

# Abraham Chosen by God

## Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify two challenges that Abraham faced in his faith.
- The students will trace Abraham's journey as he followed God's directions.
- The students will describe two ways in which their lives will be better as they follow God's plan.

## Lesson Text

Genesis 12

## Scripture Memory Verse

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

*Jeremiah 29:11*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Blessing and Challenge

Welcome and Singing

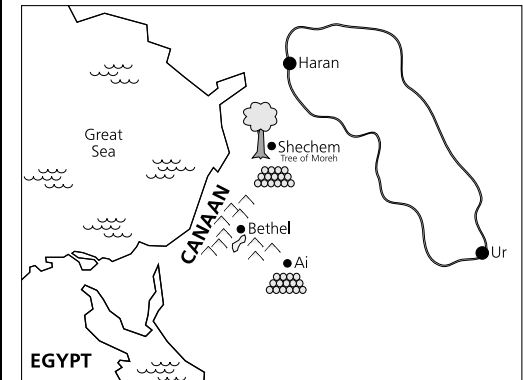
Centers:

Bible Story: Abraham Chosen by God

Craft: Map of Memories

Scripture Memory: Promised Plans

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



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# Abraham Chosen by God

## Blessing and Challenge

The students will prepare a set of words that will help them to participate in today's Bible Story.

### Materials

For each student:

- crayons or colored pencils
- scissors
- 1 small envelope

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

Prepare a model of this activity to show the students.

### Instructions

1. Distribute copies of Page A, crayons, scissors and envelopes to the students as they arrive.
2. Have the students write their names on the envelopes.
3. Have the students color the Bible Story words, cut them out and place them in the envelopes. They will use these during the Bible Story.
4. Collect all of the envelopes at the end of the preclass activity and give them to the Bible Story teacher.

### Teacher Tips

- Prepare extra sets of words for students who arrive late.

<i>Blessing</i>	Challenge
BLESSING	Challenge
Blessing	<b>Challenge</b>

# Abraham Chosen by God

## Abraham Chosen by God

God chose Abraham and made a great promise to him. Abraham had to face many challenges but God blessed him in many ways. Abraham's life gives us an example of faith that we can follow today.

### Materials

*For each student:*

- 1 set of words prepared during the preclass activity

*For the teacher:*

- large writing surface

### Preparation

On the large writing surface, prepare a "T" chart—that is, a chart that looks like a big letter "T." Label the top of one side of the chart as "blessing" and label the top of the other side of the chart as "challenge." Put the chart in a place where students can see it.

### Introducing the Bible Story

Seat the students in a circle and ask them what they think the words "blessing" and "challenge" mean. Write their responses on the chart. Combine their ideas to come up with a group definition for both words and write the definitions on the chart.

### Telling the Story

Have your Bible open to Genesis 12. Begin by saying: *Today and for the next few weeks, we are going to learn about Abram. Abram was a man of great faith. He was from a country called Ur of the Chaldeans. People called Abraham, "Abram." His father's name was Terah. Abram had two brothers and one nephew. Abram married Sarai while his family lived in Ur. Abram and his family had a very nice life in Ur. In that day, Ur was a modern country. While Abram was living there, God appeared to him. God told him that he would give him a new land and many descendants. "Descendants" are your children and their children and their children and on and on. So Abram, together with his father, wife, and nephew Lot, left Ur to go to a new land called Canaan. Canaan was far away. On their way to Canaan, they stopped in a place called Haran, and that is where they stayed until Abram's father died. Terah was 205 years old when he died. While Abram was still in Haran, God called Abram again! He gave Abram the promise a second time. He told*

*Abram that he would give him a great land and many descendants. Abram believed God's promise and so he decided to take his wife and nephew Lot and go to the new land that God had promised. Today, I am going to tell you all about Abram's journey to the new land.*

Hand out the envelopes from the preclass activity to the students. Tell them that they must listen carefully. As you tell the story, ask them if Abraham was facing a blessing or a challenge. Have students take out a word from their envelopes that they think describes the situation. Have them place the word in front of them. Tell the students that in the story, Abraham faces three blessings and three challenges.

Read the following passages with expression and enthusiasm. Stop after each one to ask the questions provided for you.

*"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.'" (Genesis 12:1)*

- *God told Abram to leave his country, his people and his father's household. Do you think that was easy for him? Was this a blessing or a challenge for Abram? (challenge)*

*Then the Lord told Abram:*

*"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;*

*I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

*I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth*

*will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3)*

- *Listen to everything that God told Abram! He would make him into a great nation, make him a blessing, and bless all people through him! Was this a blessing or a challenge for Abram? (blessing)*

*"So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the*



**3rd and 4th Grades**

# Abraham Chosen by God

possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there." (Genesis 12:4-5)

- Abram was seventy-five years old when he had to move everything he owned! Abram had many, many things and a lot of people who worked for him. Abram had to travel on foot and by camel to go many miles. Was this a blessing or a challenge for Abram? (challenge)

"Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him." (Genesis 12:6-7)

- I think that Abram never forgot the great tree of Moreh because God showed himself to Abram there! Wow! God told Abram that he would give the land to Abram's children. Abram was so thankful that he built an altar to worship God. Was this a blessing or a challenge for Abram? (blessing)

"From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev." (Genesis 12:8-9)

- Can you imagine how beautiful it was? God gave Abram such special memories. Abram was looking over the hills and it must have made him want to worship God. So he built an altar there. Was this a blessing or a challenge for Abram? (blessing)

"Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe." (Genesis 12:10)

- The Bible says that Abram had nowhere to get food for his people or animals. So they had to go to Egypt and live there to get food. They must have been very hungry as they traveled to Egypt. Was this a blessing or a challenge for Abram? (challenge)

## The Promise Today

When Abraham faced the many challenges in his life, he trusted God to keep his promises. God promised Abraham that all people on earth would be blessed through him. God fulfilled that promise when Jesus was born because Jesus was a descendant of Abraham. Jesus was the greatest man who ever lived. He is the son of God. Jesus' life and death have blessed everyone, and God has fulfilled his promise to Abraham through Jesus. We will be blessed if we believe and obey Jesus.

## Sharing with Others

God gave Abraham a very exciting life! He moved to different lands and saw many beautiful places. He worshipped God and lived by faith! God wants to give us an exciting life, too. When we have faith in God and Jesus we can see the adventures!

Ask the students to think of someone they want to tell about Abraham's adventures. Remind them that Jesus wants everyone to have an exciting life—and he wants us to tell others about it. Ask the students to name someone they will share with this week. Close with a prayer.

## Teacher Tips

- With each new group of students, prepare a new "T" chart and share the answers from the previous groups to help generate ideas.
- Be prepared for students who differ in their opinions about challenge and blessing. Redirect the discussion to the main point of each text.

# Abraham Chosen by God

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## Map of Memories

The students will retrace Abraham's faithful journey as they think about the memories he made along the way.

### Materials

For each student:

- blue and brown crayons or colored pencils
- 5 small star stickers
- 1 piece of string or ribbon, 18"

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

R

### Preparation

Make a model to show to the students.

### Instructions

1. Distribute copies of Page B, the crayons, and string to the students and have them write their names in the space provided. Show the students your model, telling them that it is the map of Abraham's faithful journey. With the map, they will trace the path that Abraham took and think about the memories he made along the way.
2. Tell them to find Ur and Haran and put their fingers on them. Tell them: *While Abraham was living in Ur, God told him to go to Canaan because he wanted to bless him. Abraham took his family and set out for Canaan, but he stopped in Haran. After Abraham's father died, God called Abraham again and told him to go to Canaan because he wanted to bless him. So Abraham began his journey again.* Have students each put a star on Ur and Haran and write the words "Good bye" next to both places.
3. Tell students to find Canaan and put their fingers on it, saying: *In this land, Abraham had two special memories: one of a tree and one of some hills.*
4. Tell them to find the great tree of Moreh in Shechem and put their fingers on it. Have them each put a star on the tree, saying: *At this tree, God showed himself to Abraham and made a promise to give this land to Abraham's children. I don't think he ever forgot that!* Show them the altar on the map and tell them that this is where Abraham worshipped God. Have them each draw a picture of Abraham's happy face by the altar.

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F

T

5. Tell them to find the hills between Bethel and Ai and put their fingers there. Have them each put a star on the hills. Show them the altar and tell them that Abraham worshipped God here, too, saying: *Abraham must have had memories of the beautiful hills in this place.*
6. Tell them to find Egypt and put their fingers there. Have them each put a star on Egypt. Remind them that Abraham had to go to Egypt to get food because there was a famine in the land, saying: *Abraham must have had some memories of being very hungry.*
7. Have the students finish decorating the maps, using the blue crayons for the water, and brown and green for the land.
8. Finish the craft by helping the students to roll their maps up and tie them with the string.

### Conclusion

Remind the students that Abraham traveled in a time when there were no trains, planes or cars. He made his journey on foot and by camel. Even though he had many challenges, Abraham was blessed with special memories. Close with a prayer thanking God for the special memories he gives us.

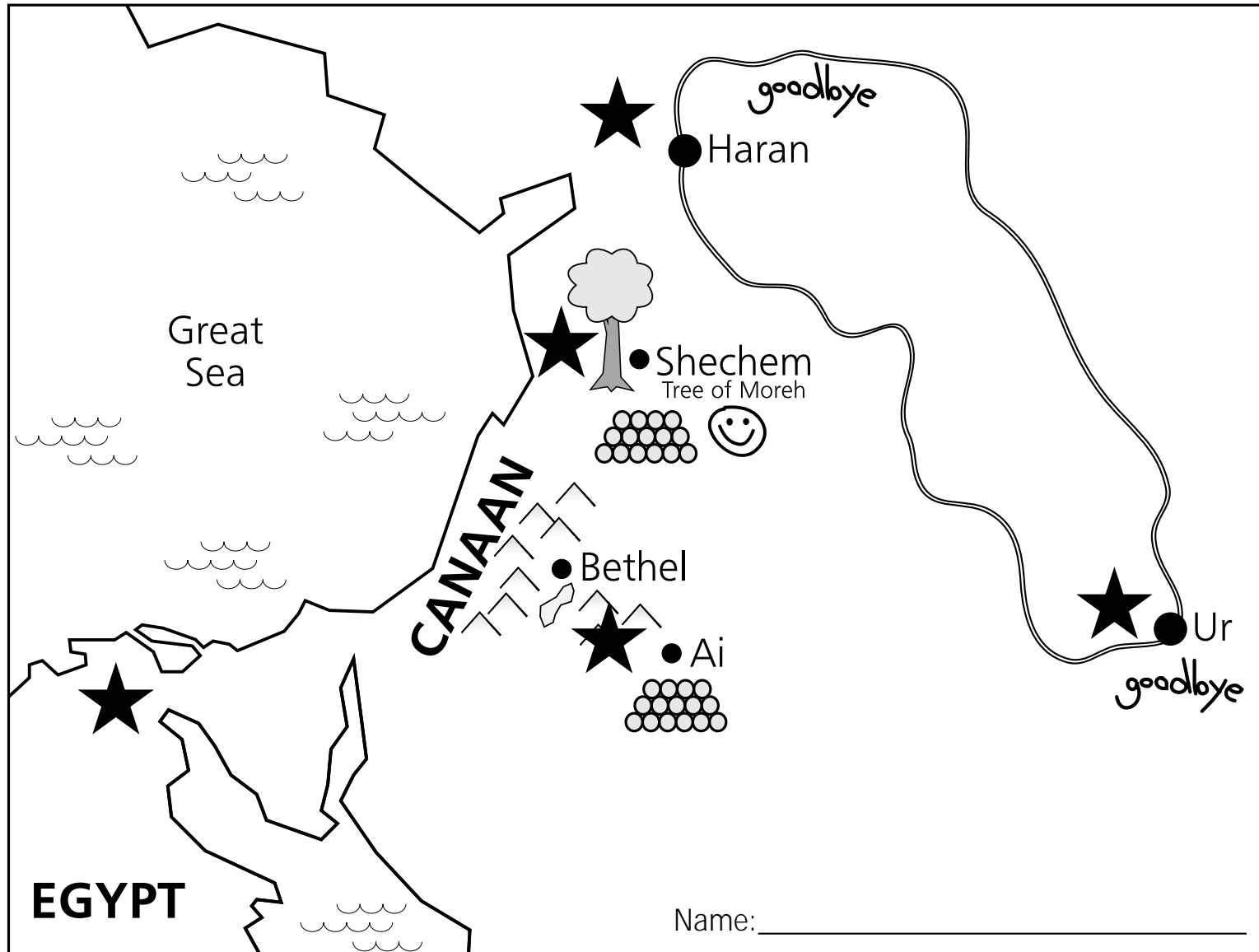
### Teacher Tips

- Accuracy—not perfection—is the goal in the activity. Help the students to find the places on the map and to label them correctly. Students can become easily discouraged if they misplace or mislabel an item. Offer encouragement and direction so that all the students can be successful.



3rd and 4th Grades

# Abraham Chosen by God



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## Promised Plans

The students will learn the memory verse as they hear, read and say it in the activity.

## Scripture Memory Verse

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

*Jeremiah 29:11*

## Materials

*For the teacher:*

- poster board
- felt-tip marker
- scissors

## Preparation

1. Cut the poster board into 8 strips, 4" x 11".
2. Write the following eight phrases on the strips of poster board (make sure you include correct capitalization and punctuation):
  - A. "For I know the plans
  - B. I have for you,"
  - C. declares the LORD,
  - D. "plans to prosper you
  - E. and not to harm you,
  - F. plans to give you hope
  - G. and a future."
  - H. Jeremiah 29:11

## Instructions

1. Seat the students in a circle. Divide the phrase cards among the students. Introduce the memory verse as a scripture that tells us how much God wants to bless our lives.
2. Read the memory verse on the opposite side of this card aloud to the class.
3. Read the memory verse again slowly, having the students put down each phrase card in the order that you say it.

4. Collect the phrase cards and shuffle them. Distribute them among the students and repeat Step 3. Repeat the activity one more time.
5. With the phrase cards displayed in order, let the students take turns saying the verse.
6. Shuffle the phrase cards and distribute them among the students. Let them place the cards in order from memory.
7. Shuffle the cards and give them to a pair of students. Let them place the cards in order from memory.
8. Shuffle the cards again and let each student in the group try to place the cards in order from memory. Allow them to help each other.
9. Take away the cards and invite the students to say the verse from memory.
10. If time permits, shuffle the cards and remove one. Have the students place the cards in order, identifying the missing phrase.

## Conclusion

Briefly discuss with the students some things that they hope for in their lives. Encourage and reassure them that God has a plan for each one of them. Close with a prayer thanking God for his special plans for our lives.

## Teacher Tips

- Teach by example. Know the memory verse by heart prior to class.

# Abraham Chosen by God

“For I know the plans  
I have for you,”  
declares the LORD,  
plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope  
and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11



**Lesson Objectives**

- The students will identify two challenges that Abraham faced in his faith.
- The students will trace Abraham's journey as he followed God's directions.
- The students will describe two ways in which their lives will be better as they follow God's plan.

**Lesson Text**

Genesis 12

**Scripture Memory Verse**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

**Lesson Plan**

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Road Trip

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Face the Day

Game: Postcard Picture Game

Bible Skills: Following Directions

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

**Road Trip**

The students will consider the details of Abraham's journey and plan a modern-day trip.

**Materials***For each student:*

- pencil
- crayons or colored pencils

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

**Preparation**

Complete your copy of Page C prior to class.

**Instructions**

1. As the students arrive, distribute copies of Page C and encourage students to work in pairs.
2. Circulate among them to offer assistance.
3. Talk with the students about the questions. Help them to see what it must have been like for Abraham to plan his journey.
4. On the back of their pages, have the students draw pictures of their families leaving to go on imaginary trips.

**Teacher Tips**

- To make the activity more realistic, you may want to bring in maps, a calculator, travel magazines, and items related to planning a trip.

**Face the Day**

The students will think of ways that their lives will be better as they follow God's plan.

**Materials**

*For each student:*

- pencil
- Bible

*For the teacher:*

- large writing surface

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

**Preparation**

Fill out your copy of Reproducible Page D.

**Reviewing the Bible Story**

As the students arrive, distribute copies of Page D and have them write their names. Tell them to look at the two pictures on the top of the page. Ask them if they know who it is (Abraham). Review the Bible Story by saying:

*This week we learned about Abraham. God loved Abraham, and Abraham loved God! One day the Lord told Abraham that he was going to do some very special things for him. God said that he would make Abraham into a great nation and make his name great. He told him that all the people of the world would be blessed because of him.*

*Let's look at the picture of Abraham. God told Abraham to leave his country and go to another land that God would show him. Abraham had to leave the place where he had lived for many years. Abraham had a wife and servants and many possessions that he had to move. It took a lot of work to move to a new land, but Abraham believed that God would keep his promise. How do you think that Abraham felt about leaving his country? (Take responses.)*

*God told Abraham to leave his people and his father's household to go to the land that God would show him. Abraham had to leave his friends and the people in his father's house. Abraham did not know where God was taking him, but Abraham believed that God would keep his promise. How do you think that Abraham felt about leaving his people and his father's household? (Take responses.)*

**Life Application**

Tell the students to look at the right hand picture. Ask them what they think is happening in the scene. Ask them to describe how they think the student is feeling. Write their responses on the large writing surface and have the students choose one word that best describes the picture. Ask them how they think that this student's life will be better because he chose to follow God. For example: The boy's life will be better because he will have a memory of doing something that made God happy.

**Making Connections**

Ask the students to think of one way that their lives will be better if they follow God's plan. Help them to write their answers on their copies of Page D.

**Conclusion**

Close with a prayer asking God to help the students to have great faith like Abraham.

**Teacher Tips**

- Some of the students will have trouble describing their feelings. Help them by sharing examples from your own life. Seek advice about how best to share your experiences with this age group.



## Postcard Picture Game

The students will review important information and ideas about Abraham's journey in this fun picture game.

### Materials

*For each student:*

- pencil

*For the teacher:*

- large writing surface
- 15 small pieces of paper, approximately 1" x 2"
- a small bag or container
- game board on reverse side of this card

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page E, 1 copy for the teacher



### Preparation

1. Cut out the words from your copy of Page E and place them face down on the appropriate spaces on the game board, according to their point values.
2. On five of the small pieces of paper write "5," on five more write "10," and on five more write "20." Fold the pieces of paper and put them in the small bag or container.
3. Practice playing the game prior to the class.



### Instructions

1. Divide the students into two teams. Let them choose names for their teams from an idea in the Bible Story (i.e., the Voyagers vs. the Faithful Followers).
2. Choose a team to begin. One player takes a folded piece of paper from the bag which indicates the point value of the "stamp" he will choose. The student then picks a "stamp" with the corresponding point value and reads the word silently. For example: If a student chooses a "10" from the folded papers, he then picks a "stamp" from the 10-point postcard. No other students may look at the word. If the student has a question about the word, you may help him.



3. The student has one minute to draw a picture of the word on the large writing surface for his team. If his team does not guess correctly, the opposing team has ten seconds to try to guess the word. They may not redraw the picture. The point value is given to the team that guesses correctly.
  4. Have teams take turns drawing the words until all have been used. Collect each word after it is played so that it can be used with the next group.
  5. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.
- NOTE: This game can also be played like charades. Instead of drawing pictures of the words, the students can act them out.

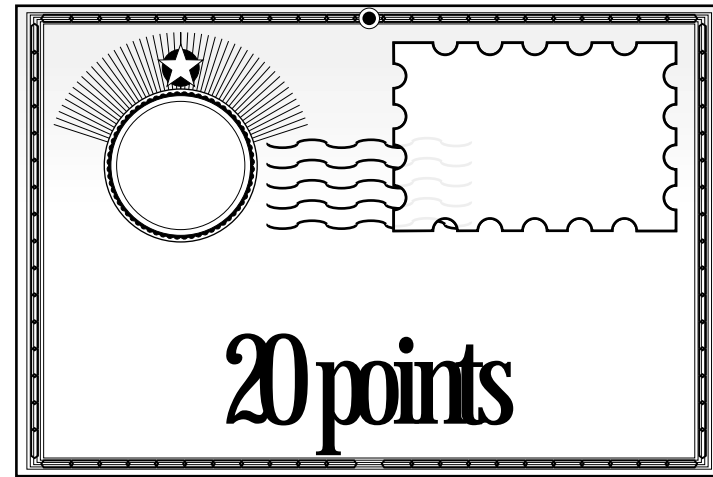
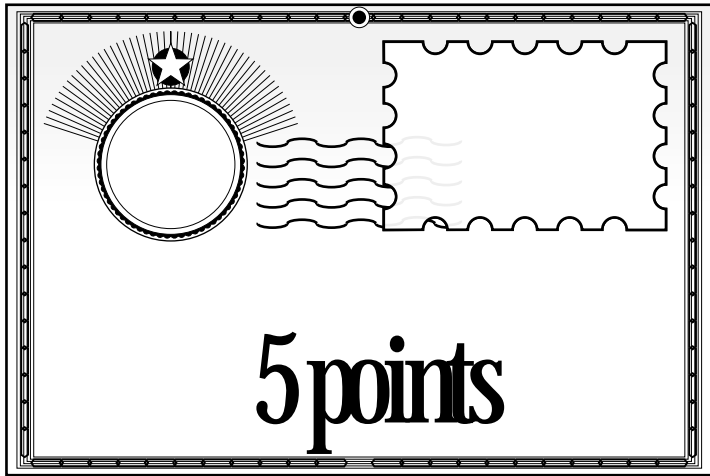
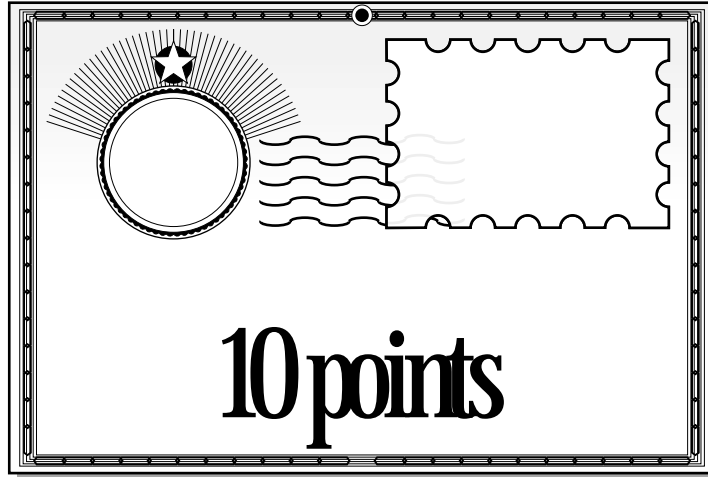
### Conclusion

When the students have finished the game, review the words with them. Close with a prayer to thank God for the ability to have fun.

### Teacher Tips

- Do not permit the students to criticize each other's drawings. Some students can be self-conscious about their abilities. Encourage all of their attempts to draw or act out the words.

G  
A  
M  
E



**Following Directions**

The students will sharpen their Old Testament Bible skills in this fun Bible drill.

**Materials**

For each student:

- Bible

**Preparation**

Mark the following places in your Bible: Genesis 12:2, Joshua 24:21, Psalms 119:133, Jeremiah 1:8 and Jonah 2:10.

**Instructions**

1. Tell the students to begin by closing their Bibles. Explain that today's activity will help them sharpen their Bible skills. Remind them of the five sections in the Old Testament that they learned in Unit 1: the books of the Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets and Minor Prophets. These will help them in today's activity.
2. On your signal, they will open their Bibles and follow your directions.
3. You will only say the directions once. The students must listen carefully.
4. At the end of your directions, have the students read the verse. See who has arrived at the correct location.
5. Give each set of directions as listed on the reverse side of this card. You may want to give some sets of directions a second time to help the students improve.
6. If time permits, choose one or two students to give a set of directions to the group.

**Conclusion**

Ask the students: *How does it feel to follow directions? How does it feel to get lost when following the directions? How does it feel to arrive successfully at the place where you are going? God gave Abraham many directions, and Abraham listened and followed very carefully. Can you think of another Bible character who had to follow directions carefully? (Noah) Close with a prayer asking God to help the students be great listeners.*

**Teacher Tips**

- To increase the challenge of this activity, you can increase the speed with each new set of directions. However, be very careful not to exasperate your students by going too fast for them.

### Directions

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#### Set One

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Law.
3. Turn to Genesis.
4. Turn to Chapter 12.
5. Turn to v. 2.
6. Read the verse.

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#### Set Two

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Law.
3. Turn to Exodus.
4. Turn to Chapter 15.
5. Turn to v. 33.
6. There is no verse 33.

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#### Set Three

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of History.
3. Turn to Joshua.
4. Turn to Chapter 24.
5. Turn to v. 21.
6. Read the verse.

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#### Set Four

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Poetry.
3. Turn to Genesis.
4. Genesis is in the books of Law.

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#### Set Five

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Poetry.
3. Turn to Psalms.
4. Turn to Chapter 119.
5. Turn to v. 133.
6. Read the verse.

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#### Set Six

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Major Prophets.
3. Turn to Micah.
4. Micah is a minor prophet.

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#### Set Seven

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Major Prophets.
3. Turn to Jeremiah.
4. Turn to Chapter 1.
5. Turn to v. 8.
6. Read the verse.

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#### Set Eight

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of History.
3. Turn to Third Kings.
4. There is no book of Third Kings.

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#### Set Nine

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Minor Prophets.
3. Turn to Jonah.
4. Turn to Chapter 2.
5. Turn to v. 10.
6. Read the verse.

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#### Set Ten

1. Open your Bibles to the Old Testament.
2. Turn to the books of Minor Prophets.
3. Turn to Jonah.
4. Turn to Chapter 5.
5. Jonah only has four chapters.

If time permits, make up your own sets of directions.

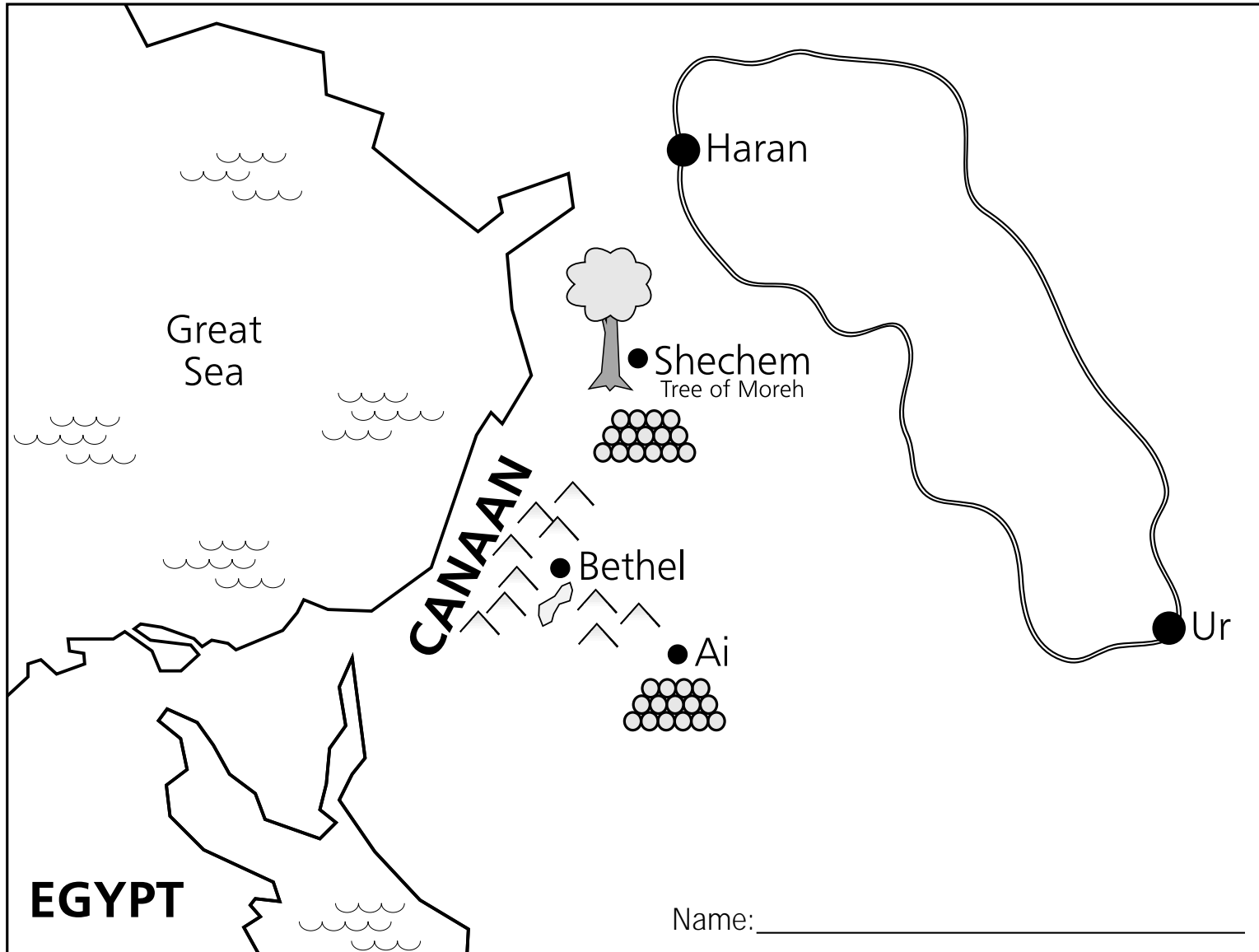


<i>Blessing</i>	<b>Challenge</b>
BLESSING	Challenge
Blessing	<b>Challenge</b>



Core/Craft

1 copy for each student





**Supplement/Preclass**

1 copy for each student

Turn to Genesis 12 and use the Bible to help you fill in the blanks to this story:

**Road Trip**

One day, \_\_\_\_\_ called Abraham and told him to leave his \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_'s household and go to a new land. God made a \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham.

God told Abraham that he would make him into a great nation and he would make his \_\_\_\_\_ great. God told Abraham that he would give him this \_\_\_\_\_ and all the people on the \_\_\_\_\_ would be blessed.

Abraham believed the promise because he had great \_\_\_\_\_ in God. Abraham took his wife, \_\_\_\_\_, and all his \_\_\_\_\_ and all the \_\_\_\_\_ who worked for him. They packed up their \_\_\_\_\_ and left for the new land.

\_\_\_\_\_ traveled for many miles. Along the way, he stopped at the great tree of Moreh, where he built an \_\_\_\_\_ to worship God. Then he did this again when he came to the \_\_\_\_\_ between Bethel and Ai.

Abraham  
camels  
people  
father  
earth

Sarai  
altar  
hills  
tents  
country

God  
promise  
blessing  
faith  
name

**Road Trip!!!!!!**

Your local television station has just sponsored you and your family to take a long trip across the country. In order to take the trip, you must travel by foot. This means that you will be walking the entire way! Since you are taking your family with you, it is necessary to figure out what to bring.

Make a list of all the items you will need for the trip and why you want to bring them. Remember that the trip will take over a year!

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
1. Three pairs of shoes	To keep feet comfortable
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

What will the weather be like?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What types of people will you meet?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write one thing that might happen on the trip:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Since you are going to be gone for over a year, what are you going to miss the most?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for each student



My life will be better if I follow God because:

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Supplement/Game

1 copy for the teacher

Abraham 5	Sarai 10	God 20
camels 5	altar 10	promise 20
people 5	hills 10	blessing 20
father 5	tents 10	faith 20
earth 5	country 10	nation 20