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God Calls Abraham

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

Theme: God calls us to follow Him in faith, even when we don't know the way

Jr High (Ages 12-14)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Title: "God Calls You Too!" , Following God's Big Plan (Genesis 12:1-9) "Imagine walking into a room where the door suddenly swings open, no one asked you, but there's a voice that says, 'Follow me.' That's what happened to Abraham. God didn't wait for Abraham to be perfect, rich, or even sure of himself, He just said, 'Go.' And even though Abraham hesitated (like we do sometimes!), God trusted him anyway. Why? Because faith isn't about having it all figured out; it's about choosing to trust Him even when the path feels unclear. Today, God might call you to step out in faith, whether it's trusting Him in a big decision, serving others, or just believing He's got your back. And remember: God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called!" Life Application: "Ask yourself: Where am I waiting for permission to start following God? What's one small step I can take today to trust Him like Abraham did?" (Encourage students to journal or pray with this question!)

Bible Story

God Calls Abraham: A Story of Faith and Trust

Long ago, in a world full of unknowns, God called one man named Abram, who was already 75 years old, to leave his familiar life behind. The Bible tells us in Genesis 12:1, "Leave your country, your people and your father's home, and go to the land I will show you." At first glance, this seems impossible, especially for someone who had spent years working in a land that belonged to his father's family. But God didn't ask Abram to believe because he was perfect; He asked him to trust because Abram was human. God knew Abram's heart and gave him a reason to go: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you." (Genesis 12:2). God didn't promise Abram wealth right away or a big family, but He promised something far more valuable: He would be with him.

Abram's first stop was a place called Haran, where he set up camp with his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. Though he didn't understand why God called him, Abram obeyed. He left his family, his home, and his past behind, even though

he didn't know where he was going. His journey wasn't easy. He had to face hunger, doubt, and even the fear that God might have changed His mind. But God tested Abram's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22), something that would have broken anyone's heart. Yet God saw that Abram trusted Him enough to obey, even when it hurt. His faith wasn't perfect, but it was real.

Abram's story isn't just about leaving behind what he knew, it's about learning to trust God for what he didn't yet understand. When Abram looked around, he saw only a blank canvas, a new beginning with no guarantees. But God promised him a future no one could see. That's why this story matters: God calls people to leave their comfort zones, step into uncertainty, and trust Him with their futures. Even today, we face choices that require faith, whether it's trusting God in our careers, relationships, or dreams. Just like Abram, we don't always see the path, but God does. And that's what matters most.

God's promise to Abram isn't just for him; it's for us too. When we follow God, we're not just building a life, we're becoming part of His bigger plan. Whether we're starting something new, facing a tough decision, or just trying to trust God more, Abram's story reminds us: God calls us to step out, believe, and let Him lead. And in the end, that's when we find the real adventure.

Key Verse

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 12:2 , "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you." Imagine you're sitting on the edge of life, wondering, "Who am I? What's my purpose?" This verse comes from a time when Abraham, a regular guy, not famous or powerful, was called by God to leave his home, his comfort, and start something big. God's promise wasn't just about making Abraham famous or rich (though he'd get those too). It was about giving him a mission: to become a person who trusted God, even when life felt uncertain, and to influence the world with faith. You don't have to wait to be "important" to be used by God. Right now, you can start small, by choosing to follow Him in small ways, trusting Him when things don't go your way, and sharing His love with others. That's how God turns ordinary lives into something extraordinary! Life Application: Ask yourself: Where can I take this faith today? Maybe it's in a friend's struggle, a school project, or even just being kind. God isn't waiting for you to grow up or get "ready", He's saying, "Start here. Start now."

Activities

Activity 1:

1. Set the Scene (3 min)
2. Begin by reading Genesis 12:1-4 aloud. Ask: "What do you think Abraham would've felt like hearing God's call?" Write their responses on the board (e.g., excitement, fear, confusion).
3. Remind students: "God doesn't always give us full answers right away, He calls us to trust Him first."
4. Team Heads Up (5 min)
5. Divide students into small groups (3-5 students each).
6. Give each team one index card with a scenario written on it (e.g., "You're told to move to a city you've never seen, how do you feel?" or "Your family is asked to leave their home, what's your first thought?").
7. Have teams write down their reactions, then share with the group.
8. Faith in Action (5 min)
9. Ask: "How did Abraham respond in Genesis 12? What would it look like to trust God like that today?"
10. On a large piece of paper, have each team brainstorm one way they could obey God's call (e.g., starting a small ministry, serving in their community, trusting God in a big decision).
11. Invite volunteers to share their ideas. Discuss how Abraham's faith still affects us today.
12. Reflection (2 min)

13. End with: "Where have you seen God call you to step out in faith, even when it felt scary?" Let students share anonymously (if comfortable) or in pairs.
2. "Abraham's Journey: Map & Pray"
15. Read & Connect (3 min)
16. Read Genesis 12:1-9. Ask: "What do you notice about God's promise to Abraham? What does it mean for you?" Write key points on the board (e.g., "God changes plans; He tests our faith").
17. Design the Journey (5 min)
18. Give each student a small piece of paper (or split the board into segments). They'll draw:
19. Ur (starting point) Harran (first stop) Canaan (final destination).
20. Use simple shapes: a city for Ur, a tent for Harran, a hill for Canaan.
21. Add symbols for Abraham's responses:
22. A question mark if he hesitated.
23. A heart for his faith.
24. A chain for his possessions (Genesis 12:5).
25. Teacher tip: Pre-cut shapes for faster assembly.
26. Add the Story (5 min)
27. Have students label their maps with key events:
28. "God says: 'Go!'" (12:1)
29. "Abraham leaves everything." (12:1-2)
30. "God promises a land." (12:7)
31. Challenge: "How did God's promises unfold over time? How can you trust Him for your future?"
32. Pray & Discuss (2 min)
33. Share maps as a class. Ask: "What did your map show about Abraham's faith journey?"
34. End with a prayer: "God, help us trust You more, even when the path isn't clear. Show us where to step out in faith!"
35. Why These Work:

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions designed to spark meaningful, thoughtful conversation about God's call to Abraham (Genesis 12) while connecting the story to real life for junior high students. Each question encourages reflection, curiosity, and personal growth:
- 1. Trusting When the Road Isn't Clear
- "Imagine you're standing at the edge of a big decision, like moving to a new school, quitting a sport you love, or even just starting a new project at school. God told Abraham, 'Go!' but didn't give him a map or a guarantee. How do you think Abraham must've felt? When have you felt called to do something that didn't seem easy or safe? What did you have to trust God with in that moment?"
- (Why this works: Helps students relate to obedience and fear, and encourages them to name their own "unknown" moments.)
- 2. Why Would God Ask Abraham to Leave Everything?
- "God didn't just ask Abraham to follow Him, He said to leave home, family, and all he knew. That sounds radical, even scary! What are some things in your own life that you'd have to 'let go' of if God asked you to step out in faith? For example: quitting a hobby, changing a friendship, or even trusting God more in a situation you're afraid of. How might God be asking you to 'leave something behind' right now?"
- (Why this works: Forces students to examine their own fears and the "sacrifices" they're willing to make for God.)

- 3. The Power of Starting Small
 - "Abraham's first step was a journey, from Haran to Canaan. But later, God told him to go even further, to a land he'd never seen. How do you think God might be calling you to start small? Maybe it's a prayer you haven't asked before, a kindness you've hesitated to show, or even just following a dream that feels too big. Where do you think God wants you to take the first step today?"
 - (Why this works: Connects Abraham's journey to modern "micro-obedience" moments, teaching students that faith isn't just about grand moves.)
- 4. What Would Abraham Do? (And What Would You Do?)
 - "Abraham was a man of his time, but he also had to make tough choices. Imagine you're in a situation where God directly asked you to do something (like speak up for someone, forgive someone, or trust God with a big risk). What would Abraham have done? How would you respond? Why is it okay that our answers might look different than his?"
 - (Why this works: Challenges students to think about their own integrity and how they'd apply biblical principles in everyday dilemmas.)
 - Why These Questions Work for Discussion:
 - Relatable: Uses everyday scenarios (moving, quitting things, prayer) to make the story tangible.
 - Honest: Asks about fears, doubts, and struggles, not just "right" answers.
 - Life-Applicable: Ties Abraham's story to their decisions today.
 - Encourages Sharing: Opens space for students to reflect, debate, or even admit they don't have answers yet.
 - Would you like any of these adjusted to focus more on a specific theme (like faith vs. fear, obedience, or God's promises)?

Prayer Focus

"Lord, You call us out of our comfort zones, like Abraham, who stepped into the unknown, unsure of where he was headed or what You had planned. Help us trust You with our fears, our doubts, and even the messy parts of life where things don't go as we expect. Teach us to trust like Abraham did, to believe You'll guide us even when we can't see the path ahead. And Lord, when we feel called to do something big, help us take that first step, even if it feels scary or uncertain. Give us courage to follow, even when we don't understand." (Life Application for Class): "Abraham's story shows us that God doesn't always call us to perfect situations, He calls us into his perfect plan. Today, we ask You to help us see our 'unknowns' as opportunities to trust, not reasons to hesitate. What's one step You're calling us to take this week?" (Teaching Tie-In:) "What if God is asking us to leave behind something familiar for something greater? Where can we 'go' this week, even if we don't know the destination?" (Keep it open-ended and heartfelt!)

>> Missions Spotlight

Abraham's story is central to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Missionaries working among Muslim communities in Central Asia often begin with Abraham, a figure all three faiths honor, to build bridges to the Gospel.

-> To the Cross

God promised Abraham that 'all peoples on earth will be blessed through you' (Genesis 12:3). This blessing is Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham through whom salvation comes to all nations.