



LESSON 7

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Walking by faith; Sin affects everyone.

Bible Character: Abram

Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1-8, 17-20



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Genesis 12. God called Abram to go to Canaan, the land promised to him. Abram obeyed God's command, trusting in God's promise to him despite not knowing what would come next. God's faithfulness to the promise He had made with Abram is reflected in His call to Abram; God is not only thinking about Abram's life, but his descendants as well. Following the flood and God's grievance toward humanity, this call provides hope for mankind to experience God's favor.

Think about how Abram responded in faith to God's commands, and the blessing that followed after his obedience. How often do you follow in complete faith, even when the path is unknown? Abram was not perfect, though. He later gave in to fear of man instead of trusting in what God had already promised him. He stumbled in his faith in a time of doubt and fear by lying. His sin went on to affect all of those around him. When you face a trial in your life, how do you have a strong foundation of faith? Do you continue to trust God or do you lose sight of who God is and give in to fear? Think about how you respond when situations of fear and doubt come into your life. If you have trouble keeping your faith in God, pray for God to strengthen your faith and draw you closer to Him.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

When all of your campers have arrived, review the past study of Noah. **What have you learned about God from the story of Noah? Why did God make rainbows?** (Allow responses.) Remind them of how Noah had faith and followed God's instructions to build the ark and how God was faithful to Noah and took care of him. God's blessing followed Noah's faithful obedience. Your campers can draw pictures of rainbows to remind us that God keeps His promises.

Remove one piece from the puzzle in your bin without letting your campers know. This will be used

later on in the lesson for one of the activities.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will study about what it means to walk by faith and what it looks like when we choose to sin and give in to fear instead of having faith. We will see how Abram swayed between having faith in God and losing sight of that faith. When we lose sight of our faith and give in to sin, it ends up affecting not just ourselves but also those around us.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group today? What happened when Jetterbob took the sandwiches without asking? (Everyone got sick with food poisoning. He sinned and it affected everyone else at camp.)

For the past two weeks, we have studied the story of Noah. We learned about how Noah put his faith in God and obeyed every command God gave him. God asked Noah to do something very hard, and Noah trusted God with everything. Noah found favor in God's eyes, and God blessed him by saving him and his family from the flood God sent to destroy every living thing. When Noah and his family came off of the ark, the first thing Noah did was worship God.

Today we are going to talk about another man – named Abram – who showed faith in God and obeyed His commands. We will see what it looks like to walk by faith and what can happen when we choose to sin over choosing to have faith.

Let's begin in Genesis 12.

Genesis 12:1-5

1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. 5 He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan.

God told Abram to leave everything behind and go to the land that He had for Abram. What would you do if God told you to leave your family and go live in another place that you had never been to before? How would that make you feel? Would you trust that what God wants is best for you? (Allow responses.) God told Abram that he would be blessed and he would be a blessing to others. God even said that, “all the families on earth will be blessed through you.” That is a pretty amazing promise God made to Abram!

Abram did exactly as God said without any questions asked. He trusted in what God wanted him to do even though he had no idea where God was taking him. He simply obeyed God and followed God’s commands. Abram showed amazing faith in God, just as Noah did.

What is faith?



The purpose is to help the campers understand what faith is.

Supplies:

Bandana (1 per bin)

Small bag of candy (1 per session)

- Read Hebrews 11:1 out loud.
- Write this definition of faith on the white board: To believe and trust in who God is and what He has done for us.
- Choose one camper. Explain that you will blindfold that one camper, hide the bag of candy in the room, then direct the blindfolded camper on where to go to find the hidden candy.
- Spin the blindfolded camper around 2-3 times, and then direct the camper where to go.
- Continue until the bag of candy is found. Let each child have a turn (as time allows). Give a piece of candy to each child after everyone has had a turn.

Tie It Together



Was it hard for you to find the candy when you couldn’t see? Did you trust that I would give you the right directions? (Allow responses.) God wants us to put our complete trust in Him. We may not see or understand what He is doing, but He wants us to have faith that His plan is for the best. Abram trusted God and did what God commanded Him without asking any questions. God promises to bless us when we follow Him with all of our heart. Sometimes that means doing something we do not understand, but that is why we have faith. Faith allows us to trust God and do the right thing even when we can’t understand. You need to think about what kind of faith you have. Think about whether you are trusting that God wants the best for you.

Abram showed great faith in God by leaving his family and everything behind to go where God wanted him to go. He had no idea where he was going, but he obeyed God anyway. God was pleased with Abram’s faith and he was blessed because of it. But then Abram’s faith was tested.

Abram was forced to go to Egypt because of a severe famine in Canaan. He told the people there that Sarai was his sister because he was afraid he would be killed if they knew she was his wife. He lied in order to save his own life. Everyone in Egypt spoke of Sarai’s beauty. Pharaoh took Sarai into his palace as his wife, and gave Abram many gifts because of her. How do you think God felt about what Abram did? (Allow responses.) God wanted Abram to trust Him, but Abram lied instead.

Let's finish reading in Genesis 12 to see how God responded.

Genesis 12:17-20

17 But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife. 18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. "What have you done to me?" he demanded. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!" 20 Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.

Did Abram trust that God was watching over him by telling this lie? (Allow responses.) It seemed as if Abram forgot that God had blessed him already for trusting in Him and had promised to bless him even further. He was afraid and then he sinned by not trusting God. Abram should have realized that God would protect him, but he did not trust that God would take care of him. And because of Abram's sin in not trusting God, Pharaoh and the Egyptians suffered.

Puzzle Trouble



The purpose is to help the campers understand how sin affects everyone.

Supplies:

Puzzle (1 per bin)

Remove one piece of the puzzle before campers get to class. Give each child at least one piece of the puzzle and tell them to work together to put the puzzle together. Give them time to complete the puzzle until it is finished, except for the one piece that the camp counselor kept out. Allow time for them to try to figure out what to do about the missing piece. When they cannot figure out what to do, tell them that you kept one puzzle piece from them and that's why they couldn't finish it.

Tie It Together



How did it make you feel when you worked together to complete the puzzle but couldn't finish it because you weren't told the truth about one piece? Was it kind of frustrating to know that I kept a piece of the puzzle from you without letting you know? (Allow responses.) When one person does not tell the truth, it usually does not affect just that one person. A lie usually affects all of the people involved. Abram did not tell Pharaoh the truth about his wife Sarai. God knew Abram lied and God punished Pharaoh and his household for the lie that Abram made. When you sin, it does not just affect you, it affects the people around you as well. When I kept that piece of the puzzle, it affected everyone putting together the puzzle. Abram did not trust God; he sinned with his lie and caused harm to others. When we choose to sin, our sin will affect others. Have you ever lied and gotten someone else in trouble? Or has someone else gotten blamed for something you did because you did not tell the truth? How did your lie make the other person feel? How does God feel about it when you lie?

Faith Fall



The purpose is to help the campers understand faith even more.

Supplies:

Bandana (1 per bin)

Ask for one volunteer to help you out. Tie the bandana around his/her head so he/she can't see. Ask this camper to trust what you will tell him or her and to have faith that what you say is true. Stand a few feet behind the camper and ask him or her to fall backwards. Say that you will catch him or her and he or she just needs to have faith that you will. After this camper has had his or her turn, allow other campers to try.

Tie It Together



Was it hard for you to have faith to fall back when you could not see and trust that I was going to catch you? Was it scary? (Allow responses.) This is similar to how we can have faith in God. We cannot always see what God is doing, and sometimes what He wants us to do can be scary. We can have faith that God knows what is best for us. He created us, and He has a plan for us!

Walk By Faith



The purpose is to remind the campers to walk by faith everyday.

Supplies:

Faith worksheet (1 per camper)

Have campers go over the meaning of the word "Faith" as they color the footsteps. Then have them fold along the dotted line to see the Bible verse. Go over the verse with them a few times. See if any camper(s) can recite it.

Tie It Together



We can trust that where God leads us is for the best even when we cannot see where we are going. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:7 to "walk by faith, not by sight." This means that we live our life with faith in God, not faith in what we can see. Even when things are difficult and hard we know that we can still put our faith in God and trust that He will help us get through anything. All God wants is for us to believe in who He is and trust that His plan for us is better than anything we could imagine on our own.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time.



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