

GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT ONE: Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham.

Lesson 9:**Abraham Prayed for Others**

CONTENT:

1. As the angels were leaving Abraham's tent, they told him that God had sent them to check on the people in Sodom, because they had become very wicked. God was going to destroy that wicked city.
2. Abraham knew that God is loving and kind so he prayed to him to save the city. God listened to Abraham's prayer and promised that if there were even ten good people he would not destroy the city.
3. When Jesus was dying on the cross he prayed to God the Father for us. Even now he is in heaven praying for us.
4. When people say 'No' to God and go away from him they are in danger. Jesus came to save them and he wants us to join him by praying for them. When we pray for sinners we are helping God to save them and take them to heaven. (Intercession)



ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout at home.

REFERENCES: Genesis 18: 16-33. CCC 2571, 2634-2636.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, puppy soft-toy.

I. STARTER: [Mime and story]

- Have you ever saved a small child who was in trouble? Or maybe a puppy or a kitten? Let's act a saving story. *[While the teacher tells the story a few children mime. The well is just imagined!]*

Paul was a big, strong boy who loved animals. Once when Paul was walking in a field he heard the sound of an animal crying. "Yeaow! Yeaow!"

Paul looked here and there, but he couldn't see any animal. Then he noticed a well nearby. He looked inside and saw a little puppy half-way down. It was lying on a little sticking out stone in the wall of the well.

Paul thought, "This puppy is in danger! If it moves, it will fall right into the water and drown."

Paul lay down next to the well and talked gently to the puppy, "Okay little puppy. Don't cry. We'll get you out." The puppy stopped crying and looked up at Paul. Paul held onto a pole with one hand and stretched out his hand as far as it could go. But he couldn't reach the puppy.

Just then, he saw a friend of his, Johnny. He called out to him. "Johnny! Come here quickly! There's a puppy fallen in the well. If we don't save it, it will die. Will you help me?"

Johnny was ready. "What should I do?" he asked.

Paul said, "Hold onto my hand and reach out to the puppy with your other hand. I will not let you fall. Don't worry."

So Paul held the pole tight and with his other hand he held Johnny's hand. Johnny held Paul's hand and slowly stretched out his hand to the puppy. He picked it up and then carefully climbed up again.

"WE DID IT!" the boys shouted. "We saved the puppy!" Both the boys were very happy that they had saved the puppy. Paul took the puppy home and his mother let him keep it as his own pet.

II. DEVELOPMENT: [Story of Abraham's Visitors]

Once Abraham also tried to save some people, but in a different way. Do you remember how angels came to visit Abraham and Sarah? As they were going away they told Abraham, "We are going down to Sodom (*That was a city nearby, where Abraham's nephew Lot stayed*). The people there have become very, very wicked. We have to burn up that city."

Abraham thought, "Oh no! My nephew Lot and his family are staying in Sodom. They are going to die!" He was very upset.

After the angels had left, Abraham looked up to heaven. He thought, "God is so kind. I think he wants me to do something. Does he want me to pray for the people in Sodom? Yes! I think so!"

So Abraham called out to God, "Lord, I know that you are a loving God. I know that you want to save the people in Sodom. Suppose there are 50 good people there, will you save the whole city for their sake?"

God answered from heaven, "If I find 50 good people I won't burn up the city."

Then Abraham thought, "What if there are not even 50 good people..." He prayed again, "Lord suppose there are only 40 good people, will you still save the whole city?"

God said, "I won't, if there are 40!"

Abraham thought again, "What if there are not even 40 good people. I'll try again." "Lord, if there are only 20 good people will you please save the city?"

God answered, "Yes I will."

Abraham thought, "The people in Sodom are really very bad. Suppose there are only 10 good people left in the whole city!"

He said to God, "Please don't get angry with me. I'm asking for the last time. Suppose the angels find only 10 good people, please will you save the city?"

God said, "All right, I will save the whole city for the sake of only 10 people."

When the angels reached Sodom, they found that only Lot, his wife and two daughters were good. The rest of the people had become very bad. They helped Lot and his family to escape from the city before the whole place was burned up.

NEXT CLASS:

- Do you remember the story we acted about Paul and Johnny and the puppy? After that I told you about Abraham praying to God. God was like Paul. He wanted to save the people in Sodom, so he asked Abraham to pray. Abraham was like Johnny. He helped God by praying.
- Praying for others is like climbing down and saving someone in danger. There was one person who climbed right down from heaven to save everyone in the whole world. Who was that brave person? *[Jesus!]*
- God wanted to save everyone, because all of us were like that puppy. We were in danger of dying. So Jesus came down from heaven. He became a man. He died on the cross. Then he became alive again. Now he is in heaven praying for all of us. He wants to take all of us to his home in heaven to be safe and happy. (Like Paul took the puppy home.)

[Give out handouts and read. Fill in the words in the 'callout': FATHER FORGIVE THEM!]

Even though Jesus saved us, he still wants our help. He wants us to be like Abraham and pray for those who are far away from God. All those who say 'no' to God and don't want to listen to him are in danger. If they don't turn back to God they will go to hell.. that is far away from God. God wants to save everyone so, just as Paul asked Johnny for help, God is asking you and me to help him by praying for them.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Even children can hold Jesus' hand and help to save sinners who are in danger. Remember how Bernadette prayed for sinners, when Mother Mary asked her to? Are you ready to help?

[Pray together:]

Dear God,/ Thank you for sending Jesus to save us all./ Please will you save those who have gone far away from you. /Don't let them go to hell,/ but help them to come back to you /and take them home to heaven./ Amen.

[The children draw themselves between Jesus and the other figure, holding hands on both sides.]

Home assignment: Read the handout at home.
