

Bible background

Genesis 12:1-7

Aim of lesson

To show Abraham's obedience to God and trust in God's promises.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials, scissors, paper, sellotape, box lids or card and one matchbox drawer per child.

Make one camel model from your activity book and fix it on to a shoebox lid attaching string through the lid. The matchbox drawer is best taped to the camel as wet glue will make the paper soft.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Talk about packing for a holiday or moving house.
2. Say how God told Abraham to move from Ur to another land that God promised to show him. Explain a little about what a grand city Ur was. Emphasise that Abraham did not know where he was going, but that it would not be as comfortable as Ur, so that the children realise that it was not easy to do as God told him. Abraham believed God, so he went. Tell the children who went with Abraham - father, brother, nephew Lot, wife Sarah, but no children. Explain about travel in Abraham's time. There were no planes or cars to make the journey quick. They would have to take tents to sleep in and carry with them everything they needed; they would have camels to carry their goods. Abraham also had many sheep and cattle, and their journey would consist of many stages; they would stop, pitch their tents and stay on one spot while there was food for the animals, then move on, very slowly, to another place. Tell the class of God's other promise that Abraham and his wife Sarah would have a child and later grandchildren.
3. Teach the song 'Abraham, Abraham'.
4. With the children pack the model camel with small pieces of paper for luggage and let the children take turns to pull it around the class. The others could sing the song while one walks around.
5. Tell how Abraham travelled a long way and God led him to the land as he said he would. Ask the children about the other promise that God had made. Abraham had to wait a little longer for that promise, and your class will have to wait until next week.
6. Let the children colour and make their own camels. Younger children may need these to be cut out beforehand.

Alternative activities

1. Role play: Have lots of items for the children to pack and plenty of boxes, baskets and bags to put everything in. Make tents with furniture and blankets or sheets.
2. If you have a sand tray, make Ur out of small boxes or blocks and then make a route for Abraham to follow. If possible, provide some toy animals and people or make some from modelling clay. Add some features such as hills, valleys, watering holes, trees etc. You could make some simple tents using triangles of folded card. (This sand tray can be used in next weeks lesson so you may like to keep it).

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they remember why Abraham left his home. Tell them how they can be obedient to God too by obeying their parents. Do they immediately pack up their toys when asked to, as Abraham packed up his things?

Prayer

Ask who would like to say a prayer asking God to help us to be obedient straight away like Abraham.

Verse

'Abraham believed God.' Romans 4:3.

Song

Abraham, Abraham (Tune: Pat-a-cake)

The musical notation is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains four measures with chords E, B7, B7, and E. The second staff contains six measures with chords E7, B7, E, B7, F#7, B, F#7, and B7. The third staff contains five measures with chords E, E, E, B7, and E.

Abraham, Abraham, come with me,
Abraham, Abraham, you will see,
A land far away, a land I'll give you.
And Abraham did just what God told him to,
What God told him to,
What God told him to,
Abraham did just what God told him to.

Music: Traditional.

There is another verse to this song in next week's lesson.