

LESSON 5

ABRAM: FAITHFUL, LOVING, AND OBEDIENT



OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that Abraham had faith in God's calling.
2. To understand that Abraham loved Lot as himself.
3. To understand that we need to be faithful, loving, and obedient.

MEMORY VERSE

"And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."

(Genesis 15:6)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His words.
2. May God help us be righteous in His sight.
3. Lord, please also give us more faith in You and Your promises.
4. May God help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. **Abram's calling**
 - God asked Abram to move
 - God's blessing
2. **Abram in Egypt**
 - The famine
3. **Abram and Lot separate**
4. **The battle at the Valley of Siddim**
 - The formation of the allies
 - The capturing of Lot
5. **Abram rescues Lot**
6. **Abram's triumphant return**
 - Meeting with Melchizedek
 - Abram's giving of tithe
 - Abram's response to the king
7. **God's covenant with Abram**
 - God's covenant with Abram
 - God's affirmation of His covenant
 - Abram's righteousness
8. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—One True God
9. **Life Application**
 - Loving Others
 - Faith and Obedience
10. **Activity**—Doorknob Hanger



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The stories of the Old Testament are not simply stories of the Israelites' origins. They teach us about righteousness and wickedness, punishment and protection, obedience to God, and the promises God made. The time of Abram was before humans were brought to awareness of sin through the Mosaic law, and yet Abram was found righteous and faithful by God; we have much to learn from him. His obedience remains a remarkable and admirable lesson to us, a level of faith that remains out of reach for many of us who believe today.

As you teach, please keep this all in mind and make sure the students understand that these are stories for us to learn many things from. Although the story of Abram's history is probably familiar to them, try to bring them into a deeper level of understanding.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students already understand that they should do what is right, and they know that it is a commandment of the Lord's. But they may have difficulty understanding what "righteous" is or what "righteousness" is in God's eyes. Your students are bombarded with various types of media, which spread ideas such as "I can do whatever I think is right." They may also receive messages from their peers that "it's cool to be bad" or that "nice guys finish last." It is critical for them to understand that anything that goes against God is wrong. They must consider the following when they are unsure of whether an action is right or wrong:

- "Why am I doing this?"
- "Will it hurt someone?"
- "Will this go against the Bible?"
- "What would Jesus do?"

Help your students understand that they must think very carefully about the choices they make. They must depend on what they know about God, pray for wisdom, and make the best choice they possibly can.



Opener

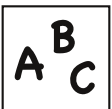
5 Minutes

Who Is Righteous?

Write the following list of names on the board before class. Ask the class whether or not the person you call out is righteous.

- President Abraham Lincoln
- A gang leader
- Moses
- Terrorists
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jesus Christ
- Pharisees
- Other contemporary well-known figures

As the students respond, place a check next to the people they consider righteous. Then ask, "Why do you think these people are righteous?" After some students have volunteered their answers, say, "Let's find out what God thinks about being righteous."



Vocabulary

- famine:** a very serious and wide-reaching shortage of food; severe hunger and possible starvation
descendants: children or offspring
oath: a serious and formal promise



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet and tell the students that they will be filling it out as you go through this lesson. Remember to pause when you reach areas marked **Pause** and allow the students to fill in the answers. The answers have been underlined.

Today, we'll be learning about Abram and his faith in God's calling, how he loved others as himself, and how he received blessings because of his obedience to God.

Let's open our Bibles to **Genesis 11**. Let's begin with a brief family history: Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Abram's brother Haran was the father of Lot, meaning Lot was Abram's nephew. We will be learning about Abram and Lot today.

The name of Abram's wife was Sarai. Sarai was barren, which means she was unable to have any children.

[Pause for question 1. Use the included map to point out the following locations.]

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, and together they set out from **Ur** of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to **Haran**, they settled there.

Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

The Call of Abram

One day God said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

God continued with a promise to Abram, "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and everyone on earth will be blessed through you."

So Abram left, as God had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan.

Students, imagine God wanting you and your family to do the same thing. Abram lived there for a long time. He had established himself in a familiar environment, and knew everything about the land, including how to support himself and his family. Then, God wanted him to get up and move to somewhere else. If you've ever moved from place to place before, you know that it's not a quick or easy thing. And back in Abram's time, there were no trucks

or cars. They had to travel on animals or on foot and carry their possessions with them. Remember, Abram was also seventy-five years old.

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. [Show on map.] At that time, the Canaanites were in the land. God appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to God, who had appeared to him.

From there, he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. [Show Bethel on map.] There, he built an altar to God and called on the name of the Lord.

Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. Let's continue on in **Genesis 12**.

Abram in Egypt

Later on, there was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that she was a very beautiful woman. [Show Egypt on map.] And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels.

But God inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai.

So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I almost took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!"

Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

Abram and Lot Separate

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. From the Negev, he went from place to place until he came to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier, and where he had first built an altar. [Show Bethel on map.] There, Abram called on the name of the Lord.

So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company and separate from each other. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. But the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the Lord.

FOR TEACHERS

List the following nine kings out on the board or display their names before you begin the next section and explain the war and battles between them. There's no need to put emphasis on the names of the kings and where the battles took place. Just give the students an idea of the war and the conflicts.

A war broke out between the following kings:

1. Amraphel king of Shinar
2. Arioch king of Ellasar
3. Chedorlaomer king of Elam
4. Tidal king of Goiim

1. Bera king of Sodom
2. Birsha king of Gomorrah
3. Shinab king of Admah
4. Shemeber king of Zeboiim
5. The king of Bela (Zoar)

The latter five kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (the Salt Sea). For twelve years, they had been subject to Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year, they rebelled.

Abram Rescues Lot

Let's see what happened after Lot and Abram parted ways by looking at **Genesis 13**. In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer and the other three kings that joined with him went out and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim and the Horites in the hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran near the desert. Then they turned back and

went to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazezon Tamar. Then, the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—the four kings against five kings [refer to previous list].

Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills. The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went away. They also took away Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

One of the people who escaped came and reported this to Abram. When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit. During the night, Abram divided his men to attack them and he chased them away. He recovered all the goods and rescued Lot. They brought back his possessions, together with the women and the other people. How loving and courageous Abram was!

After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (the King's Valley).

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 of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
And blessed be God Most High,
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then, Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'—except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

Abram was always obedient to God and always put his faith in Him. Everything God asked him to do, he would obey. He was God's friend. He also cared much for his nephew Lot. Because of Abram's obedience and his faith in God, God blessed him a lot. We must also obey God and have faith in Him, too.

Finally, let's read James 2:23, "'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God."



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Our God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere at all times. He blesses those who obey Him, follow His commands, and put their faith in Him, just like Abram. Remember that God always keeps His promises.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. In the beginning of our story, what did God tell Abram to do?** God told Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's household to go to a land He will show to them.
- 2. Briefly describe what happened to Abram and Sarai while they were in Egypt.** There was a famine in the land, so they went to Egypt. Because Sarai was beautiful, Abram decided that it would be safer that she pretend to be his sister. They took her to the palace and treated Abram very well. But God inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai. They gave Sarai back to Abram and sent them on their way with all they had.
- 3. Why did Lot and Abram separate?** Because the land could no longer support both of them and their livestock and there was arguing between their workers.
- 4. What was God's promise to Abram?** God will give Abram all the land that he could see and also give it to his descendants forever. Furthermore, God will make his descendants as numerous as the dust of the earth.
- 5. What happened to Lot during all the fighting between the kings, and what did Abram do for Lot?** Lot and his possessions were all carried off by the victorious kings. Abram gathered 318 of his trained men and helped bring back Lot, his possessions, and everyone else.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Fill In the Blank

1. bless
2. land
3. famine

True or False

4. False; she is his wife
5. True
6. False; he took 318 men

Short Answer

7. There was a famine in the land, so they went to Egypt. Because Sarai was beautiful Abram decided that it would be safer that she pretend to be his sister. They took her to the palace and treated Abram very well. But God inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. They gave Sarai back to Abram and sent them on their way with all they had.
8. No. Because Abram took an oath of receiving nothing from the king of Sodom so that he would not be able to say that he made Abram rich.
9. He credited it to Abram for righteousness.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Loving Others

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1. Read the story together with the students, and then give them time to answer the questions. After you are finished discussing the questions, go over the diagram and illustrate to the students that when we show love to others, they may come to show love to God.]

Objective: To understand what it means to love others and obey God's command, and to think about what Jesus would do in situations.

Pam was not feeling well and was lying in bed. She asked her daughter, "Marisa, please go over to our neighbor Mrs. Palmer and ask if she could please come over and help us with a few of our chores around the house since I'm feeling sick today."

Marisa quickly obeyed her mother. She had become concerned about her mother because she knew her mother was very sick. Her mother had never asked any of her neighbors for help before.

Marisa knocked on Mrs. Palmer's door. Mrs. Palmer opened her door and looked very unhappy about being bothered in the middle of the morning.

"What do you want?" she asked bitterly.

Marisa replied, "My mother is very sick, and she would really appreciate it if you could please help her with some of the chores."

"Well, I have way too many chores to do myself. I don't have time to help anyone else right now."

Then Mrs. Palmer quickly shut her door.

Marisa walked back home feeling very disappointed and angry over how mean her neighbor was. She knew her mother was too sick to get out of bed. So, when Marisa got back home, she told her mother that Mrs. Palmer refused to come help, but that Marisa herself would like to help her mother.

Pam smiled at her daughter, and said, "Thanks Marisa, you are a very special daughter." Marisa helped her mother, and her mother soon got well.

About a year later, Mrs. Palmer had become very sick, so she sent someone over to Pam's house to ask her for help with her chores. Marisa overheard the question and remembered how Mrs. Palmer had shut the door on her last year. She could not believe that Mrs. Palmer would send someone over to ask them for help when Mrs. Palmer had refused to help her mother last year when she was sick.

Questions

What should her mother do? What would you do? Can you think of any commandment related to this? Lastly, of course, what would Jesus do?

Her mother should still go and help. Jesus would have also offered to help. We should always do what Jesus said in Luke 6:31, "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise."

2. Faith and Obedience

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2. Guide the students to complete, making sure that each student fills out the box before moving on to the next one. Refer to the Teacher Version for answers.]



Activity

Doorknob Hanger

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To help students keep in mind the commands of God and remember to ask "What Would Jesus Do?"

Materials

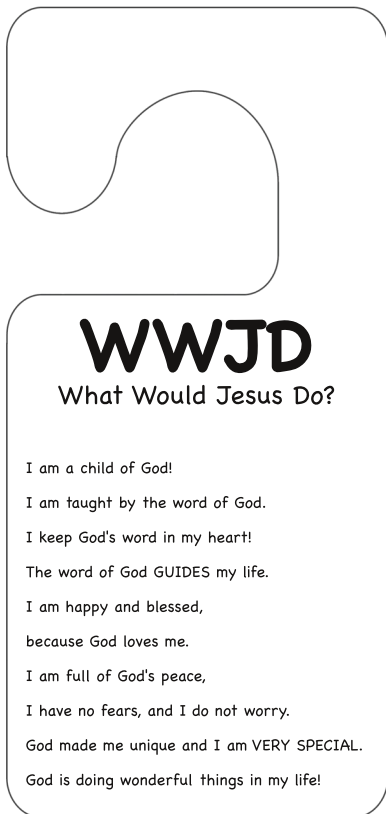
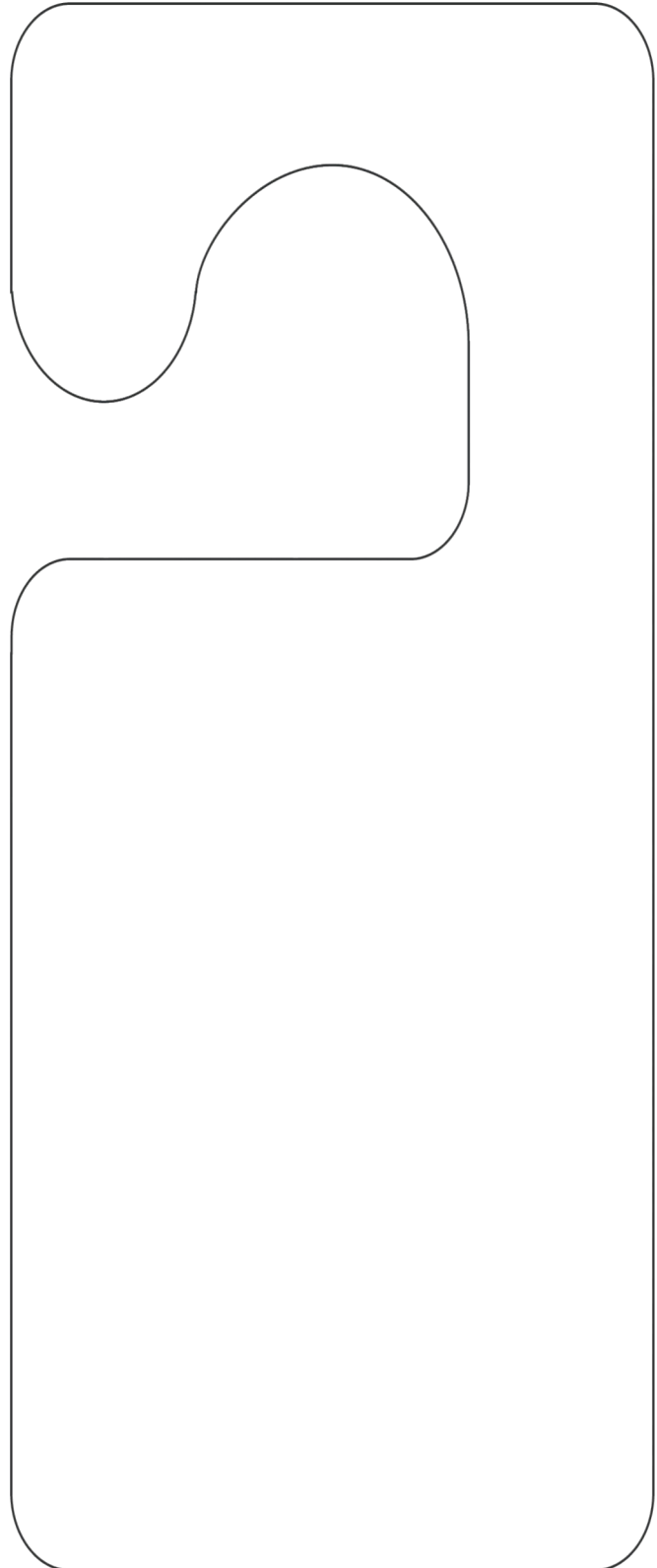
- Doorknob hanger template
- Scissors
- Markers

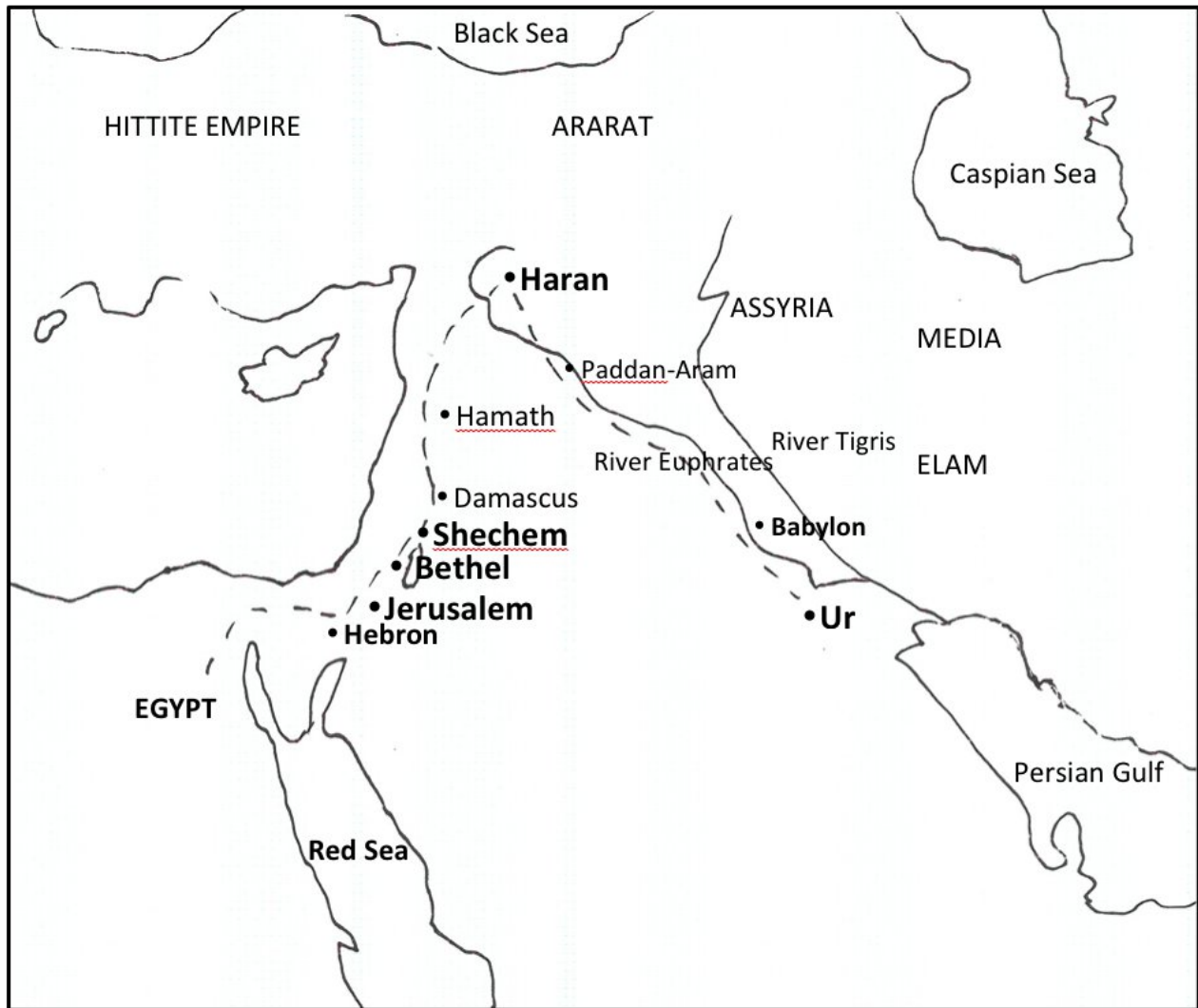
Instructions

1. Cut out the doorknob hanger template.
2. Write in large letters "WWJD".
3. In smaller words below, write, "What Would Jesus Do?".
4. Write the following on the rest of the hanger:

I am a child of God!
 I am taught by the word of God.
 I keep God's word in my heart!
 The word of God GUIDES my life.
 I am happy and blessed,
 because God loves me.
 I am full of God's peace,
 I have no fears, and I do not worry.
 God made me unique and I am VERY SPECIAL.
 God is doing wonderful things in my life!

5. Decorate the hanger any way you like.





Abram: Faithful, Loving, and Obedient

Instructions: Listen carefully to the lesson and fill in the blanks.

1. Who is Sarai and who is Lot?
2. God promised Abram, "I will make you into a great nation and I will _____ you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and everyone on earth will be blessed through you"
3. Later on, there was a _____ in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.
4. Because the land could not support both Lot and Abram, they decided they should _____ or part company.
5. Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the _____ and set out toward the east.

Abram lived in the land of _____, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near _____.
6. God's promise to Abram: "All the land which you see I give to you and your _____ forever. And I will make your descendants as the _____ of the earth; so that if a man could number the _____ of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered."
7. After Abram rescued Lot, the king of Sodom wanted to reward him with the goods he took back, but Abram said that he had taken an oath not to _____ anything belonging to the king.



Loving Others

Pam was not feeling well and was lying in bed. She asked her daughter, "Marisa, please go over to our neighbor Mrs. Palmer and ask if she could please come over and help us with a few of our chores around the house since I'm feeling sick today."

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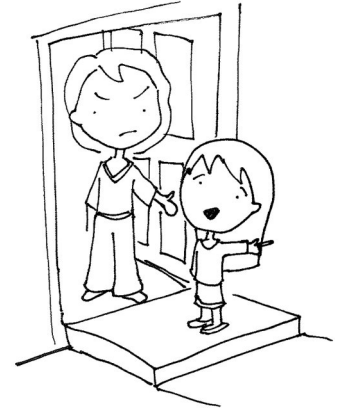
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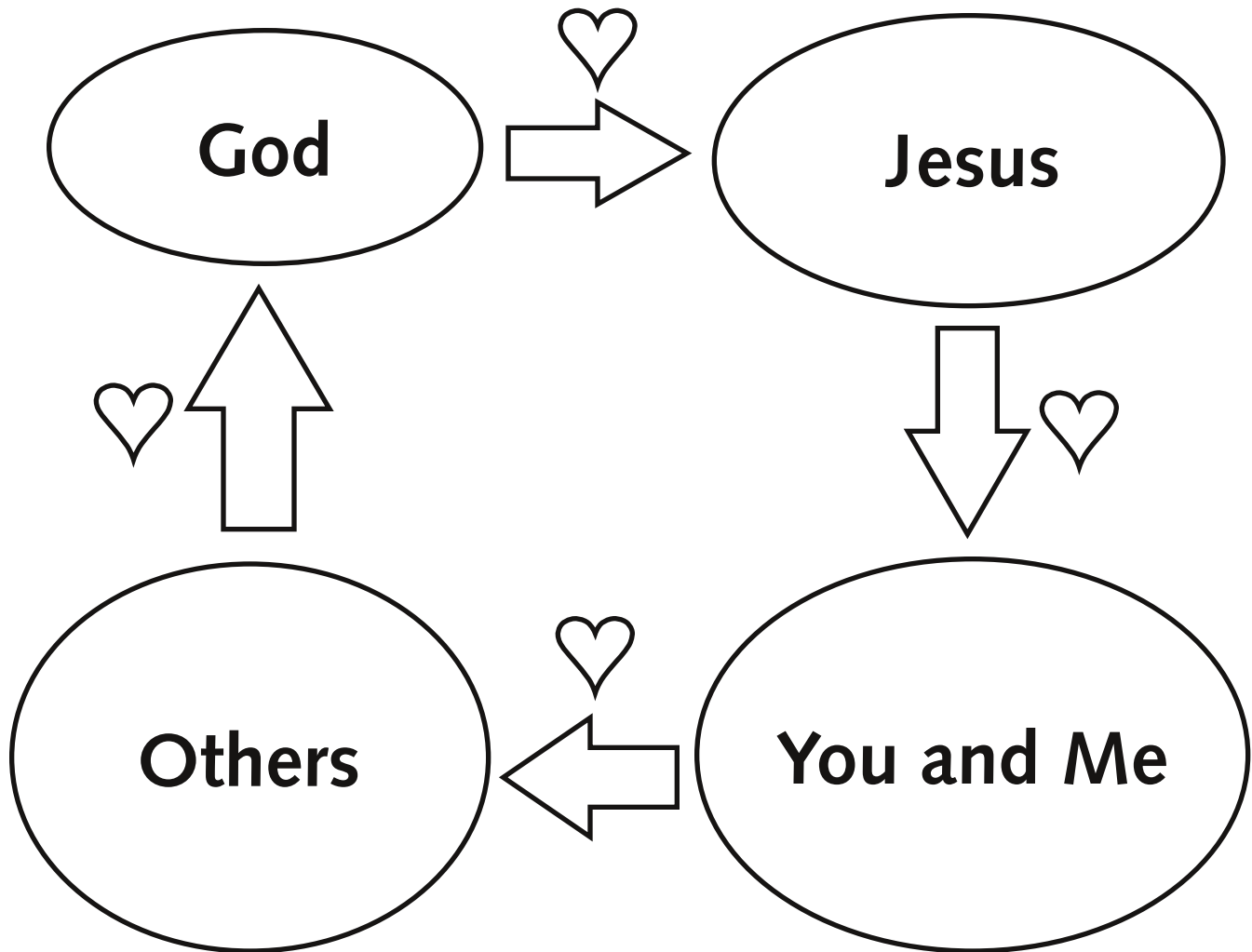
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Questions

1. What should her mother do?
2. What would you do?
3. Can you think of any commandment that relates to this?
4. Lastly, of course, what would Jesus do?

God loved us so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to earth. Jesus loves all of us so much that He gave His life so we could be saved one day and go to heaven. So, in return we need to love others as God has loved them. And then, hopefully others can see our godly love, and we will be able to lead others to our God and our church.



**We need to love others as
God has loved us!**

Faith and Obedience

<p><u>Faith</u></p> <p>(Hebrews 11:1) <i>"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."</i></p>	
<p>Why do we need faith? What is faith?</p>	<p>When do we need faith or what are some things in the Bible that we do not see, but believe in?</p>
<p>Read 1 John 5:14-15 What is faith from these verses?</p>	
<p>Read 2 Corinthians 5:7</p> <p>Faith is NOT _____. Faith is thanking God beforehand. If a husband tells his wife that he has placed a hundred dollar bill in her purse for her birthday, she thanks him immediately. Why? Because she trusts him. She knows it is hers before she sees it.</p> <p>Also, read what Jesus says in Mark 11:24.</p>	
<p>Read Hebrews 11:6 Why do we need faith?</p>	
<p><u>Obedience</u></p> <p>(John 14:15) <i>"If you love Me, keep My commandments."</i></p> <p>(James 1:22) <i>"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."</i></p> <p>Abram obeyed God's commands and was blessed. Read the following verses and answer the questions.</p>	
<p>God's Command</p>	<p>How will you obey? What will you do?</p>
<p>Read Exodus 20:12 What is the command?</p>	<p>How will you obey? What is God's promise?</p>
<p>Read Matthew 7:12 What is the command?</p>	
<p>Read Matthew 5:16 What is the command?</p>	

Faith and Obedience

<u>Faith</u>	
Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."	
Why do we need faith? What is faith?	When do we need faith or what are some things in the Bible that we do not see, but believe in?
<p>Read 1 John 5:14-15 What is faith from these verses? <i>Faith is evidence or confidence: The fact that we have faith and believe in our hearts IS the evidence that what we have been praying for already exists. The evidence or confidence is not found in our feelings or any of our senses. For example, if we pray when we're sick, the healing part has not occurred but we already believe it can happen.</i></p>	<p><i>When asking God to heal our sickness</i></p>
<p>Read 2 Corinthians 5:7</p> <p>Faith is NOT _____ (<i>sight</i>). Faith is thanking God beforehand. If a husband tells his wife that he has placed a hundred dollar bill in her purse for her birthday, she thanks him immediately. Why? Because she trusts him. She knows it is hers before she sees it.</p> <p>Also, read what Jesus says in Mark 11:24.</p>	<p><i>When praying for the Holy Spirit</i></p>
<p>Read Hebrews 11:6 Why do we need faith? <i>Faith is an absolute requirement for answered prayers. We need it to please God.</i></p>	<p><i>Whenever we need God's help</i></p>
<u>Obedience</u>	
<p>(John 14:15) "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (James 1:22) "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Abram obeyed God's commands and was blessed. Read the following verses and answer the questions.</p>	
God's Command	How will you obey? What will you do?
<p>Read Exodus 20:12 What is the command? <i>Honor your father and your mother.</i></p>	<p>How will you obey? What is God's promise? <i>Do what your parents ask. Listen to them. Don't complain. Promise: You will live long.</i></p>
<p>Read Matthew 7:12 What is the command? <i>Do to others what you would have them do to you.</i></p>	<p><i>Answers may vary. Never take revenge on others. Think of Jesus' love. Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?"</i></p>
<p>Read Matthew 5:16 What is the command? <i>Let your light shine and show others your good deeds.</i></p>	<p><i>Let others know you are Christian. Show how you are different.</i></p>

E2 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 5—Abram: Faithful, Loving, and Obedient

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Genesis 15:6)**

Fill In the Blank

1. God continued with a promise to Abram: "I will make you into a great nation and I will _____ you."
2. God appeared to Abram later and gave another promise, "To your offspring I will give this _____."
3. Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because there was a _____ in the land.

True or False

4. Sarai is Abram's sister. _____
5. Abram and Lot decided to separate because the land could no longer support both their families and animals. _____
6. Abram took 1,318 men to rescue Lot. _____

Short Answer

7. Briefly describe what happened to Abram and Sarai while they were in Egypt.

8. Did Abram accept the king of Sodom's offer after he brought Lot back? Why?

9. What did God credit to Abram when he believed the Lord?