

ABRAHAM FOLLOWS GOD

Bible Basis: Genesis 12:1–9, 17; 21:1–7

Bible Verse: “Abram believed the LORD. The LORD accepted Abram because he believed. So his faith made him right with the LORD.” —Genesis 15:6, NIV

Bible Point: Abraham trusted and obeyed God. I can trust and obey him, too.

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 2: “Abraham Follows God”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Say, “Today we are learning about obeying and following directions. Let’s see if you can follow my directions. Everyone, please stand up.”

Play a modified game of “Simon Says.” Say, “Teacher Says,” and then model an action and give a direction: pat your head, raise your arms, run in place, etc. Do not give any directions without saying, “Teacher Says,” and do not call anyone “out.”

Ask:

- Was it easy to follow my directions?
- When is it difficult to obey and follow directions? What about when your mom asks you to put away your toys? What about when it’s time to come in from playing outside?

Say, “God asked Abraham to go to a new land. Abraham had a choice. He could obey or disobey God. In our Bible story today, we’re going to hear what he chose.”

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

First, read aloud Chapter 2, “Abraham Follows God,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

Have children sit on the floor on one side of the room.

Say, “Abraham and his wife, Sarah, wanted children. Abraham prayed, and God said that if Abraham moved, God would give him a family. If you think Abraham should obey God and move, stand up. If he should not move, sit down.” After children respond, have everyone stand up.

Say, “Abraham chose to obey God. Abraham, Sarah, and everyone in their household moved.” Have children walk with you to the other side of the room and sit down.

Say, **"Abraham had a lot of animals. He had a nephew named Lot who also had a lot of animals. There wasn't enough land for both Abraham's animals and Lot's animals. If Abraham should give Lot the best land, stand up. If not, stay seated."** After children respond, have everyone stand up.

Say, **"Abraham chose to obey God. He gave Lot the best land and moved to a different place."** Have children walk with you to the back of the classroom and sit down. **"Before long, Lot got in trouble. If Abraham should save Lot from bad guys, stand up. If he should let Lot fight his own battles, sit down."** After children respond, have everyone stand up.

Say, **"Abraham chose to obey God. He traveled to where the bad guys were and saved Lot."** Have children walk with you to the front of the classroom and sit down. **"When Abraham was 99 years old, God reminded him that Sarah would have a baby. Abraham thought Sarah was way too old to have children. If Abraham should believe God, stand up. If he should not believe God, sit down."** After children respond, have everyone stand up. **"Abraham chose to trust God. When Abraham was 100 years old, his wife, Sarah, had a baby boy, and they named him Isaac."**

Children may return to their seats.

Ask:

- **What did Abraham want?** (*Abraham wanted a child.*)
- **What did Abraham do? Where did he go? Whom did he take with him? Did he choose to obey God?**

Say, **"Abraham did more than just obey God. He also trusted God. That means he believed that what God told him was true. Let's ask God how he wants us to obey him today."**

Pray with the children, asking God to show you ways you can obey him.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: I Can OBEY MY PARENTS

Stuff you need: a soft, bouncy ball

Sit on the floor in a circle.

Say, **"A big way we obey God is by obeying our parents. We are going to roll the ball to one another in the circle. We will not throw it—we will only roll it. When someone rolls the ball to you, you say a way you can obey your parents. Then roll the ball to someone else. For example, you can pick up your toys, brush your teeth, put your dirty clothes in the laundry basket, or not hit other people."** Give the children examples and ideas. It is okay for them to repeat someone else's idea.

Option 2: Be a God Follower

Stuff you need: butcher paper, markers or crayons

Preparation: Write, "Walk in obedience to all I command you that it may go well with you." (Jeremiah 7:23) across the top of a long strip of butcher paper.

Say, "Our Bible verse today is Jeremiah 7:23. It says, 'Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you.' This means that when we follow God and obey him, he can take care of us."

Spread butcher paper across the front of the classroom. Let children stand on the paper. Trace around their shoes. Once traced, they can decorate their shoe prints with crayons or markers. When they have finished coloring them, help write their names under their shoe prints. Hang up the mural in your classroom.

Ask:

- What is one way you can obey God today?
- What does it mean to trust someone?

Say, "Abraham obeyed God because Abraham trusted God. God is trustworthy. He loves you very much, and he takes care of you, just like he took care of Abraham."

Option 3: I Trust God!

Stuff you need: several cookie sheets (with rims), white card stock or construction paper, toy cars, poster paint, paper plates, hand wipes

Preparation: Spread poster paint on the paper plates.

Say, "Because Abraham obeyed and trusted God, he followed God on a big trip! In this craft, we will pretend we are going on a trip, too. Just imagine all the different turns and twists we'd make. You are going to create your own road for your own pretend trip."

Put a piece of paper down in the rimmed cookie sheet. Have the child dip a car's wheels into the paint of their choice and make car tracks across the paper. Each child can use two or three colors before they are done.

Option 4: God Gives Us a Hand

Stuff you need: God Gives Us a Hand Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child.

Say, "When we obey and trust God, he leads us and helps us. Let's name five times God has helped us." Give examples, such as helping people get better when they are sick or keeping people safe on trips.

Say, “Let’s color the five fingers of these hands to remind us of our five ways God has helped us. You can hang your picture up at home to remind you that God will always help you—or give you a hand—when you need it.”

OPTION 5: GOD’S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

Stuff you need: play dough—homemade or store bought (optional: animal-shaped cookie cutters, plastic knives, and small rolling pins)

Say, “When Abraham followed God to a new land, he trusted God to take care of his animals. Remember that Abraham had so many sheep and cattle that he couldn’t share land with his nephew Lot. Let’s use our play dough to create some of our favorite animals.”

OPTION 6: GOING ON A TRIP

Stuff you need: Going on a Trip Activity Sheet and crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child.

Say, “Abraham and Sarah traveled a long way. Our activity sheet shows us some of the things they saw on their trip. Match the item on the left side of the sheet with the same item on the right side of the sheet.”

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 2*.

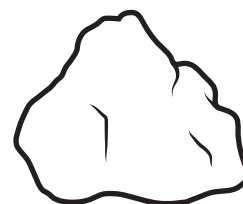
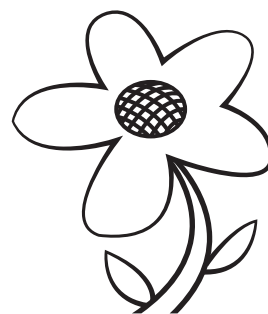
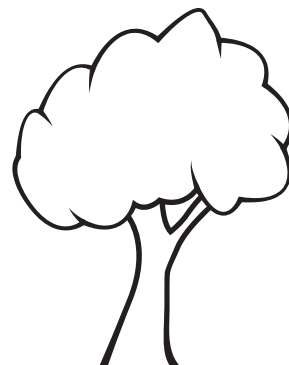
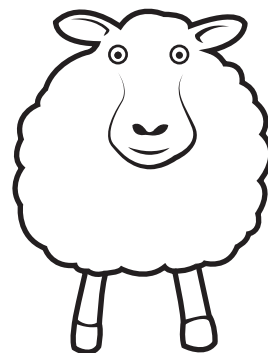
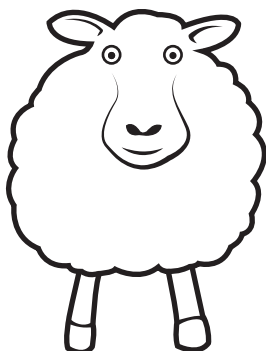
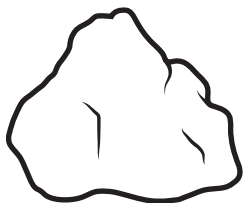
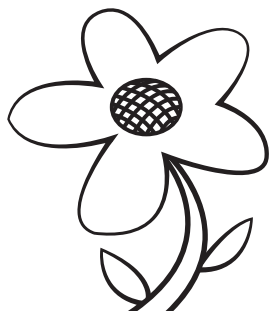
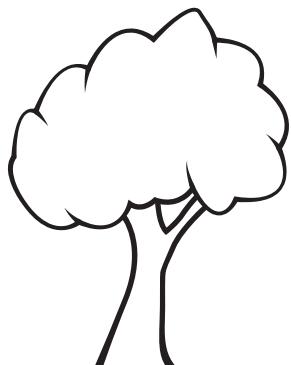
Say, “The front of this card will remind you that Abraham obeyed and trusted God. Show your parents the back and tell them how you want to obey God because you trust him.” Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents’ Page.

GOING ON A TRIP

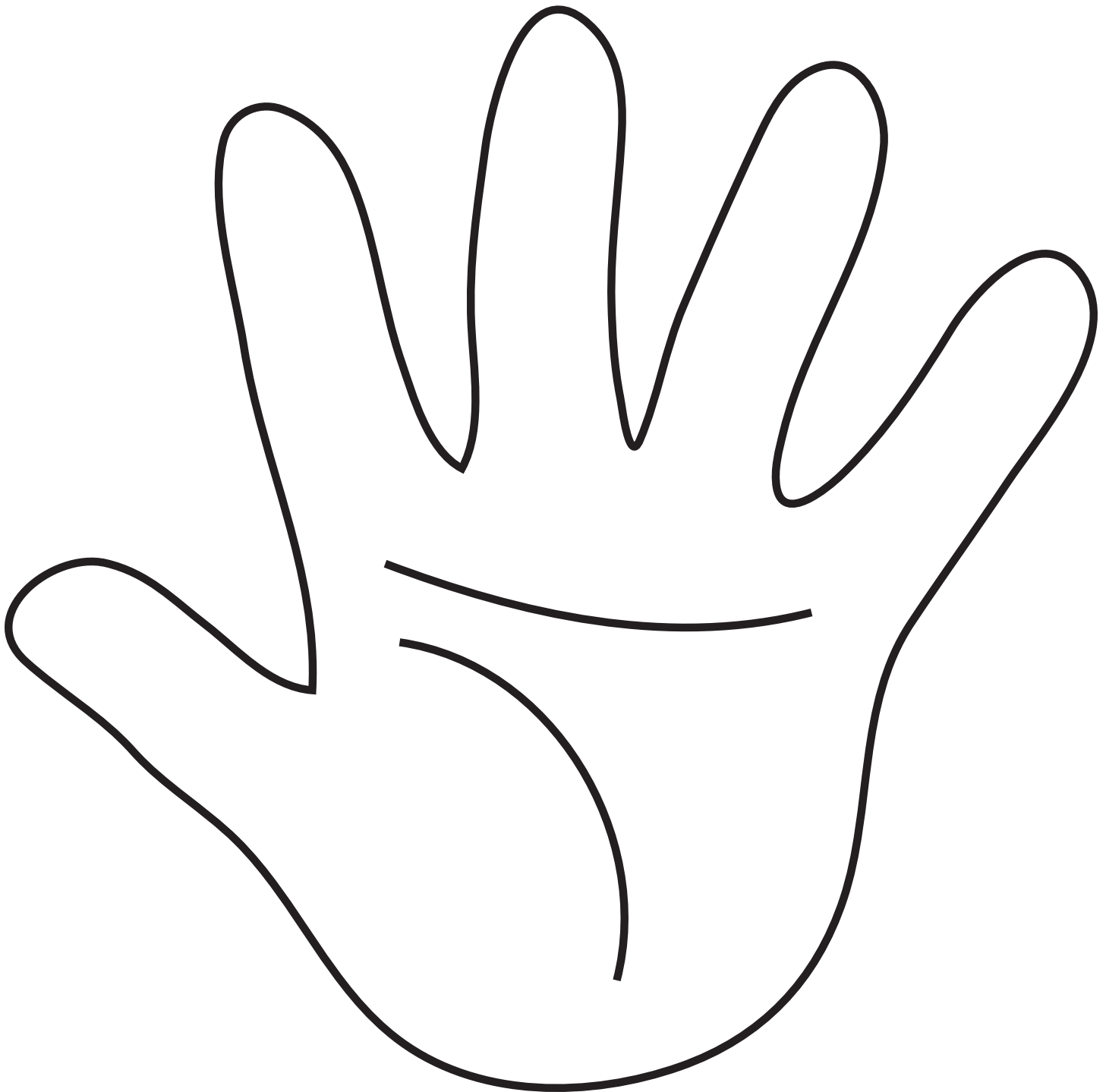
Abraham and Sarah obeyed God and went on a long trip! They saw many interesting things on their trip. Match the objects in the left column with the same object in the right column.



Name _____

GOD GIVES US A HAND

When we obey and trust God, he will help us. He is always ready to give us a hand!



Name _____

FLIPPED OUT

Note: Puppets can be very effective with this age group and may be used instead of actors. A teacher may carry on a conversation with a puppet as the other character if two actors are not available.

[Scooter walks on stage and looks around. No one is looking, so he does a cartwheel or somersault, finishing with a gymnastic flare—arms in the air. Adapt motion if you're using a puppet.]

Beth: Hi, Scooter!

Scooter: [jumps and tries to act natural] Beth, you scared me!

Beth: Sorry. What are you doing?

Scooter: Nothing.

Beth: Nothing? I just saw you...

Scooter: OK, I was practicing.

Beth: Practicing for what?

Scooter: I'm going to my first gymnastics lesson today and I'm nervous.

Beth: Oh, I see. Why are you nervous? Gymnastics is fun!

Scooter: What if I can't do it? I mean, I can't do a left-handed cartwheel yet ... or a back handspring. [getting worked up] Now that I think about it, maybe I shouldn't go!

Beth: Scooter, you have nothing to worry about. God promises to always be with you and help you with hard stuff.

Scooter: Like cartwheels?

Beth: Sure! He can help you with ANYTHING.

Scooter: Like whistling? Because I can't whistle, but my Grandpa Harry can whistle

the National Anthem and it's so cool. Last Fourth of July...

Beth: [grabs Scooter by the shoulders to stop him from talking] Scooter! Just remember this: God keeps His promises. And that includes being with you and helping you at gymnastics.

Scooter: Thanks, Beth. Let me show you my moves! [Does another somersault or cartwheel.]

Beth: I give it a 10!

[Both laugh and exit.]

ABRAHAM FOLLOWS GOD

Timeless Truth: What sin changes, faith overcomes.

Bible Basis: Genesis 12:1–9, 17; 21:1–7

Key Verse: Abram believed the Lord. The Lord accepted Abram because he believed. So his faith made him right with the Lord. —Genesis 15:6, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 2: “Abraham Follows God”

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 2 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience what it means to follow and obey God. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Abraham trusted and obeyed God. I can trust and obey him, too.

TABLE TALK

- What does it mean to follow?
- What does it mean to obey?
- Who did Abraham follow? (Abraham followed God by trusting and obeying him.)
- Who do you follow? Who do you obey?

LIVING FAITH

Abraham trusted and obeyed God by moving to a new land. Moving can be a fun thought for a child, especially if you have never moved. Discuss that moving means packing up everything you own, leaving where you live, and going to a new place to live. Pretend to move with your preschooler. Use a backpack or a small suitcase and, with your child, pack some of her favorite belongings. Take what you have packed and play Follow-the-Leader as you travel around your house. Take turns being the leader. End back in your child's room at the new land and unpack the suitcase. As you travel, talk about how Abraham obeyed God. Talk about ways that your child can obey God. Then play other obedience games like Mother, May I? and Simon Says.

EXTRA MILE

Read books about obedience. Talk about how the characters obeyed or did not obey. Remind your child that Abraham obeyed God and you can obey God, too.

As you travel to different places this week, talk about the rules that you have to follow and obey to be safe. Discuss other things that we have to follow and obey.

Sing the song "Father Abraham." It will help your child remember God's promise to Abraham while using her whole body to do it.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

Abram believed (*Touch your right pointer finger to temple. Then bring your hand down and clasp it together with your left hand.*)

The Lord. (*Make an L with your right hand and take it from your right shoulder to your left hip.*)

Genesis 15:6 (*Open hands like a book.*)



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