WEEK 10

Abram, Man of Faith



Big Idea: God is loving. I will follow Him.

Memory Verse

***"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way"* (Psalm 37:23).**

Word of the Week

"Faith" - When you have faith in someone, you trust that what they say is always true. Some people put their faith in things or in other people, but God is the only one we can always trust.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 11:27-12:20** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 125-128.

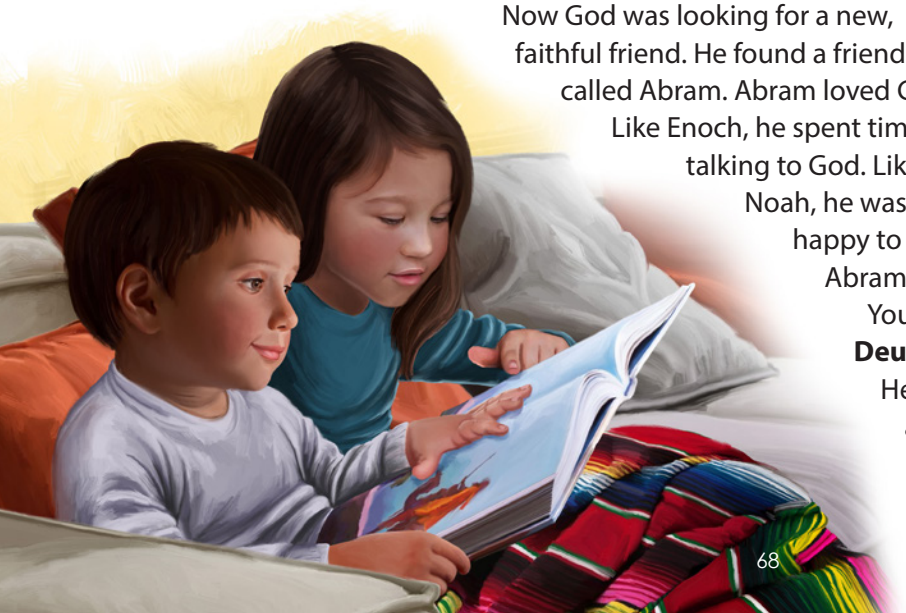
Sunday

Helper for God

New homes, new farms, and even big cities popped up around the world. God's plan to fill the world with people was happening! But sadly, most people had forgotten about God again.

God loved all the people. He looked for a helper to remind them of His great love. God began a kind of "treasure hunt"! He didn't need a map, or even clues. He didn't look for shiny rubies or sparkly diamonds. He looked for friends! God tells us that His friends are like a "special treasure" (Deuteronomy 14:2).

Adam, Abel, and Seth had been God's true friends. Enoch, Noah, and Shem had all loved and obeyed God too. Even when most other people were choosing to do wrong, they kept being faithful.



Now God was looking for a new, faithful friend. He found a friend called Abram. Abram loved God. Like Enoch, he spent time talking to God. Like Noah, he was happy to tell others about God. God decided to use Abram to do great things.

You are also God's special treasure. Read all of **Deuteronomy 14:2**.

He has chosen you to be His friend and helper.

I Wonder

» How can you become God's friend and helper?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for choosing you and calling you His "special treasure."

Do

Go on a treasure hunt around the house, looking for things that remind you of God.



Parent Faith Talk

Share a time that God asked you to do something surprising.

Monday

Abram, God's Friend

Abram grew up in the city of Ur, near where the ark rested. The people who lived in this area had once been God's faithful followers. But not anymore. Nearly everyone in Ur worshipped idols, even Abram's father, Terah (Joshua 24:2). But not Abram! No, Abram didn't want to be like everyone else. Abram chose the one true God.

Abram knew that his God was alive and could hear him. He talked to God every day. He learned to listen to God. And as he grew, he learned to trust and obey Him. God was Abram's very best friend. Abram knew that God is loving, so he could follow Him.

One day, when Abram was all grown up and married, God asked him to leave the city of Ur. Abram; his wife, Sarai; his father, Terah; and many other family members loaded up their donkeys and camels. With a big wave goodbye, they left their home. Where did they go?
Read **Genesis 11:31**.

While in Haran, Abram's very old father, Terah, died. But God was with Abram and wanted to lead His friend on a new adventure. Our memory verse says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way" (Psalm 37:23).

I Wonder

» What would it have been like for Abram to follow God when everyone else didn't?

» Who helped Abram? Who can help you?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you follow Him even when it is hard.

Do

Go for a long walk outside. Sing the song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," or another song about following God, as you walk.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

God's Surprise

Abram loved talking to God. One day, while he was alone praying, God spoke to him.

"Leave your country," God said. "Go to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you. . . . And you will be a blessing to others" (Genesis 12:1, 2, ICB).

Leave? Without knowing *where* he was going?

What did Abram do? Read **Genesis 12:4**.

What great faith! Abram didn't even think about whether or not to obey—he just did it! He knew that "the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way" (Psalm 37:23).

Busily Abram and his family packed up "everything they owned" (Genesis 12:5, ICB). They strapped their bags and baskets onto their camels and donkeys. Then Abram, Sarai, their nephew Lot, and their servants said goodbye to their big family. With another big wave, they left town to go . . . well, they weren't sure where!

Abram smiled with excitement as he walked along the dusty road. God had promised He would bless him, lead him, and make him the father of many, many people. He didn't even have one child yet. What an exciting promise!

I Wonder

» What does faith mean?

» Who showed faith in this story?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help us trust and obey what He says in the Bible.

Do

Wrap up a good surprise and give it to a family member. You might wrap up something you've made, found, or saved. Thank God that we can trust Him to give us good surprises.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

Altars for God

Abram and his family traveled day after day, over hills and far away. Abram didn't know it yet, but they were going to Canaan. God was leading him there.

Finally they arrived in Canaan at a place called Shechem. It was beautiful! The grass was lush and green. Olive trees swayed in the breeze. Juicy grapes covered the vine trees. And fresh, clear water filled the rivers and streams.

As Abram looked out across this land, God told Abram that this land would be given to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. What a wonderful gift! This promise helped to make Abram's faith in God stronger.

With a thankful heart, "Abram built an altar there to the Lord" (Genesis 12:7, ICB). It was the very first altar to God in the land of Canaan. He gathered everyone close and offered a sacrifice to say "Thank You, God."

Soon it was time to travel again. Abram and his family packed their bags, rolled up their tents, and began walking. They came to another beautiful place called Bethel.

What did Abram do after setting up his tent in Bethel? Read **Genesis 12:8** (last part).

Everywhere they stopped, Abram and Sarai always built an altar to God. Abram and Sarai also invited others to join them too. They wanted everyone to learn about their one true God and worship Him too. What wonderful missionaries they were! Even though we don't need to build altars today, we can pray and thank God wherever we are–as Abram did.

I Wonder

» Why do you think Abram set up an altar everywhere they went?

» How could you be a missionary like Abram and share God's love with others?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you faith and courage to do what He asks you to do.

Do

Draw your own stone altar with big stones. On each stone, draw a small picture of something you want to thank Jesus for.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Faith in Good Times and Bad

Hot winds whirled across the dry land. The plants shriveled and the streams dried up. The land of Canaan was having a bad time of no rain. Abram's traveling household and animals became thirsty and hungry.

It would have been easy to grumble, but Abram didn't complain. He believed God's promise, "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you . . . ; and you shall be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2).

Abram prayed more. God helped him to be brave in the middle of trouble. His servants noticed, and they felt braver too.

Together the family packed up and started walking again. Abram led them to a place they might find food and water. Where was it? Read **Genesis 12:10**.

Abram felt worried they wouldn't be safe in this new land. Instead of trusting God to protect them, Abram came up with a bad plan. He told the people and the king of Egypt a lie about his family. Lying is never the right choice. It goes against what God asked us to do in His law of love.

Abram's lie brought trouble for everyone. The king was angry! The people were angry!

But God didn't forget about Abram or stop being his friend. God forgave Abram and helped him leave Egypt safely.

In good times and bad, Abram was learning to trust God.

Parent Faith Talk

Do a "faith fall" challenge with your child. Have your child stand and fall back into your arms. Remind your child that when things are scary, God is always there.

I Wonder

» What should Abram have done when he felt worried? What can you do?

» Why did God still help Abram after he made a big mistake?

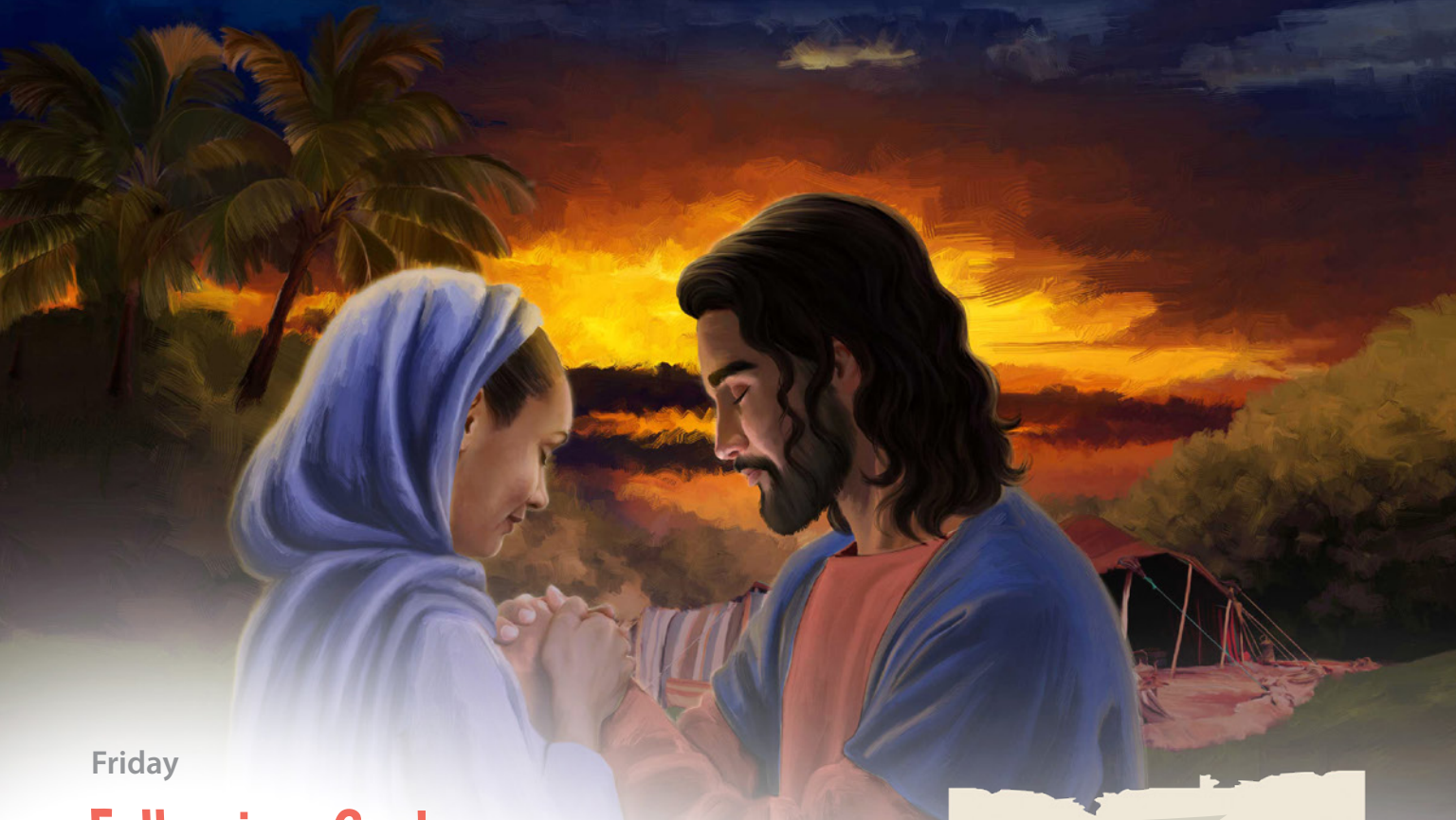
» Can you think of a time God has forgiven you for something big?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that when we make mistakes, He is ready to forgive and help us.

Memory Verse





Friday

Following God

Flip flop went Abram's sandals as he walked. His footprints dotted the hot, sandy soil behind him. His footprints led all the way back to the palace in Egypt. But where would his feet go now?

Abram smiled at Sarai as he walked. He wasn't going to be in charge anymore. He was going to let God be the leader, again. Our memory verse says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way" (Psalm 37:23).

Abram and Sarai had done a lot of walking! But they'd also done a lot of learning. They'd learned that God was their very best friend. And that He had chosen them as His friends and helpers!

As they walked on, they knew that God would be with them in good times and bad. They could have faith in Him always.

Abram and Sarai stopped as the sun began to set. It was time to thank God for His love and care. Talking to Him, and remembering His words of promise, made their faith strong.

What a wonderful friend God is!

I Wonder

» What do you like to do with your good friends?

» What could you share with your very Best Friend, God?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for being a wonderful friend. Ask Him to guide you today and always.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Read **Hebrews 11:1**. How is this like Abram? Write or draw a picture for the following words in your journal: bravery, obedience, prayer, friendship, witness (sharing God with others), worship, mistakes, trust, and thanks.

For You, Parents

"The very trials that task our faith the most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us are to lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 129).

The Message in Chalk



Getting up at 4:00 a.m., before the hot sun, Arthur Stace took a piece of chalk and hurried out into the city streets. He didn't want anyone to see him on his special mission for God. For 35 years Arthur walked all over the city of Sydney in Australia, secretly writing a single word in chalk. He wrote it on bridges, footpaths, doorsteps, and railway entrances—he wrote it everywhere! As the people of the city woke up, they found the word "eternity" written in the most surprising places.

Eternity means forever, and tells us that God has a plan to be with us forever. Just as Abram built altars throughout Canaan, Arthur's word in chalk reminded people to think of God's plan to save us.

Arthur had a tough time growing up. He was very poor, didn't go to school, or have parents that could care for him well. By the age of 12 he was on his own, working in a coal mine. By 15 he was in prison. Life was hard as a grown-up too. But when Arthur was 45 years old (in 1930), He gave his heart to Jesus, stopped drinking alcohol, and became a Christian.

A couple of years later God spoke to Arthur during a sermon. He later told a newspaper, "I felt a powerful call from the Lord to write 'eternity.' I had a piece of chalk in my pocket, and I bent down right there and wrote it; I've been writing it at least 50 times a day since"[1]

It's a big word to write: eternity. Can you try? Arthur couldn't read or write, but this word came out perfectly in the most beautiful handwriting. If you can't write it yet, you could try drawing something in chalk that helps you (and others!) think of God.

Arthur's "eternity" message became known all over the country. His story is in museums, books, galleries, songs, and movies. That's how God used a man who loved him and a simple piece of chalk.



1 Chris Cunneen, "Stace, Arthur Malcolm (1885–1967)," *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, published first in hardcopy 1990, last accessed July 15, 2024, https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stace-arthur-malcolm-8615/text15049.