

LESSON 9

REFERENCES: GENESIS 12:1-9; ACTS 7:2-7; HEBREWS 11:8-12; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 125-131.

Abram Follows God

Have you ever moved to a new house? a new city or country? Moving is not easy. There are so many things to pack and so many friends to leave. A long time ago God told Abram to leave his home and go far away to another country. What do you think Abram did?

A

bram!" a Voice called.

Abram looked around. He couldn't see anybody. *Who is calling me?* he wondered.

"Abram! I am the Lord, the God who made the heavens and the earth."

Abram stood very still. He held his breath. He

listened very carefully. God really was speaking to him.

"I want you to leave this city of Haran," God said.

"Leave your father's house and go to another land that I will show you.

"I will make your family into a great nation," God continued.

"I will protect you. I will bless you. And through your family, the whole earth will be blessed."



Memory Verse

"Follow the way of love."

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1, NIV.

The Message
Christian families follow God.

God explained to Abram that in his family, the Savior of the world would be born. That Savior was Jesus, who would be born in Bethlehem many years later.

What God was asking Abram to do would not be easy. But Abram and his wife, Sarai, wanted to follow God, so they began to pack all their belongings. Abram and his servants gathered together all his sheep and other animals. Sarai and her servants prepared tents for the journey.

Abram was a wealthy man. He had large flocks of sheep and other animals. He would leave nothing behind, especially not the servants who helped take care of the animals.

So Abram and Sarai took everything they owned with them. They knew they would not return.

Abram's nephew, Lot, decided to go with Abram and Sarai. So Lot, his family, and his servants packed all their belongings too. They gathered all their animals and prepared tents for the journey.

Lot was also a wealthy man, though probably not as rich as his uncle Abram. It would be a long, long caravan that would travel for many days before reaching the special place God had for them.



Finally the day came when everything was ready. Abram and Sarai got up very early. The servants were up too. Lot, his family, and his servants were ready. Everyone helped to load their belongings on the pack animals. The air was full of *ba-a-as* as the sheep milled about nervously.

At last Abram, Sarai, Lot, and all their servants started down the dusty road. It was a long, long way to the land where God wanted them to go. In fact, Abram didn't even know exactly where they were going. But he knew that God was leading them, and that was enough. Abram and all those with him would follow God.

Do and Say

SABBATH

Help your child share the magnet and paper clip chain made in Sabbath School with someone. If they didn't get one in Sabbath School, provide a small magnet and several steel paper clips. Have your child hook the paper clips together and place them on the table. Then have him hold the magnet underneath the table and underneath where the paper clips are resting and use it to move or "lead" them. Ask: Whom do the paper clips represent? the magnet? Have your child do the demonstration and tell the story to someone this week. Sing about sharing, then pray for the one who receives this gift.

Use the following motions to say the memory verse together each day this week:

Follow the way Point to the distance.

of love. Cross arms over chest.

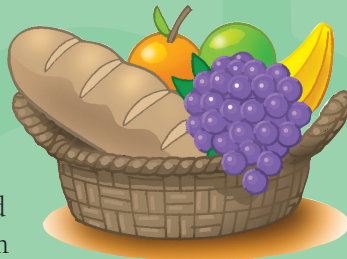
1 Corinthians 14:1 .. Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Together, read Genesis 12:1–5. Ask: How do you think Abram felt about leaving home? What would you have packed to go on the journey with Abram? Pray that God will lead your family this week.

MONDAY

Play follow the leader with your child. Take turns being the leader. Ask: Whom do you want to lead our family? (God) Talk about ways God leads your family. Thank God for His Word, the Bible, that helps us know how He leads us every day.



TUESDAY

With your child, plan a long walk, but do not disclose your destination. Decide how to dress, what to take, what to eat, and so forth. Lead the way to a special place and share your food. Talk about Abram's family and their journey. What did they take? What did they eat?

WEDNESDAY

Talk about the people who went with Abram on his journey. If your family were to go on a long journey, who might go with you? Count the people as you name them. Thank God for leading you when you travel.

THURSDAY

Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Put dry rice, beans, or pebbles into a small bottle. Help your child shake it in time to the music as you sing. Thank God for leading your family today.



FRIDAY

Review the Bible story for worship. Ask each person to tell about a time God led them. Have your child use the rhythm instrument made yesterday as you sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Thank God for leading your family this week. Have your child say the memory verse for the rest of the family.