

Adventures with GOD!

ABRAHAM, SARAH AND THEIR FAITH ADVENTURE (B.3.FALL.2)

Biblical Reference	Genesis 11:26-32
Key Verse	2 Corinthians 5:7
Key Concept	Living by faith makes life an adventure and I trust that God is in control
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Point to the place on the map that Abraham and his family left from on their journey. 2. Describe in their own words what it means to have faith 3. Describe what it feels like to go somewhere new

LIFE APPLICATION

The story for this week is one that they began to look at last week as they began learning about Abraham's faith adventure. God directs Abraham's family to leave the place where they have been living. It was probably not an easy move; it was one that required faith. Abraham and his family obeyed God. God wants us to trust in God's ways just as Abraham and Sarah did. It isn't easy, especially when we don't know what the future holds, but we can trust that God has our best interest in mind and our lives are in God's hands.

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
Introduction	Map	5 minutes
Game	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Activity	Worksheets, pens	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, map	10 minutes
Bible verse		5 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: In addition to the images you have put up around the room, make sure the big map of Abraham and Sarah's travels is visible. Also, on one side of the room make a sign that says "Ur" and on the far opposite side, hang another sign that says "Promise Land."

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 11:26-32) 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?

Introduction: Review a little bit of what you learned last week about Abraham's family. See if they remember some of the names of Abraham's family. Today's lesson will focus on the journey of faith that began in the city of Ur.

Game: "I'm packing my suitcase." Have the children sit in a circle to begin the game. The first child should say, "I'm going on a trip and I'm packing a (and they must say something that starts with the letter "A".) The second person then has to repeat what the first person said and add something that starts with the letter "B." (For example, I'm going on a trip and I'm packing an Angel and a Bear.) Do this until all the letters of the alphabet have been used. Talk about how exciting a trip can be, but also how scary it can be to move to somewhere completely new.



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Activity: It's important to understand the significance of leaving one's home and going to a place that you don't know or have never been. It was not easy for Abraham and his family to leave their home. Give each child a copy of the "Labyrinth of Faith" activity. Ask them what they would feel if they had to leave their home and go somewhere new, maybe not even knowing where they were going? How does it feel to know that no matter where we are, God is with us?

Bible exploration: Using the map of Abraham and Sarah's journeys, have the children sit so they can see the map (maybe on the floor) and tell the story for today (Genesis 11:27-32). Read the Scripture and have them listen for names and places.

Some of the important things to highlight are:

- Abraham and Sarah lived in a place called Ur. Ask them what they imagine the ancient cities were like. Offer paper and pencils for those children who would like to draw a picture of what they imagined it looked like, as they listen to the story (Do a little research ahead of time to learn about the city of Ur).
- Terah, Abraham's father, took his family and left Ur planning to go to Canaan.
- Terah and his family made it to Haran and decided to stay there.
- God took care of them in this new place.

Have a little friendly competition to see who remembers what they learned in the story. Divide the class in two teams. Each team has to choose one person to answer the first question. If possible have some sort of button or bell they can push. After you read the question the first person to push the bell or button (or grab the game piece) gets a turn to answer. Each person on the teams should have the opportunity to answer. See the questions on the following page.

Bible verse: Talk with the children about what other people they can think of that are examples of what it means to have faith in God. What other words come to their mind when they think of "faith." Then together learn the verse. Use actions to teach the verse.

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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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GAME

Abraham and his family left their home in Ur and came to a place called Haran. Here they set up their house (tents) and stayed here for many years. Here are some questions to review the Bible passage.

QUESTIONS

1. Name of Abraham's wife (before it was changed to Sarah)?
2. The place where Terah and his family made their new home.
3. Terah, Abraham's father, took his family and left their home in _____ of the Chaldees.
4. What were the names of Abraham's brothers?
5. When they left Ur, where was Terah planning to go?
6. How long did Terah live?



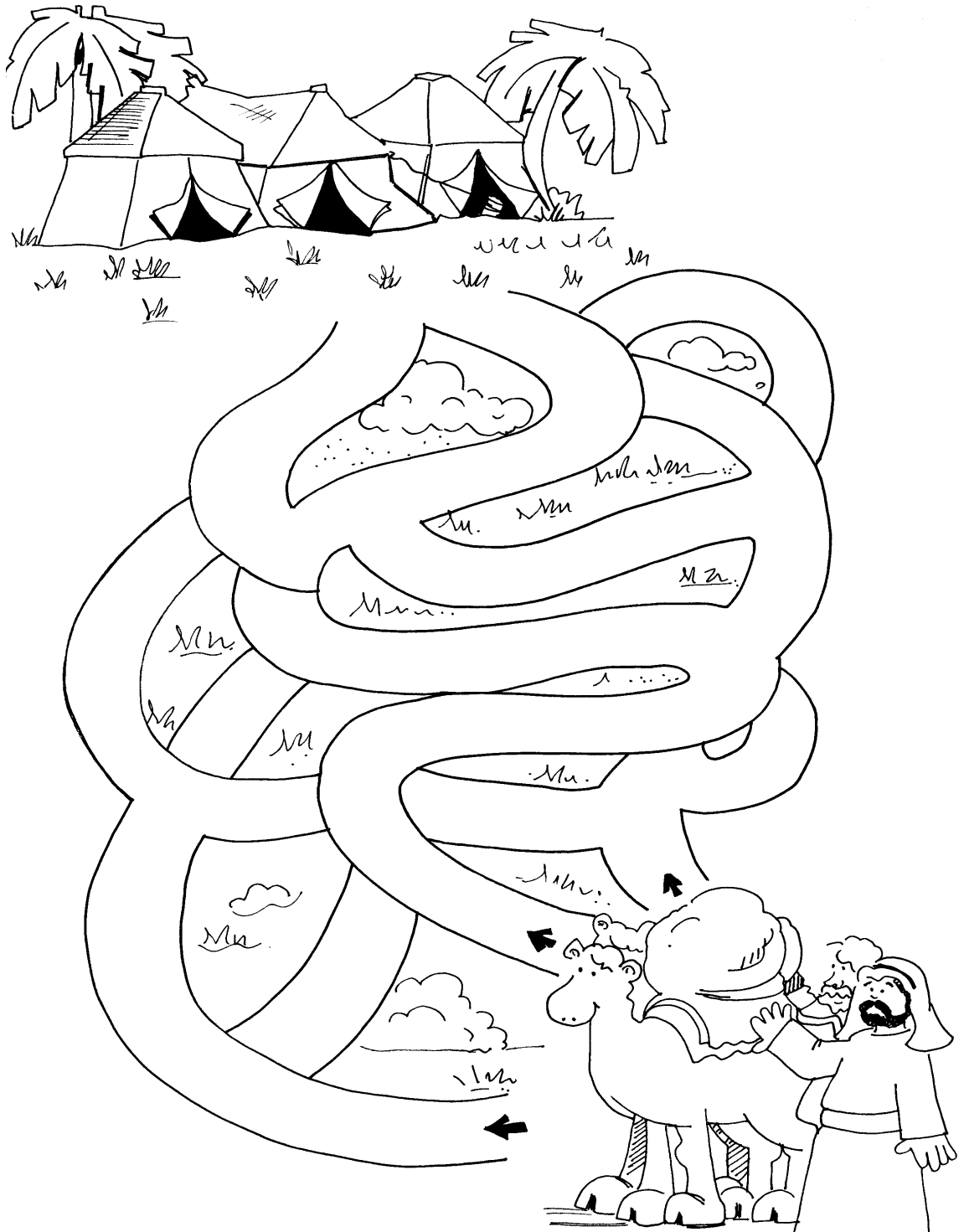
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ACTIVITY

The labyrinth of faith

When God asked Abraham and his family to leave their home, it's possible that they felt like they were wandering in a Labyrinth, as they weren't sure quite where they were supposed to go. Can you find the way to Canaan? Can you find the exit on this labyrinth? How do you think Abraham and his family felt as they left their home? Do you think it helped them to know that God was with them no matter where they were going?

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ILLUSTRATION

