

# Abram's Call

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Genesis 12:1-9**

Lesson Focus  
**We are blessed to be a blessing.**

Bible Memory Verse  
**"I will make of you a great nation,  
and I will bless you, and make your  
name great, so that you will be a  
blessing." Genesis 12:2**

### Gather (10 minutes)

|                                                                                              | Spark Resources                            | Supplies                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Arrival Activity</b><br>Kids play Follow the Leader.                                      | Spark Activity Pages, Spark Coloring Pages | None                               |
| <b>Circle Time</b><br>Kids learn the word <i>blessing</i> and name blessings in their lives. | Spark Song CD, Spark Songbook              | White paper, markers, music source |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b><br>Kids will learn to bless each other.                                | None                                       | None                               |

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

|                                                                                              | Spark Resources                       | Supplies |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Abram's Call Story</b><br>Kids will act out the story as it is read aloud.                | Spark Story Bibles, Spark NRSV Bibles | None     |
| <b>Pack and Move!</b><br>Kids will draw a picture of what they would take on a long journey. | Leaflets                              | Markers  |

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

|                                                                                            | Spark Resources                | Supplies                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Count Your Blessings</b><br>Kids will draw their top five blessings inside star shapes. | Leaflets, Spark Bible Stickers | Markers, camera or smartphone |
| <b>Blessing Ball</b><br>Kids will play catch and name ways they bless others.              | None                           | Soft ball                     |

## Send (5 minutes)

|                                                                                                                             | Spark Resources | Supplies |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Closing Conversation</b><br>Kids will talk about their reaction to God's direction to go to a place God would show them. | Leaflets        | None     |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b><br>Kids will link arms to pray, and bless each other.                                                 | Family Pages    | None     |

# Introduction

## Bible Background

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In this story, God initiates a relationship with Abram and his descendants. In Abram's time, a man did not leave his ancestral family and strike out on his own. Although that is not uncommon today, it would have been completely unheard of back then.

This text spells out the relationship between Abram and God. Here, God gives Abram specific directions: "Go from your country . . . to the land that I will show you" (12:1). Abram is told to leave everything behind and trust God's guidance. There will be a land of promise, but neither its exact location nor the time of arrival in the land is clear. Abram trusts that God will show him.

## Why This Story Matters

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We should remain alert for what God is calling us to do or be. Kids may have questions about how they will know God is calling them. Help them understand that they may experience God's call when they feel a nudge to help a friend, comfort someone who is sad, or do the right thing when nobody else is. God may not ask us to leave home for a new land (at least until we're older), but God calls us to acts of love, kindness, and justice right where we are.

## Gather (10 minutes)

### Arrival Activity

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If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the Spark Activity Page and Spark Coloring Page and set them out for kids to try.

Play Follow the Leader and invite kids to join in when they arrive. **Abram and Sarai followed God's directions, even when they didn't know or understand where God was leading them. As with Abram, God calls us to follow.** Give the kids silly actions to mimic: Put your finger on your nose, walk backward ten paces, hop on one foot for five seconds, hop like a bunny, laugh really loudly, etc. Invite kids to take turns being the leader of the game.

### Spark Resources

Spark Activity Pages  
Spark Coloring Pages

### Supplies

None

## Circle Time

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Before kids arrive, write each letter of the word *BLESSING* on an individual sheet of paper. After everyone has arrived, gather in a circle. Welcome everyone and invite them to introduce themselves by sharing their names and favorite activity. Ask eight kids to join you, and give each of them one letter for the word blessing. Help them stand in word order, and introduce the word by doing a cheer together. **Give me a B. (B!) Give me an L. (L!) Etc. What does it spell? (Blessing!) What is a blessing? A blessing is a gift from God.** Ask kids to share some examples of blessings (family, friends, food, clothing, etc.).

### MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Song 1: "Father Abraham" (tracks 15 and 32 on Spark Song CD, page 83 in Spark Songbook)

Sing this song as you dive into stories about Abraham and his family. Do all the motions, and create your own new ones! Tell kids that Abram and Abraham are the same person. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, and Sarai's name to Sarah, as a sign of God's promise that they would have a lot of kids!

Song 2: "Blessed Be"

This classic high-energy camp song is great to sing as a way to thank God for all the blessings we have.

## Opening Prayer

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**We are blessed to be a blessing. Let's practice blessing each other, then we'll pray together. Turn to the person next to you and trace a cross shape with your finger on their forehead. As you do this, say, "You are blessed to be a blessing. Amen." We will bless each other at the end of our prayer.**

**God of many blessings, you have blessed us to be blessings in the world. Help us do that well. Amen.**

Ask kids to turn and bless each other.

### Spark Resources

Spark Song CD  
Spark Songbook

### Supplies

White paper  
Markers  
Music source

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

None

# Open the Bible (15 minutes)

## Abram's Call Story

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Invite kids with Spark NRSV Bibles to each find and sit with a buddy with a Spark Story Bible.

Ask buddies to act out the parts of Abram and Sarai. **Abram was 75 years old, and Sarai was 65, and they took everything they owned with them for their big move. They had to bring all their belongings and all their animals with them as they walked through the desert to a place God would show them. They didn't even know where they were going!** Ask kids to show on their faces, and with their body language, what they imagine Abram and Sarai might have looked like as they started on this journey with God and each other. Read the story from page 26 in the Spark Story Bible and move around your space, giving kids time to act out their character as you go.

Next, have buddies show each other the Abram's Call story from their own Bibles. Younger kids can work with their buddies to find Squiggles on each page of the story, and older kids can show their younger buddies where the story starts in Genesis 12 on page 13 of the Spark NRSV Bible. If older buddies are comfortable reading aloud, encourage them to go on a short journey together to find a comfy spot to stop and read the story from the Spark Story Bible to their younger buddies.

### Spark Resources

Spark NRSV Bibles  
Spark Story Bibles

### Supplies

None

## Bible Memory Verse

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"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

Invite buddies to look each other in the eye and whisper this verse together, then mark it with a sticker in the Spark NRSV Bible.

## Pack and Move!

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**Abram and Sarai went on a long journey through the desert with God. What do you think they took with them? What would you bring with you? Work with your buddy to fill the suitcase with things you would bring with you. Remember, you have to carry it through the desert, so it can't be too heavy! When you have finished filling your suitcases, find another set of buddies and compare what you are bringing. In Abram and Sarai's time, families traveled together. If you traveled with some other buddy friends, how would that make your trip different?**

Invite kids to read and discuss the Bible Bits together.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Markers

# Activate Faith (15 minutes)

## Count Your Blessings

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**We have many blessings from God.** As a group, brainstorm a list of blessings we have received from God. Show kids the five stars in the leaflet and ask them to write or draw pictures of their top five blessings in the stars. **When you have finished, let's gather in a circle and put all of our leaflets on the floor so we can see all the blessings we have received from God. Then, let's make stars with our bodies!** Three groups of buddies can work together to figure out how to make a star shape. Take pictures of each starry group.

Ask for volunteers to read the Did You Know? items aloud. Invite kids to place a sticker or special mark next to the item they found the most interesting.

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**  
Markers, camera or smartphone

## Blessing Ball

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**This game reminds us that all of us are blessings to others!** If you have a large group, consider breaking into two smaller groups. **Let's take one minute to name some of the ways we can bless the people around us.** Help kids think of ways they bless people every day. (Examples include smiling at someone, giving a hug, saying hello, and picking up toys.) After one minute, start playing the game.

**Spark Resources**  
None

**Supplies**  
Soft ball

1. Have the kids stand in a circle.
2. Select one, or a small group of kids, to be in the middle of the circle.
3. The kids on the outside throw a ball to other kids in the circle, trying to keep the kid(s) in the middle from intercepting the ball.
4. If a child in the middle of the circle does get the ball, he or she needs to name one way he or she is a blessing to others. Then that child trades places with whoever threw the ball. Play until everyone has had a chance to name one way he or she is a blessing.

**All of us bless the people we are with every day, whether we realize it or not. What are some new ideas for blessing others that you discovered as we played this game? What might you try yourself?**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Closing Conversation

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**Because we are descendants of Abram and Sarai, through them we are blessed to be a blessing. If God asked you to go on a journey, but you didn't know where you were going, how would you respond?** Review and talk about the Fun Facts about travel in Bible times on the Leaflet. To wrap up, read through the suggestions in Faith on the Go, and invite kids to choose their favorite one to try this week.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

## Closing Prayer

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Distribute Family Page to kids, and encourage them to learn more about their ancestors.

Spark Resources  
Spark Family Pages

Next, ask buddies to link arms for the closing prayer.

Supplies  
None

**Dear God, you have blessed us. We can bless others. Help us know what our blessings are, and help us share them. Amen.** Ask buddies to turn to each other, trace a cross shape on their buddy's forehead, and say, **"You are blessed to be a blessing."**

As you say goodbye to kids, make sure they take home their leaflets and Family Pages.