

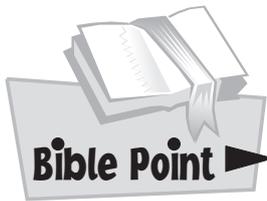
Abraham and Sarah

“Leave your native country...and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you,” God told Abram. Without question or hesitation, Abram obeyed God’s command. He didn’t stop to ask where, why, or what for—although these questions must have been on his mind. He simply followed God’s call, trusting God to give him a new land and descendants to fill it. Abram’s faith in God’s loving care grew as God continued to provide for his needs. Again and again, God renewed his covenant with Abram. Shortly before the birth of Abram’s long-promised son Isaac, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, which means “father of many.” Abraham trusted God, and God kept his promise.

Like Abraham, 3- and 4-year-olds are on a lifelong journey to know God better. At first, they don’t know what God is like. But as they hear Bible stories and experience God’s love, they begin to love and trust him. As you reinforce the fact that God is with them every step of the way, young children learn that God watches over them, just as he watched over Abraham. Your preschoolers will have fun learning about God’s love as they travel with Abraham during these five lessons.

Five Lessons on Abraham and Sarah

Lesson	The Point	Page	Bible Basis
9	God loves us and helps us follow him.	125	Genesis 12:1-5
10	God loves us and wants us to love him.	137	Genesis 12:7-9
11	God loves us and gives us what we need.	151	Genesis 13:1-18
12	God loves us and calls us by name.	163	Genesis 15:5; 17:1-7, 15-16
13	God loves us and gives us good surprises.	175	Genesis 18:1-16; 21:1-7



Bible Point ▶

God loves us and helps us follow him.

Bible Verse

We trust God (adapted from Psalm 52:8b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- pack up for a trip,
 - hear how God led Abram to a new place to live,
 - discover that Abram traveled on foot or on a camel, and
 - thank God for helping them follow him.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- God calls Abram to move to a new land.

**Genesis
12:1-5**



“Sell everything you can’t carry with you, leave all your friends and extended family, get your wife and belongings in the car, and start driving. You’ll probably never come back here again, but don’t worry about that—I’ll show you where to go.” If God were speaking to Abram today, that might be what he’d say. What trust in God it took for Abram to leave his home, his country, and everything familiar and comfortable and set out for an unknown destination!

Abram was apparently a wealthy man, with a lot of sheep, cattle, and other livestock. In those days, traveling with herds in unknown territory was treacherous. How could he have known they’d be safe? But he trusted and followed God.

What helped Abram on his way was a trusting relationship with God and the promises of blessing that would benefit not only his household but “all the families on earth”! God’s promises were all Abram needed.

Prayer

- Read Hebrews 11:8.
- Think of a time when God asked you to do something that seemed strange or even slightly risky. How did you respond?
- Pray: Lord, help me trust you more and be a good example of faith to the children I teach by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Desert Tent Name Tags” (p. 135), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Pack a Bag —Pack a suitcase for an imaginary trip, and hear how God led Abram on a long journey to a new home.	Suitcase, items to be packed	
	Option 2: Draw Your Path —Make a path on a map, and hear how Abram took a long trip.	Road maps, crayons	
	Option 3: Follow the Footprints —Follow footprints around the room, and hear how Abram followed God.	Cardboard, pencil, scissors, construction paper	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Pack up the classroom for a pretend trip.	Large box, toys and other classroom items	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear a story about Abram and his journey to a new country from Genesis 12:1-5.	Bible, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Follow a map to a new land.	Maps from Option 2, blocks	
Closing 	Whiskers Takes a Hike —Teach Whiskers that God leads us on all our journeys.	Small stick, tape	
	Following God March —March around the room as they do an action rhyme about following God.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Desert Tent Name Tags” (p. 135), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “What promises did you keep last week?” and “Why does God always keep his promises to us?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God loves us and helps us follow him.**
- Give each child a photocopy of a desert tent name tag. Write children’s names on their name tags, and pin or tape the name tags to their clothing.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



BIBLE POINT



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Have you ever taken a trip with your family? Tell me about it” or “Has your family ever had to move to a new home? What was that like?”

■ Option 1: Pack a Bag

SUPPLIES: suitcase, items to be packed

Set out a small suitcase or shopping bag and items for children to pack, such as dress-up items, favorite blankets, or stuffed animals. Let the children pack the suitcase for an imaginary trip. Talk about things that they might take with them on a trip, and encourage children to tell you about trips they’ve been on with their families. As children pack the suitcase, explain that today’s Bible story is about a man named Abram who went on a long trip to a new home.



■ Option 2: Draw Your Path

SUPPLIES: road maps, crayons

Unfold two or three old road maps, and spread them out on a table or the floor. Mark several beginning and ending points with different colored X’s. Set out crayons, and invite children to draw paths between the points. Point out mountains, rivers, and roads on the maps as you help children draw their paths. As they work, talk about ways that we travel today, such as riding bicycles, driving, or flying in airplanes. Explain that today’s Bible story is about a man who traveled on foot or on a camel.

You’ll use the maps again in “Do the Bible Story.”



If you don’t have any old road maps at home, make your own by drawing a few mountains, rivers, and roads on sheets of newsprint.

■ Option 3: Follow the Footprints

SUPPLIES: cardboard, pencil, scissors, construction paper

Before class, trace your footprints onto stiff cardboard. Cut out the cardboard footprints, and use them as patterns to trace and cut additional footprints from colored construction paper. Use a single color of footprints to mark a trail around your room for children to follow. When children reach the end of the trail, let them take turns making their own trails around the classroom.

As children follow their trails, explain that today's Bible story is about how a man named Abram followed God to a new land. Remind children that **► God loves us and helps us follow him.**

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.



BIBLE POINT ►

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: large box, toys and other classroom items

Tell children that when you turn the lights off and then on again, they're to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Packed a suitcase; drew on a map; followed a footprint trail.)

Say: **If you drew on the map, use your finger to make a path on the floor. If you followed the footprint trail, stand up and stomp your feet, and then sit down. If you packed a suitcase, clap your hands like you're closing a suitcase.**

Pause for children to follow your directions. Then continue: **You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Today we're going to hear how God led a man named Abram on a big trip. God wanted Abram to move**

to a new land, so he asked Abram to pack up everything he had.

Set out a large box. Say: **Let's see what that might have been like by packing up our classroom right now. When I say, "Let's pack up!" I want you each to find one thing in our classroom to put in this box. Ready? Let's pack up!**

Help children collect toys and other classroom items to put in the box. Let them keep bringing toys until the box is full. Then say: **Look at this big box of stuff! This is only from one room. Imagine how much stuff Abram had when he packed up his whole house. It was a big job, but Abram knew God would help him. ►God loves us and helps us follow him, too. Let's put our toys away now so we can hear about Abram's big trip.**

Help children return the toys to their places, and then have children gather in the story area.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today.**

Lead the children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *star stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *star stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.** Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
 I'm so glad we're all here today.
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
 Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
 Thank you for everyone who's here.
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

■ **Hear and Tell the Bible Story**

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 13, 14

Open the Bible to **Genesis 12:1-5**. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of the Bible Story.**

Bring out the *Bible Big Book: Abraham*. Read aloud the text for pages 1 to 3 using the text printed on the back cover of the book. As you read, show children the pictures. After you finish this portion of the story, put the *Bible Big Book* away and out of sight.

Ask: • **Where did God ask Abram to move to?** (Far away; to a different country.)

• **What kinds of things do you think Abram and Sarai packed for their journey?** (Toothbrushes; clothes; pots and pans; everything.)

• **Do you think it was easy for Abram and Sarai to pack up everything and move away?** (No, because they had too much stuff to pack; yes, they put everything on camels.)

Say: **Abram and Sarai were probably scared to move to a completely new land. But they knew that God loved them and would help them through their whole journey. They trusted God. We know that God loves us, too, so we trust God, just like Abram and Sarai did. You know, that's what our Bible verse for today says!** Open your Bible to **Psalm 52:8b**, and show children the verse. **See? The Bible says that ►We trust God.** Repeat the verse together. **Let's learn a song about trusting God!**

BIBLE VERSE ►

Lead children in singing "We Trust God" (adapted from Psalm 52:8b) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me" with the CD (track 13).



SING
 God, we'll trust and follow you (*point up*)
 In all we say and all we do. (*Touch mouth with both hands; then extend arms.*)
 We will trust you every day (*cross arms over chest*)
 At home, at church, at school, at play. (*Turn in a circle with arms outstretched.*)

Yes, God, we trust you. (Cross arms over chest; then extend arms upward.)

Yes, God, we trust you. (Cross arms over chest; then extend arms upward.)

Yes, God, we trust you. (Cross arms over chest; then extend arms upward.)

We trust you every day. (Cross arms over chest.)

(Repeat.)

Say: ► **God loves us and helps us follow him, too.**

Ask: • **What are some ways you can follow God?** (Come to church; pray.)

Say: **We can love and follow God, just as Abram and Sarai did. Let's learn a song to help us remember how God helped Abram and Sarai on their big trip to the new land. You can listen the first time. Then you can pack your bags and walk along with me.**

Lead the children in singing "God Wants Us to Follow Him" (track 14) with the CD to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." After singing through the song once, lead children in packing pretend bags and walking around the room as they sing the song again. When the song ends, lead children back to the story area.



SING

**Pack, pack, pack your bags—
Now it's time to go.
God wants us to follow him
Because he loves us so.**

**Walk, walk, walk along
On the desert sand.
God wants us to follow him
Into a brand-new land.**



Say: **Sometimes, even when we mean to do the right thing, we forget to follow Jesus and we do whatever we want instead. But Jesus will help us to follow and obey him if we just ask. Let's pray right now.**

Pray: **Lord, thank you for showing us the way and for wanting us to follow you. Help us to always obey. In Jesus' name, amen.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: maps from Option 2, blocks

Gather the maps children made during Let's Get Started, and spread the maps out on the floor. Give each child a block. Say: **Let's pretend we're taking a big trip like Abram did, and we'll pretend your block is a car. When I say "go," drive your car along the road that's marked on your map. When you get to the end of the road, drive your car over to the story area and sit down. Ready? Go!**

Let children "drive" their block cars on the maps, and then encourage them to drive over to the story area. When all the children have gathered in the story area, collect the blocks.



You'll probably have several children "traveling" on each map. Encourage children to share the maps, and remind them to take turns going on trips. If you have a large class, you may want to provide additional maps.

Ask: • **When people move today, they pack all of their things in a moving truck. Do you think Abram had a car or a truck to move his things with?** (No, he had camels instead; they didn't have cars back then.)

• **If he didn't have a car or a truck, how do you think he moved everything?** (He carried it; he pushed it; he put everything on camels.)

Say: **Abram and Sarai didn't have a car or truck. They probably didn't have a fancy map to follow. But they knew that God loved them and would help them reach the new land. ► *God loves us and helps us follow him, too.***

You know, we've been learning about Abram's big trip. I wonder if our friend Whiskers has gone on a trip. I haven't seen him for a few days. Let's call his name and see if he's around.

Lead children in calling for Whiskers.



BIBLE POINT

Closing

■ Whiskers Takes a Hike

SUPPLIES: *small stick, tape*

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and tape a small stick to his paw. Go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: What, what? What's all the yelling about?

Teacher: We were calling you, Whiskers. We haven't seen much of you lately, and we weren't sure if you were around. Where have you been?

Whiskers: My dad and I have been going on some hikes. (*Holding up stick*) See the walking stick I found?

Teacher: I love to go hiking. Do any of you boys and girls like to go on hikes or walks with your mom or dad? (*Let the children respond.*)

Whiskers: I like to go hiking, too. But sometimes I get scared, especially when we hike in the woods. I always wonder if we'll be able to find our way back.

Teacher: Hearing about your hike reminds me of our Bible story. We've been learning about a man who walked a long, long way to a new land. He didn't know exactly where he was going or if he would ever come back! Children, let's tell Whiskers our story about Abram.

(*Lead children in telling Whiskers how God led Abram on a journey to a new land.*)

Whiskers: Was he afraid? If I had to walk that far, I'd be afraid of getting lost!

Teacher: No, Abram wasn't afraid because he knew God would be with him. God promised to lead Abram and his family to a new country to live. Abram knew that ► God loves us and helps us follow him, so he packed up everything and did what God asked him to do.

Whiskers: Wow! That was a long way to walk. I don't think I could walk that long—I better keep practicing my hiking. In fact, I think I hear my dad calling me now. We're going on another hike today. Maybe while we're walking, I'll tell him the story about Abram's trip.

Teacher: Have a good time, Whiskers! Remember that ► God loves us and helps us follow him.

Whiskers: I'll remember. Thanks! Goodbye, friends!



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■ Following God March

SUPPLIES: none

Say: ► God loves us and helps us follow him. Let's learn an action rhyme to help us remember that.

Lead children in the following action rhyme. The first time through, do the motions in parentheses. The second time through, have each child join hands with a partner and march around the room. The third time through, have everyone join hands and march across the room in one long line.

I can follow God each day. (*March in place.*)

I know he'll help me all the way. (*Nod head.*)

God loves me, I know it's true. (*Hug self.*)

I will follow God—will you? (*Point to someone else.*)

Close with a prayer similar to this one: **Dear God, thank you for loving us and for helping us follow you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Follower Walk

Have children line up single file for a walk around the church. Lead children quietly through your church halls and then outside. When you get outside, let children take turns leading the line. Encourage leaders to watch for sticks or other things followers might trip over. As you're walking, talk about Abram's long walk. Point out that God was his leader. God watched out for Abram just as the leaders watched out for the followers on your walk. Remind children that ► God loves us and helps us follow him.

Make to Take: Travel Hats



Before class, punch holes in the sides of paper plates, as shown at left. You'll need one paper plate for each child.

Explain that Abram and Sarai wore head coverings to protect their skin from the hot sun on their long trip. Distribute the paper plates and collage items for children to decorate their own travel hats. Include items such as fabric scraps, paper confetti, lace, or glitter glue, as well as crayons or markers. While children are working, review the story of Abram's big trip.

As each child finishes decorating a travel hat, have an adult helper thread a piece of string through the holes to make a chin strap. Then help children tie the hats on and take a walk around the room!

Treat to Eat: Graham-Cracker Tents



Give each child three graham-cracker squares. Then set out bowls of marshmallow cream and plastic knives. Show each child how to make a graham-cracker tent: Lay one square flat. Put marshmallow cream on the other two squares, and set them on top of the first square; then lean them together, as shown at left.

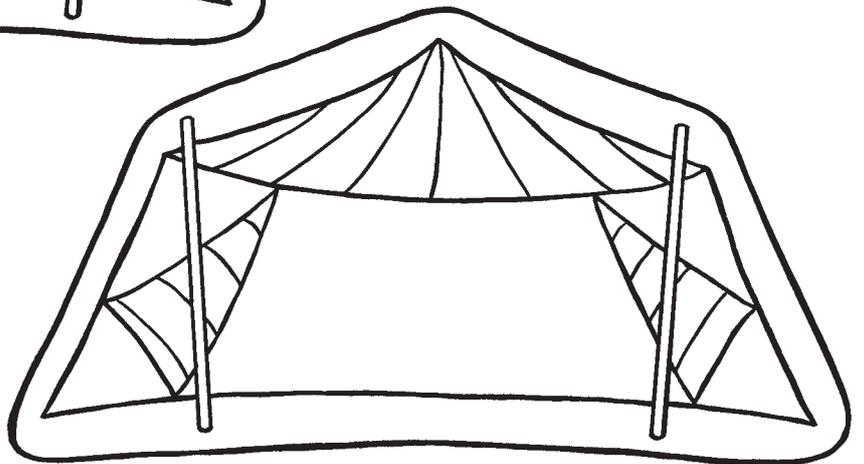
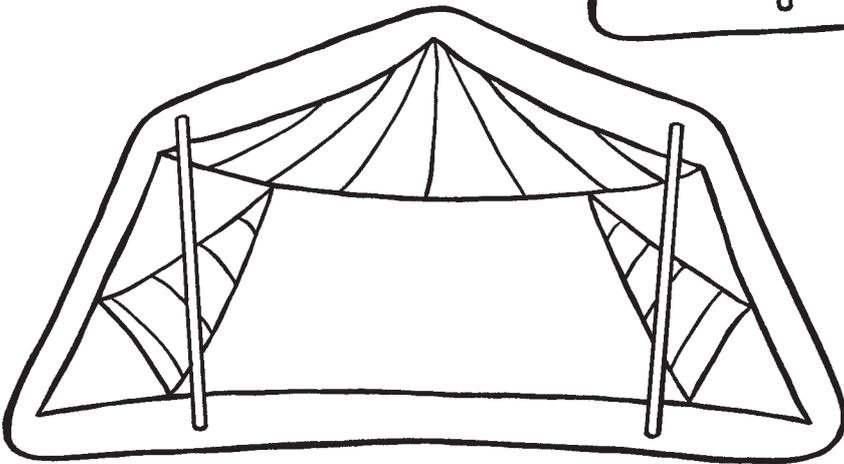
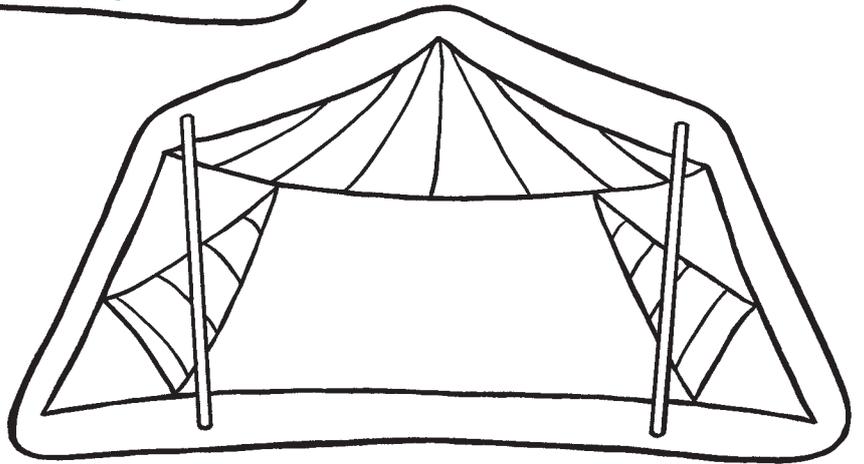
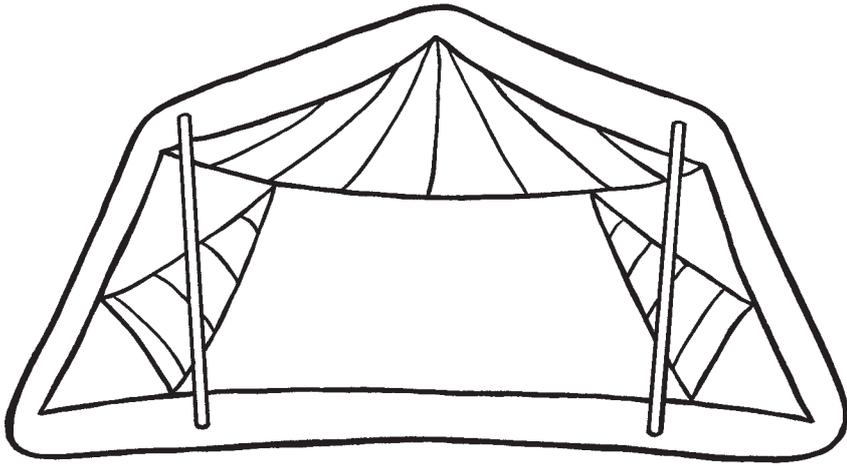
As children eat their graham-cracker tents, point out that Abram and Sarai traveled for many days and probably stayed in tents along the way. Remind children that God helped Abram and Sarai find the new land and that ► God loves us and helps us follow him, too.



Story Picture: Abram's Big Trip

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out 2-inch squares cut from grocery sacks, and help children glue the "bags" onto the camels' backs in the picture. Then set out crayons or markers for children to color the rest of the picture. As children work, talk with them about Abram's faith in God. Remind them that ► God loves us and helps us follow him, just as he helped Abram.

Desert Tent Name Tags



Today I learned... God loves us and helps us follow him.

Help me learn this:

We trust God (adapted from Psalm 52:8b).

Ask me:

- What did God ask Abram to do?
- What would you pack for a big trip? What did Abram pack?
- Would you be scared to take a big trip like Abram did? Why or why not?

Family Fun

- Set up a tent in your backyard or living room. If you don't have a tent, have your child help you make one using blankets and chairs. Serve a meal in the tent. After you eat, read the story of Abram's big trip from Genesis 12:1-5. Thank God for taking care of Abram and for taking care of your family.



**Abram Follows
God to a New Land**
(Genesis 12:1-5)

