

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: November 13, 2016

SUBJECT: GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Abraham (1)

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11:1-9, 27-31; 12:1-7; 15:5-6; Joshua 24:2; Acts 7:2-3

AIM: To help the children see that God has chosen us and called us out to follow Him. As we obey His call, we can fully trust Him to lead us and take care of us.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Hebrews 11:8 (By faith Abraham, being called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.); 1 Thessalonians 1:9b (... how you turned to God from the idols to serve a living and true God.); 1 Peter 2:9 (But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;); Psalms 9:10a (And those who know Your name put their trust in You,...)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 7 (I Am a Very Special Child); 36 (Following Jesus); 5205 (Obey); 68 (The Word of God); 44 (Father Abraham); 153 (Obey His Call); 32 (Trust in the Lord); 37 (I Have Decided to Follow Jesus); 1007 (Abraham); 190 (I Am Called); 2500 (Faith Is Just Believing); 64 (Ev'ry Promise in the Bible Is Mine); 9410 (I Believe the Promises)

CRAFT IDEAS: (1) Make an origami tent - instructions for various tents can be found online. (2) Make a mobile by punching holes along the edge of a paper plate and using yarn to dangle many paper stars.

BACKGROUND: After the great flood that destroyed all living things on the earth, Noah's sons and daughters-in-law began to have children who filled the land. After many years and generations passed, mankind again became very sinful and rebellious in the eyes of God. The people were filled with pride and began to build a great city out of bricks and a tower that could reach up into heaven. Man was, at this point, in total rebellion. Because of their pride and arrogance, they wanted to make a name for themselves. This was as if they were saying to God, "We don't need You!" (Gen. 11:1-4).

Jehovah saw the city and the tower and said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing which they purpose to do will be kept from them". So Jehovah God decided to confound men's language so they would not understand one another's speech anymore. He scattered them over the face of all the earth, and they stopped building the city. The name of the city was called Babel (meaning *confusion*, Gen. 11:9, note 1) because there Jehovah confounded the language of all the earth, and from there Jehovah scattered the people over all the earth (Gen. 11:5-9).

CONTENT: At this point in time, everybody had turned away from the true God and worshipped false gods they had made with their own hands (idols). Instead of destroying the entire wicked human race again as He did at Noah's time, God called out one man, named Abram (God later changed his name to Abraham). No one in Abram's family knew the true God and just like all the rest of their relatives and friends, they also worshipped idols (Josh. 24:2).

Abram lived in Ur of the Chaldees. It was there, in an idol-worshipping land, that the God of glory appeared to him. God called him to "come out from your land and from your relatives, and come into the land which I will show you" (Acts 7:2-3).

Abram did not immediately respond to God's calling, but remained in Ur for some time. Eventually, God caused Abram's father, Terah, to move the family from Ur to Haran. After the death of Abram's father, God appeared to Abram a second time and called him again. God made some wonderful promises to

Abram if he would obey His call and follow Him to a new land, a new country that God had prepared for Abram and his descendants.

- God promised to make of Abram a very great nation (Gen. 12:1). That meant that Abram and his wife Sarai, would have many descendants (children). Abram's descendants would be as numerous as the stars of heavens that Abram could count, if he could count them (Gen. 15:5). This "great nation" includes the many millions of Jews and Christians today (Gal. 3:29; 4:28).
- God promised to bless Abram and make his name great, and through him all the families of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 12:2-3).
- God promised to give the land to Abram's descendants (Gen. 12:7).

Abram was 75 years old when he answered God's call. Abram, his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot left their country and all their family and obeyed God to go to a land they had never seen before. God had said that He would bring them into a land that He would show them, and Abram believed God. He did not have a map or a GPS device nor did he know the way to go. He only had the true and living "God of glory" to lead him. When Abram reached a place called Shechem in the land of Canaan, Jehovah appeared to him again and promised him, "To your seed I will give this land." This showed Abram that he was in the right place and there he built an altar to Jehovah.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Please pray and fellowship over which applications are appropriate to share with your age group. Please do not try to cover all the applications.*

- **Abraham was obedient to God's call.** Abram obeyed God's calling. We should obey our parents and trust that they know best. Sometimes we may think we know better than our parents, but God gave us our parents, and we need to obey and honor them. For example, if our parents ask us to get ready for school, do our homework or get dressed to go to the church meeting, we should obey right away.
- **God has chosen us and called us out of the world.** Since we are God's people, we are different from others who do not know God. When other children misbehave in the classroom, how should we respond? We should not join in. We should not talk back to our teachers; we should listen and behave as God's chosen people; we should not make fun of other children, rather we should care for others.
- **We can fully trust God to lead us and take care of us.** Abram did not have a map or a GPS device nor did he know the way to go. He only had the true and living "God of glory" to lead him. Like Abram, we can fully trust God to lead and take care of us in all situations as we remain obedient to Him. Perhaps, you are afraid of the dark or anxious over an upcoming test in school; you can always talk to God in prayer to help you. *[Other age appropriate examples also can be shared with the children based on the serving ones' experiences on trusting God through answered and unanswered prayers.]* God always knows what's best for us.
- **Abram loved and followed God.** Like Abram, we should not love anything more than we love God. Abram rejected idols to follow God. Video games, television, sports, or anything else that takes first place in our lives other than God can be our idols. We can pray for God to help us not to love anything more than Him.
- **God always keeps His promises.** God made some wonderful promises to Abram. Have you ever promised something but were not able to keep that promise? God always keeps His promises. We will learn more about Abram in subsequent lessons and see how God fulfilled all the promises He made to him.

Adapted from the Church in New York City's Children's Meeting lessons: 11/21/93; 11/14/99; 11/13/05, 11/20/11