIES** - Jesus rescued us from sin, death and the power of Satan when He died on the cross and rose from the dead for us.

*When you have discussed them, share the bread and wine (juice) together.*

5-9 years

## SESSION 4: BREAD AND WINE AND PRAYER



Melchizedek celebrated the first victorious battle against God's enemies recorded in the Bible with bread and wine. Jesus taught us to celebrate the greatest battle against God's enemies with bread and wine.

What did Jesus say the wine represented?

What did Jesus say the bread represented?

When Jesus died on the cross, He was being our Great High Priest, offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, to rescue us from the power of Satan, sin and death, so we could become part of God's family and receive God's blessing.

As you share the bread and wine, thank Jesus for being our priest and dying on the cross for us.

5-9 years

## SESSION 4 CLUES



### PRIEST OF GOD MOST HIGH

Melchizedek was Priest of God Most High

In the book of the Psalms, the writers prophesy that the coming Messiah would be a priest forever like Melchizedek. Melchizedek blessed God and Abraham's descendants. Did Jesus bless God and Abraham's descendants?

### BREAD AND WINE



Melchizedek brought out bread and wine on the day of the defeat of Abraham's enemies

Can you think of a time that Jesus brought out bread and wine?  
What did the bread and wine represent?

5-9 years

## SESSION 4 CLUES

### KING OF JERUSALEM



Melchizedek was king of the city which would one day be called Jerusalem

In the book of the Psalms, the writers prophesy that the coming Messiah would be a King in Jerusalem or a king on “Mount Zion” which is in Jerusalem, like David was. Does this sound like Jesus?



### RESCUED FROM ENEMIES

Abraham was God's representative and trusted God to defeat the enemies of Abraham's family

When did Jesus rescue Abraham's family from their enemies?

# MELCHIZEDEK BLESSES ABRAM

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed

Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Creator of heaven and earth.

And praise be to God Most High,

who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.



# GAME: PIGGY IN THE MIDDLE

*Equipment: beanbag*

Everyone in a circle. 1 person in the middle. Throw the beanbag across the circle and the person in the middle tries to catch the beanbag. If the middle person catches the beanbag you threw, then you join the person in the middle or you swap with the person in the middle, depending on how you want to play.

# SESSION 5

## REPENTANCE

### LEADS TO LIFE

Big idea: The Hebrew nation was birthed through a miracle after Abram and his family had said sorry for their sins

God wanted to bless Abram and Sarai with a son, but Abram had never said sorry for the wicked things he had done. When he says sorry, finally the blessing of the promised son is given to them.

5-9 years

# SESSION 5: REPENTANCE LEADS TO LIFE

## INTRO

God has called Abram and Sarai out of from their old way of life to learn a new way of life. God promised that He would give them as many descendants as the stars in the sky and that those descendants would and blessing to the whole world, but in today's story we find them still waiting to have a child.

## BIBLE STORY - REPENTANCE LEADS TO LIFE Genesis 15-17

See also the leaders background notes

## ACTIVITY/GAME - Ready to receive the gift

**PRAYER** - Thank God for his good things He gives us and thank God for sending Jesus to pay for our sins, so that we could have life with God,

## CRAFT - A miracle son

## MEMORY VERSE

You were taught to leave your old self—  
to stop living the evil way you lived before.

You were taught to become a new person.

Ephesians 4v22 and 24

## GAME - duck, duck, goose



5-9 years



## SESSION 5 STORY: REPENTANCE LEADS TO LIFE

*You will need: some way of demonstrating sin that makes a mess and then a way of cleaning it at the end. Perhaps a whiteboard and get the kids to scribble on it where it is written "Make a mark" then wipe it clean at the end. Or give them each a paper and pen to scribble whenever someone did something bad in the story and then swap it for a clean piece of paper when Abraham says sorry at the end.*

**Leaders please read the leader's notes on this passage for background and to equip you for questions the kids might ask.**

God wants Abram and Sarai to receive miraculous life in a son that God had promised to Abram, but before they can receive this life, their sins are going to need to be forgiven. They take a while to realise this though. As we think tell Abram's story, we are going to make a mark when someone sins and wash it off when they say sorry.

God had promised to give Abram and Sarai a son, but Abram did a bad thing when they went down to Egypt. Do you remember what it was? *(Abram sold Sarai to Pharaoh to save his own life, breaking his marriage covenant, which is very wicked in the sight of God. The Bible teaches that marriage is a "covenant" it is a promise that should never be broken. A promise that the husband will be faithful to, love and care for his wife and the wife will be faithful to, love and care for her husband. God does not want this "covenant", these promises, to be broken).* **Make a mark.** God sorted the mess out, but Abram never said sorry. **The mark is not washed off.**

10 years later and Abram and Sarai still didn't have a son. Sarai thought maybe it was her fault. So, she suggested Abram take one of the slave women, Hagar, that they had been given in Egypt and have a child with her. Do you think that was how God wanted to give them a child? (No He wanted to give one to Sarai) Abram agreed and broke the covenant of marriage a second time by taking another wife. **Make a mark.** Abram did not seem to think that he had done anything wrong and he did not say sorry. **The mark is not washed off.**

God graciously gave Hagar a child called Ishmael, but it resulted in lots of fighting in the household. Sarai and Hagar were being horrible to each other and not saying sorry. Do you think this is what God wanted? **Make a mark.** Abram assumed that Ishmael was the gift God wanted to give them all along, but 13 years later God spoke to Abram again.

God says that no, the promised son was not Ishmael, although God would bless Ishmael and look after him, because God is kind and generous. God said He was going to give Sarai a miraculous son and his name would be Isaac, but before that happened, Abram must say sorry for the things he had done wrong.

**When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." (Genesis 17v1-2)**

Finally, Abram did say sorry, he made a kind of sacrifice. Blood was shed so that Abram and his family's sins could be forgiven and he promised to walk blamelessly before God. **Wash off the marks.**

God forgave their sins and did a miracle. He gave Sarai a son, Isaac! Yippee! God changed Sarai's name to Sarah, meaning laughter and Abram's name to Abraham, meaning father of many nations.

God was teaching His people an important lesson. Without the shedding of blood and forgiveness of sins, none of us can receive the good and miraculous gift of life that God wants to give us. Jesus shed blood on our behalf so we could receive life from God. When we say sorry, God forgives us, because of what Jesus did on the cross and He gives us His new life.

## SESSION 5 STORY LEADERS BACKGROUND NOTES

### Note on circumcision and repentance:

Circumcision was the sign given to Abraham that symbolised that he and his family were set apart for God and saying sorry to God for their sins. The Bible teaches that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Earlier in Genesis 15, which I have not included in this series, God performs a covenant ceremony with Abram, in which Abram cuts in half animals and lays the halves opposing one another on the floor. This is an ancient ritual where you would expect the lesser party to walk through the middle of the animals, vowing that if they broke the covenant, they would be killed like these animals. However, God then appears as a burning fire pot and walks between the middle of the animals, essentially saying, if you Abram, or your family, break this covenant, I, God, will die for your sins.

Genesis 17 is very much linked to Genesis 15, but this time Abram is told to circumcise himself and his family. They are not required to die, but they are required to make a sacrifice of sorts. Circumcision symbolises that they are set apart for God and it is significant that the part of Abram's body that he keeps using to break his marriage covenant with Sarai, is the part from which God instructs that Abram shed some of his own blood in circumcision. So, circumcision is not just being set apart, but an acknowledgement that God is Lord of all of his life, including his marriage and sexuality, and his sins of defiling the marriage covenant are being forgiven. Shedding of blood in this manner is a bit like a sacrifice, but it is unusual because it is the only blood God requires people to shed and it, like the animal sacrifices points forward to the forgiveness we will receive in Jesus when He dies on the cross.

**However**, for the younger age group, this story retell, aims to bring out the theme of needing to repent and say sorry to God so that we can enjoy God's good gifts, while not specifically using or explaining the term "circumcision", which might be more appropriate for an older age group. But I have given you this note in case the children ask about it and you need a little more background.

### Note on grace gift of children:

Depending on whether the kids ask questions along these lines, you may want to point out that God graciously gave Hagar the gift of a son despite them still living in sin and not repenting. Every child is a gift and God does not just give children to people who have clean hearts and He doesn't withhold children from people because their hearts are unclean. It is one expression of God's grace, God giving us good things that we do not deserve. This story with Abram and Sarai was an unusual situation which had a special meaning. God waited to give the promised miraculous son, because God was teaching His people an important lesson. Without the shedding of blood and forgiveness of sins, none of us can receive the good and miraculous gift of life that God wants to give us. Jesus shed blood on our behalf so we could receive life from God.

The whole of the Hebrew nation was birthed through a miracle, but that miraculous life came at the cost of shed blood. The shedding of blood for the Israelites would point forward to the fact that one day, someone completely blameless would have to die for our sins. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

# ACTIVITY GAME: READY TO RECEIVE THE GIFT

*You will need: several duplo figures or similar with pen or mud on them, baby wipes or some other way the kids can wash the figures, a ball wrapped up as a present*

God wanted Abram and Sarai to enjoy all of His good gifts and blessing. Here is a good gift I want us all to enjoy together (show them the wrapped up ball)

But Abram and Sarai and the people with them didn't realise that first their hearts needed washing clean, so they could receive all the good gifts God had for them. They were a bit like these figures, all mucky (show them the duplo figures)

They knew something was wrong, but couldn't fix it themselves. Eventually God showed them that they needed to say sorry so that He could wash them clean. Let's wash the figures clean (hand around the figures and wash them)

When we come to Jesus and say sorry for the bad things we have done, He forgives our sins, washes our hearts and gives us good gifts.

Now we are all ready to receive the good gift! (Unwrap the ball)

As we throw it around the circle, let's say one good gift we are thankful for that comes from God. (E.g. love, joy, peace, hope, friends, houses, food, drink, etc.)

## A MIRACLE SON

Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. Genesis 17v19



Draw lots and  
lots of stars in  
the sky!

Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" Genesis 15v5

# GAME: DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE

*Equipment: none*

Everyone sits in a circle. 1 person walks around the outside of the circle tapping each child's head in turn saying "duck...duck...duck...etc." until on one child they shout "goose!". "Goose" jumps up and chases the first child around the circle. The first child tries to run all the way around the circle and sit down in the goose's space without getting caught. Now the second child goes around the circle like the first child did saying "duck...duck...duck...duck...goose!"

# SESSION 6

# ABRAHAM PRAYS

# FOR SODOM AND

# GOMORRAH

Big idea: God invites Abraham to speak on behalf of cities

God invites Abraham to speak on behalf of cities like a priest representing people to God and God to people. We can pray for places too

5-9 years

# SESSION 6: ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR CITIES

**WELCOME** – Share news, register, pray, remind of group rules and explain plan for the morning

## INTRO

Do you remember what a priest is? Someone who speaks to God on behalf of people and speaks to people on behalf of God

**BIBLE STORY** – Abraham prays for cities

**GAME** – over under

## EXPLORE THE STORY

**SNACK AND PRAYER** – Opportunity for kids to share what they have made or been thinking about the story.

Abraham prayed for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and God listened to him and spoke with him. Jesus said that God calls us his friends, because Father God shares with us what His plans are. We can pray for places like Abraham did and talk to God about what is happening in the world around us. Think of somewhere you would like to pray for. Maybe your school/town/church/country/somewhere in the world. What would you like God to do for this place?

## MEMORY VERSE

You were taught to leave your old self—  
to stop living the evil way you lived before.

You were taught to become a new person.

Ephesians 4v22 and 24

**CRAFT AND PRAYER**– picture and prayer



5-9 years

## SESSION 6 STORY: ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR CITIES GENESIS 19:1-29



*You will need: A box with a figure, a tree and a tent (e.g. happyland/duplo/lego/playmobil) for Abraham on top of it (this is the hill), 3 figures for God's angels. A box with a few figures on it, representing Lot's family in Sodom. Tell the story using the small world figures. You might want one helper to move the figures and another to narrate the story.*

One day Abraham was sitting under the oak trees outside his tent when God came to him. There were three men. The three men sat and ate with Abraham and repeated the promise that he would have a son through Sarah in about one year's time.

Then as the three men were leaving, Abraham walked with them a little way and they looked towards the city of Sodom where Abraham's nephew Lot was now living with his family.

The Lord said, "should I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" Then he told Abraham that the sins of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were so terrible that many people that had been hurt in the cities had cried out to God and God was sending two of His angels to see if things were really that bad in the city.

So, the two angels went on towards Sodom, but Abraham stood with the Lord and asked Him, "If you find 50 righteous people in the city, will you destroy the city? Will you not spare it for the sake of 50 righteous people?"

The Lord said, "If there are 50 righteous people, I will spare the city."

Then Abraham asked, "what if there are only 45 people? Will you spare it for 45?"

The Lord said, if I find 45 righteous people, I will spare the city.

Abraham asked again, "what about 40?"

The Lord said "I will spare it for 40."

"What about 30?"

The Lord said, "I will spare it for 30."

"What about if there are only 20?"

The Lord said, "I will spare it for 20 righteous people."

Abraham asked, "do not be angry with me, but what if there are only 10 people? Would you spare the city for the sake of 10 righteous people?"

The Lord replied, "For the sake of 10 righteous people, I will not destroy it."

Then Abraham returned home and the Lord went on His way.

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening and Lot was there at the city gate. He invited the two men to stay at his home, but the whole town came out to try to attack them. The angels blinded the men of Sodom that were attacking them and told Lot to leave with his family and escape the city.

As the angels ran with Lot's family from the city, fire came from heaven upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Early in the morning, Abraham got up and saw the whole valley burning. There were not even 10 righteous people within the city, but God remembered Abraham and saved Lot and his daughters from the destruction of the city.

# GAME: OVER UNDER

*You will need: a balloon per team*

Line the children up one behind the other. The person at the front of the line passes the balloon over their head to the person behind them. Then that person passes the balloon through their legs to the person behind them. Then that person passes the balloon over their head...the next between their legs... etc. until they get to the back. Then the person at the back runs to the front and the balloon is passed over under over under until it reaches the back. The back person runs to the front and you go again until the first person runs back to the front. Then everyone sits down and the fastest team to finish is the winner.

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo*

*Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to have Abraham speaking with the Lord or they might want to create a city and have two angels walking into the city. Or they might want to create fire raining down and destroying the city or Lot and his family escaping.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

How do you think Abraham felt about the city being destroyed?

Do you think he could have asked if the city would be saved for less than 10 righteous people?

How did Abraham act like a priest in this story?

Do you think if we pray for places, God will listen to our prayers too?

## ABRAHAM SESSION 6: ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR CITIES

Draw a picture of your town/school/a place you would like to pray for



*Lord God,*

*Thank you for (the place you are praying for)*

*Please bless it by* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Amen*

# ABRAHAM SESSION 6: ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR CITIES

Draw a picture of your town/school/a place you would like to pray for



*Lord God,  
Thank you for (the place you are praying for)*

*Please bless it by* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Amen*

# SESSION 7 RIVAL MOTHERS AND BROTHERS

Big idea: God's love is big enough for  
everyone

Sarah did not want Ishmael taking away any of Isaac's blessing, but God was able to fully bless Isaac and also bless Ishmael. His love and His blessing is big enough for everyone.

5-9 years

# SESSION 7: RIVAL FAMILIES

ICEBREAKER GAME - banana tag

## INTRO

Recap the story:

Abraham and Sarah were called by God to leave their home city and move to the land of Canaan where God promised to give them children, and to bless the nations through their descendants. When they were very old, they thought they would bring about God's promises their own way and Abram had a child with Sarah's slave woman, Hagar. This son was Ishmael. Sarah and Hagar treated each other very badly. God said that His promise would be through a miraculous child given to Sarah and God gave her a son called Isaac, but now there is trouble between Isaac and Ishmael.

BIBLE STORY - GENESIS 21:1-21

ACTIVITY - More than enough

## EXPLORE THE STORY

### MEMORY VERSE GAME

You were taught to leave your old self—to stop living the evil way you lived before. You were taught to become a new person.

That new person is made to be like God—  
made to be truly good and holy.

Ephesians 4v22 and 24

CRAFT = God's enormous love

PRAYER Thank God for His enormous, amazing, unbreaking love.

Thank God that His love will never be taken away from you.



# ACTIVITY: MORE THAN ENOUGH

You will need: 1 jug filled with water labelled blessing, 1 cup labelled Isaac, 1 cup labelled Ishmael, 1 cup labelled You, 1 tray

Put Isaac's cup on the tray

Sarah did not want Ishmael to take away any of Isaac's blessing. God assured Abraham and Sarah that God's promise would come through Isaac. He would certainly bless Isaac.

Fill the cup with water

Put Ishmael's cup on the tray

But God's blessing was not limited to just Isaac. He also blessed Ishmael and made him into a great nation

Pour blessing into Ishmael's cup

And God's blessing wasn't limited to just Abraham's direct descendants. God has also poured out His blessing on every person who puts their trust in Jesus

Put the cup labelled You on the tray and fill it up

God's blessings are abundant!

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a well or a desert, some tents or a big family.*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

**Why did Sarah want Ishmael and Hagar sent away?**

**How do you think Hagar felt?**

**What did God promise to do for Ishmael?**

**Do you think God's love is very small or big enough for everyone?**

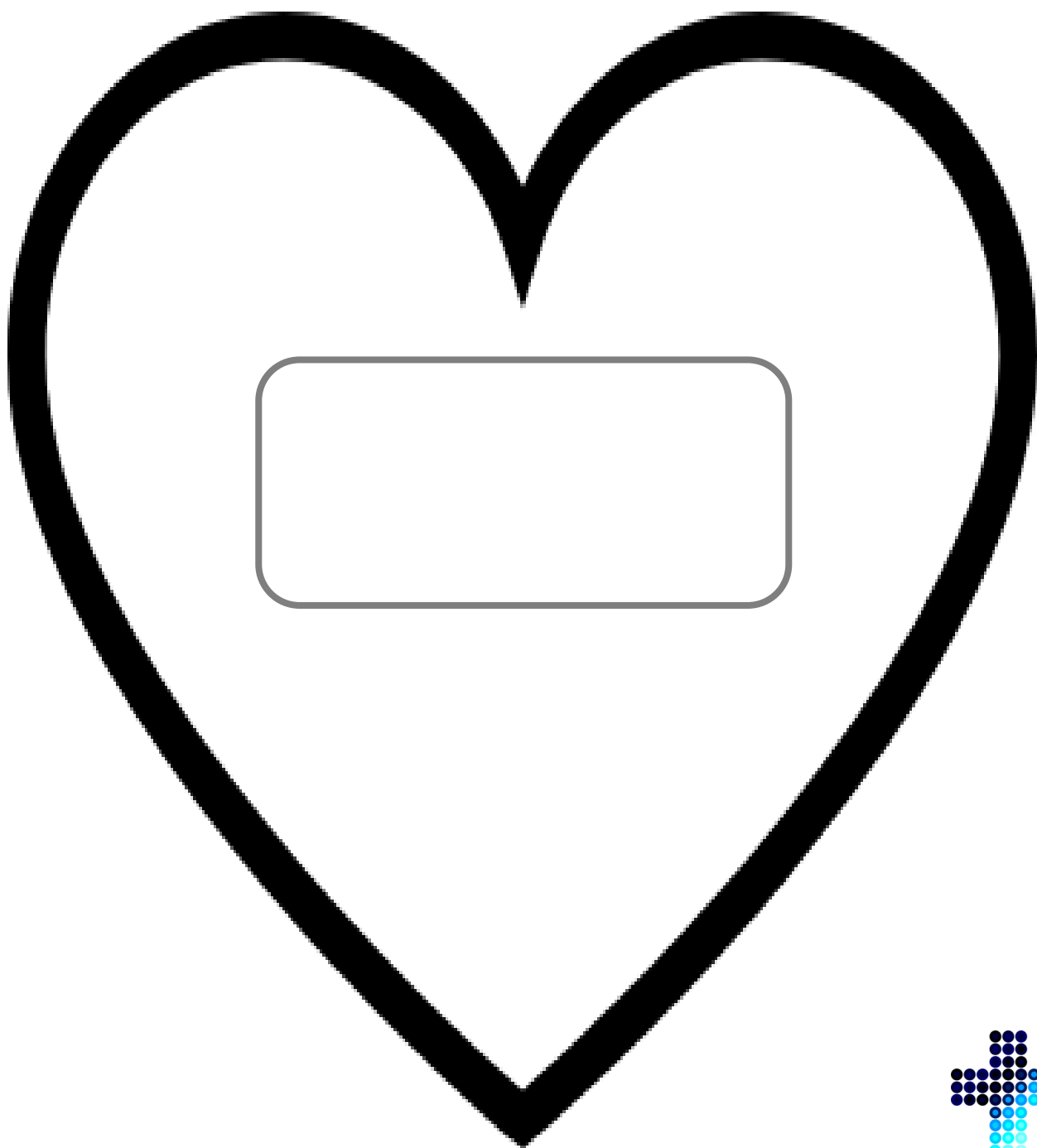
# ICEBREAKER: BANANA TAG

*You will need: no equipment*

1 person is on and tries to tag the other children. When tagged, you stand still with your arms together pointing straight up in the air. To be freed, someone has to “unpeel” your arms by pushing them apart and to your sides. Then you can continue to run

# CRAFT: GOD'S ENORMOUS LOVE

*Think of a word to describe God's love. Write it in the middle of the heart and colour in*



# SESSION 8 RIVAL NEIGHBOURS

Big idea: God gives wisdom to make peace

Abraham had a disagreement with his neighbour Abimelech, but God gave him wisdom to make peace with him, like he had made peace with his nephew Lot.

5-9 years

# SESSION 8: RIVAL NEIGHBOURS

## INTRO STORY RECAP

We have been learning about Abraham and Sarah, who God called out of their father's cities and to the land of Canaan where God promised that He would bless them. Abraham travelled with his nephew Lot, but when Abraham's camp grew in size and his flocks multiplied, Lot said that there was not enough room for them both. Abraham made peace with Lot by generously letting Lot choose where to live and he would go the opposite way.

GAME – Opposites

## STORY RECAP CONTINUED

God gave Abraham and Sarah a miraculous child, Isaac in their old age and promised that all the world would be blessed through him. God promised that all the land of Canaan would one day belong to his family and Abraham and Sarah believed God. They did not own the land yet and they lived in it as foreigners passing through, but they believed one day it would be theirs.

BIBLE STORY – Genesis 21:22-34 see story: peace-making

## EXPLORE THE STORY

PRAYER – When you get in an argument, you can ask for God's wisdom to be able to make peace with the person you are arguing with. Practise this prayer as a repeat after me prayer a couple of times. "Father God, please give me wisdom, help me make peace, in the name of Jesus. Amen." You can use that prayer whenever you are in an argument.

CRAFT – Prayer card

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

You were taught to leave your old self—to stop living the evil way you lived before. You were taught to become a new person.

That new person is made to be like God—  
made to be truly good and holy.

Ephesians 4v22 and 24



5-9 years



## SESSION 8 STORY: PEACE-MAKING

Some of Abraham's neighbours recognised that God was with him and wanted to make friends with Abraham. One of these people was a man called Abimelech, King of Gerar, which is in the land of the Philistines.

Abimelech said, "Abraham, I can see that God is with you. I have been good to you. Make a covenant – an unbreaking promise – that you will be good to me and my people too."

Abraham was glad to make a covenant with Abimelech. He wanted peace with him, but there was a problem. Abimelech's men had stolen one of the wells Abraham had dug. Wells were very precious because water meant life.

He told Abimelech about it and Abimelech said he didn't know anything about this until now.

They could have had a big argument over it, but God gave Abraham wisdom to know how to make peace with Abimelech. Abraham took 7 lambs and gave them to Abimelech.

"What are these for?" Asked Abimelech.

Abraham said that Abimelech should accept the gift as a sign that he agrees that Abraham dug the well and will let Abraham keep the well.

Abimelech agreed and he left Abraham in peace.

Just as Abraham had been generous to his nephew Lot when Lot's men fought with Abraham over the land and Lot left in peace, so Abraham was generous to Abimelech and Abimelech left in peace.

God gave wisdom to Abraham to help him make peace with his neighbours.

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a well or a desert, some tents, a campfire, some sheep or people*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

How did Abraham make peace?

What does being generous mean?

What do you think wisdom is?

Is there anyone you need God's wisdom to make peace with?

# GAME: OPPOSITES...IF YOU GO ONE WAY, I'LL GO THE OTHER

## *No equipment needed*

Abram said to Lot, "if you go one way, I'll go the other." This is a game of opposites.

Stand the children facing the adult leader and follow the leader, but doing the opposite...

If the leader touches your head, the kids touch their toes

If the leader touches their toes, the kids touch their head

If the leader says "I'm standing up!", the kids sit down

If the leader sits down, the kids stand up

If the leader goes to one end of the room, the kids go to the other

# PRAYER CARD: PEACE- MAKING

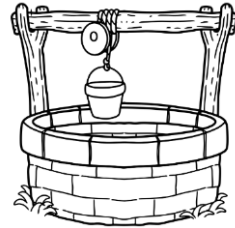
*You will need: prayer card printed on card preferably, colouring pens. If you are able to cut and laminate these before the end of the session, that will help them last longer!*

Father God,  
Thank you that you love me  
Please give me wisdom.  
Please help me make peace with...  
In the name of Jesus  
Amen



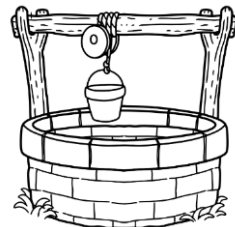
Father God,  
Thank you that you love me  
Please give me wisdom.  
Please help me make peace with...

In the name of Jesus  
Amen



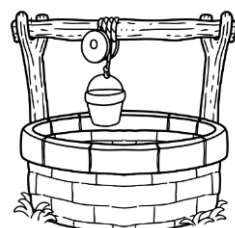
Father God,  
Thank you that you love me  
Please give me wisdom.  
Please help me make peace with...

In the name of Jesus  
Amen



Father God,  
Thank you that you love me  
Please give me wisdom.  
Please help me make peace with...

In the name of Jesus  
Amen



# SESSION 9 GOD PROVIDES A LAMB

Big idea: God covered over Abraham's sin by sending a lamb, God covers over our sin by sending Jesus

Abraham learnt to trust God even with the life of his son Isaac. In faith, he obediently offered him to God, but God substituted a lamb for Isaac.

5-9 years

# SESSION 9: GOD PROVIDES A LAMB

ICEBREAKER RHYME – Mary had a little lamb

## INTRO

Abraham and Sarah had been on a journey with God, where they learnt to leave their old way of life behind and trust in God. They had been given a miraculous son in their old age and now God was going to give Abraham the biggest test of all.

**BIBLE STORY – GENESIS 22:1-19** Tell the story with small world characters or by acting it out.

## EXPLORE THE STORY

**BIBLE STORY** – This whole story points forwards to Jesus, God's beloved Son, dying instead of us on the wooden cross so that we could be forgiven and receive eternal life. Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the earth.

**PRAYER, BREAD AND WINE** – We remember Jesus' sacrifice by sharing bread and wine. Share bread and wine (juice) together and ask the children what the bread and wine represent. Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for us.

**CRAFT** – Match the clues colouring sheet

## MEMORY VERSE GAME

You were taught to leave your old self—to stop living the evil way you lived before. You were taught to become a new person.

That new person is made to be like God—  
made to be truly good and holy.

Ephesians 4v22 and 24



# ICEBREAKER: MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

*You will need: no equipment*

Ask the children to pair up. One is the shepherd (Mary) and one is the lamb.

*Today we are going to learn about a story in Abraham and Isaac's life involving a lamb and think about how it points forwards to Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

*There is actually a nursery rhyme that was written about Jesus, Mary's son, being the perfect, sinless lamb of God. Can you think which nursery rhyme it might be?*

The shepherds walk around singing and the lambs bleat and follow their shepherd

"Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb. Mary had a little lamb its fleece was white as snow. Everywhere that Mary went, Mary went, Mary went, everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go."

Switch over if the children want to so the shepherds can be sheep and the sheep shepherds.

# EXPLORE THE STORY

*You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego*

*Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.*

*Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a mountain, a ram caught in a thicket, Abraham and Isaac, stars in the sky*

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

How did God test Abraham's faith?

What did Isaac carry up the mountain?

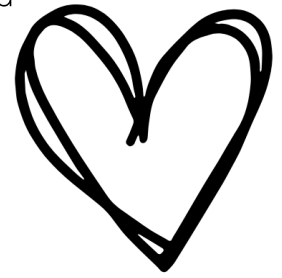
How did God spare Isaac from death?

What did God promise Abraham in response to his faith?

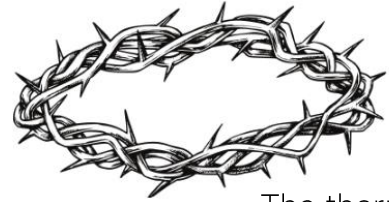
The thorny thicket



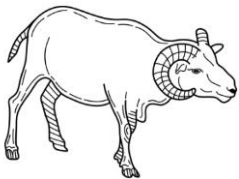
Father God calling Jesus "My Beloved Son"



Isaac travelling up a mountain

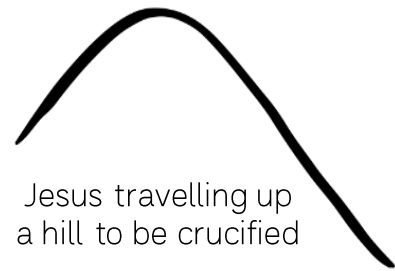


The thorns in Jesus' crown



A lamb provided so Isaac could live

Match up the clues in Isaac's story that point forwards to Jesus's sacrifice



Jesus travelling up a hill to be crucified



Isaac carrying wood



John calling Jesus the "lamb who takes away the sins of the world"



Isaac was Abraham's beloved son

Jesus carrying his wooden cross

