

GENESIS

Lesson 4:

GOD CALLS ABRAHAM

CONTENT:

1. It shows how God called Abraham and how he responded in faith.
2. Explains that Abraham's call was the beginning of God's preparation to send Jesus into the world through the 'Patriarchs'.
3. To help the children realise that God is calling them and inviting each one to journey with him through life.
4. To lead them to respond to God in trust.

ASSIGNMENT

REFERENCES: Genesis 12:1-7

MATERIALS NEEDED: 1 activity sheet per child.

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation)

- Can anyone tell me about Aladdin and how his story begins? [*The original story, not the new Walt Disney one.*]

Aladdin was a Chinese boy. One day when he was playing on his own in a park, a man came up to him said –‘I am your uncle from a far away country. Come with me and I will make you rich’. Aladdin believed the man’s story and went with him. The man sent him into a cave to search for a magic lamp. Later, he locked him into the cave. Aladdin realised then that he was not his uncle at all, but a wicked magician!

- Now close your eyes and imagine that you are playing near your house and suddenly a man comes to you and says –‘come with me on my motorbike and I will give you ice cream.’ Would you go with him?.. Why?
- When would you go with the person? [*Let different children give their responses. Bring out If you knew the person - if it was your teacher or uncle or someone you like, you would go; but you would not go off with someone whom you did not like, or a stranger...*]

Lets read about someone who was living with his wife and servants and relatives quite happily, when suddenly he was called by someone to leave his home and go with him. Do you know who are we talking about? [*Abraham...but in those days, his name was ‘Abram’.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

Before we read the story from the Bible let’s find out something about the time before Abraham.

The last time we looked at the Bible, we heard about Noah and the great flood. Do you think the world became good after this?...[*No*] People again started going away from God, doing whatever they wanted, hurting and killing each other. So God decided – There is only **one** thing I can do... only **one** person can save the wicked world.

Can anyone tell me what the plan of God was? [*To send his own Son, Jesus*]

So God began to prepare the way for his Son, Jesus. His first step was to teach certain men to follow him. We call those men ‘Patriarchs’ or ‘fathers’. [*Write on black board*] I’m sure you have heard their names in the Bible stories. The first was Abraham, then his son.. [*What was his*

name?] Isaac, then his son *[Who?]* Jacob.. and his son... Joseph *[Write the names on the black board]*. This term we'll be reading stories about these men. Now let's begin with Abraham.

STORY:

Abraham was an owner of cattle. He lived about 2000 years before Jesus.*[we are living 2000 years after Jesus!]*. He probably had camels, sheep, goats, cows, donkeys.

As a child he lived in a big city called Ur. *[Write Ur on the black board]*. The people there used to worship the 'Moon – God'. Then when he was grown up he moved northwards to another city called Haran with his father and all his relatives. After living for many years in Haran, Abraham heard God, the true God speak to him.

Read Genesis 12: 1-7

- What was Abraham's wife's name? *[Sarah]*
- Do you think she would have readily left her nice place in Haran.. family and friends.. and gone off to a far- away place?... ladies are not so adventurous as men... they like to live comfortably and safely... You have to imagine what she said to Abraham and what he answered her and write down the conversation.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

[Gather the children close to you – on the floor if possible]

We just saw from the talk between Abraham and Sarah, that it was not easy to say 'Yes' to God's call, but Abraham somehow knew that God would look after him and that he would be happy with him. Do you remember the main reason why God called Abraham? *[He wanted to get the way ready for Jesus]*.

Today, there are still many, many people who don't know Jesus.. who needs His Love. God is calling each one of you..*[say a few children's name]*.. He is saying to you... Will you come on and adventure with me? Are you ready to obey me? Do you trust me and believe that I will look after you and make you happy?

Close your eyes and listen to God speaking to you.. Tell him what you feel Maybe you are like Sarah.. Worried about doing something different... not wanting to leave your comfortable life.. Just tell God what you feel... He will keep talking to you and calling you.

Teacher Prays – Lord God... Thank you for calling each one of us to go on and adventure with you. We want to follow you, but sometimes we are afraid.. Help us to trust you fully like Abraham. Amen. (If you know the song – 'One More Step'.

*One more step along the way I go
More and more about the way I know
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with you!*

IV. ACTIVITY: (Poster Making)

[Children do the activity sheets 'God Calls Abram' in pairs, though each one gets one sheet. After they have done the sheet, a few pairs could come up and taking the parts of Abraham and Sarah, they act(read out) the conversation they have written.]