

Adventures with GOD!

THE FAMILY AND FAITH OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH (B.3.FALL.1)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 11:26-30
Key Verse	Genesis 12:3b
Key Concept	God blesses me through my family.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the member's of Abraham's family 2. Make a family tree with the names of the people in their family 3. Give thanks to God for their families

LIFE APPLICATION

During this trimester the children will learn about a man of faith named Abraham. In this portion of the story he is known as Abram and his wife as Sarai. God told Abraham that he would be blessed through the generations that would come after him and that in turn the world would be blessed through Abraham. God also blesses us through our families. We are connected to our ancestors and to the generations that will come after us. This week the children will give thanks to God for their parents and other family member. They will also talk about how they are a blessing to others.

Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Worksheets, tape	10 minutes
Introduction		5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	15 minutes
Craft	Worksheets, crayons, playdoh	10 minutes
Bible verse		5 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: In order to decorate the class space for the semester, it would be good to collect pictures, drawings, paintings of different families and tape them around the room. Also, on a giant piece of paper draw a picture of a tree with roots, branches, etc.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Genesis 11:26-30) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Activity: If possible, take the children outside for a few minutes in order to look at a tree. One of the symbols we use to talk about the connection between family members is that of a tree. Before the class, make leaves with the names of people in your family (husband or wife, children, parents, grandparents, brother/sister, etc.). As you talk about your family, tape the leaves with the names of your family members on the tree you are observing. Talk about each person – their name, something interesting about them. We are connected to the people in our family, just like the roots and branches are connected to the tree. There are people who have lived before us and there are people who will come after us (new generations).

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NOTE: Currently in our society there are many different types of families. For example, there are families with only one parent, or families where the grandparents are acting as the parents. It's important to keep this in mind as we talk about families.

Introduction: When you return to the classroom space, ask about their families, where they live, what they like to do together, etc. Then move into the time of talking about Abraham.

Bible exploration: Make sure to open your Bible and show the children where the story you are learning about today is found. Help them locate the book of Genesis. As you tell the story in your own words, it's important to emphasize the following:

- Abraham and Sarah were first known as Abram and Sarai (It's later that God changes their name in Genesis 17).
- Abraham had parents and siblings (Name them and as you name them, put their name up on the big family tree that you made ahead of time.)
- Abraham had a wife named Sarah
- Abraham and Sarah didn't have children

Next week they will begin to see the journey that Abraham and Sarah took as they obeyed God and trusted in God.

Craft: "My family tree." Today they will make their own family tree. Make sure to have one sheet for each child. Ask them to think about the names of the people that make up their family (parents, grandparents, siblings, etc.) In addition to their names, they can include a little fun fact about that person on the family tree. You can give them a little bit of green playdoh or modeling clay, or even tissue paper which they can use to decorate the tree with leaves.

Bible verse: Together memorize the Bible verse and then have each person tell how their families have been a blessing (a gift from God) in their lives. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for the families represented in your class.

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Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

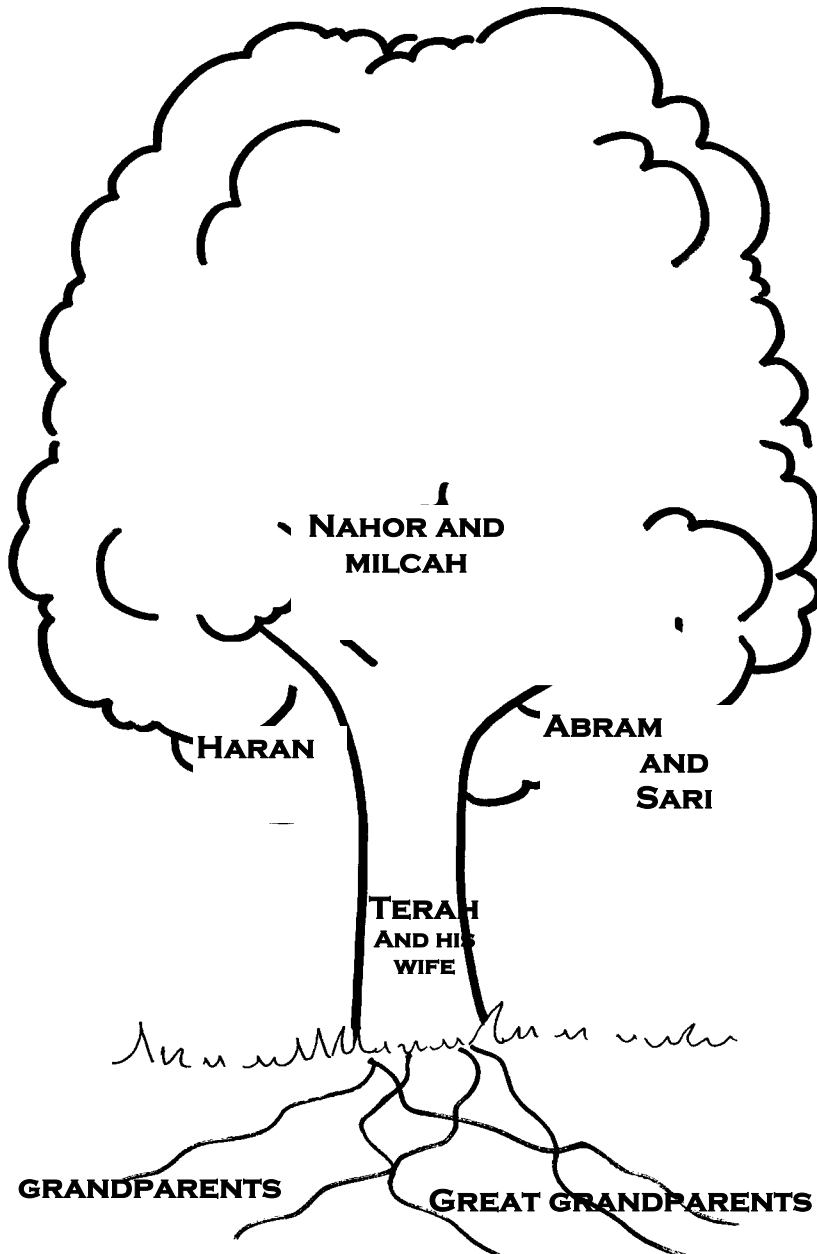
W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.

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ILLUSTRATION - ABRAHAM'S FAMILY TREE

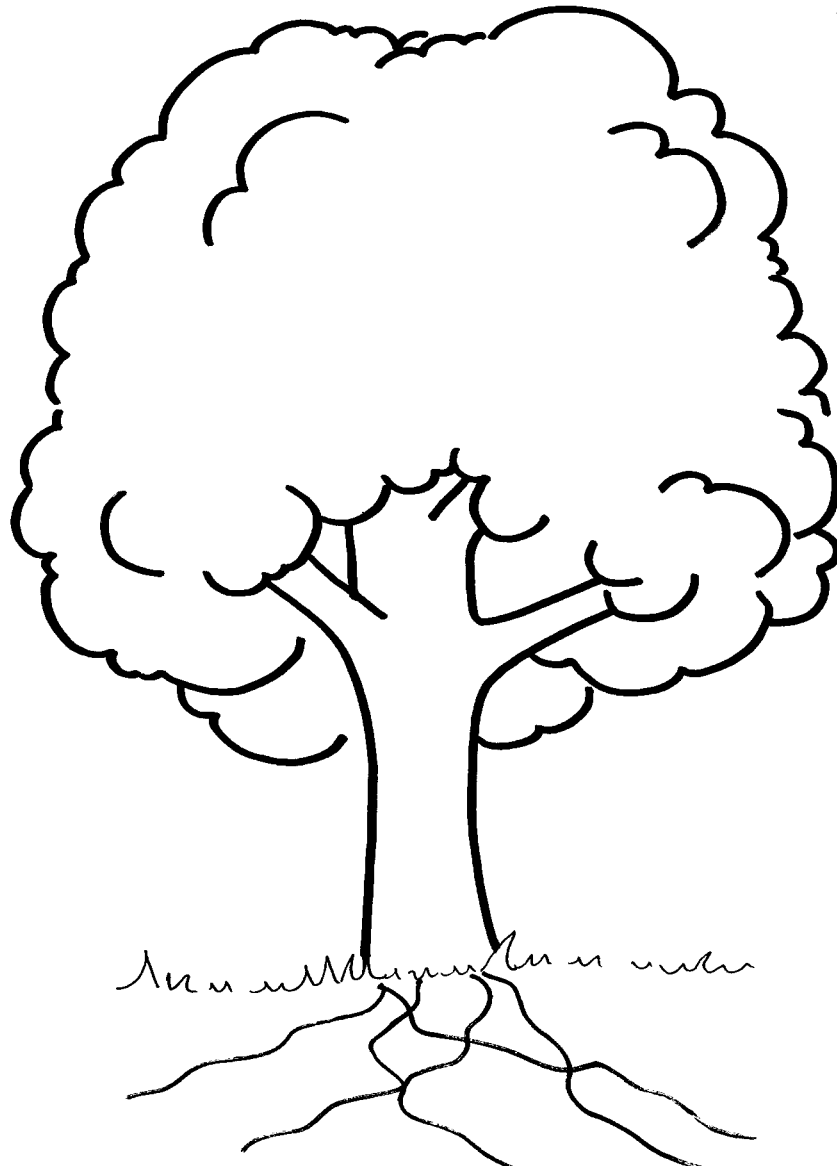


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CRAFT

MY FAMILY TREE

Write the names of the people in your family, starting with your grandparents. Include your parents and siblings. In addition to their names, include a fun fact about each person (something about their personality or a talent they have). Then color the trunk of the tree and use the materials provided to make the leaves. Spend time praying for your family, thanking God for them.



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ILLUSTRATION

