**Abram Moves to a New Place**

**Genesis 12:1-9**

*We can trust God’s power.*

**Teacher Background**

**Bible Background**

* Read: Genesis 12:1-9
* In This Passage: God tells Abram to pack up and move to a new land. He doesn’t tell Abram where to go right away…just promises to show him the land and bring Abram blessings. Despite the uncertainty of God’s directions, Abram heads out, trusting and worshipping God as he travels.
* Bible Point: We can trust God’s power.
* Summary Verse:**“**A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10).

**Prepare Your Heart**

* You’ll Be Teaching: *We can trust God’s power.* Even as your church opens up and things aren’t *as* unusual as they have been, kids may still feel a lot of uncertainty. What will school be like when it starts back up? When can I hug people again? When will people stop wearing masks? Will my parents have a job? This lesson will help kids trust in God’s power, even in uncertain times.
* Think About: What uncertainties are you feeling right now? Give them to God in trust.
* Pray for kids who are wrestling with these uncertain times, that they will trust in God’s power.

**Lesson Activities**

* Choose what works best for your timeframe and setting.
* Be sure to use the Bible Discovery.
* Create a supply bag for each child with the supplies needed for this lesson. Label the bags with kids’ names to prevent cross contamination.

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| **Section** | **What Kids Do** | **Supplies** |
| **Opening** *(5 minutes)* | Kids share about a topic related to the lesson. | * Bible
 |
| **Music Videos** *(10 minutes)* | Kids sing songs of praise to God. | * video player
* “My God Is Powerful” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6827563/video/394499092))
* “I Will Trust You” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/4445582/video/206090670))
* “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/4445582/video/206089355))
 |
| **Bible Discovery** *(20 minutes)* | Kids pack “suitcases” and find out if they packed the right thing. | * Bible
* paper (4 pieces per child)
* washable markers (several colors per child)
 |
| **Lesson Video** *(10 minutes)* | Kids watch “God’s Plans” to see how God had a plan for three kids who all had to move across the country. | * video player
* “God's Plans” teaching video (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/7296489/video/433782612))
 |
| **Game** *(10 minutes)* | Kids play a game where they have to predict what to do next. | * coin (for teacher use only)
* upbeat music (optional)
* music player (optional)
 |
| **Bible Exploration** *(15 minutes)* | Kids explore trust versus doubt. | * Bible
 |
| **Closing Prayer** *(5 minutes)* | Kids march and pray. |  |

**Opening-----------------------------------------------------------------**

**Supplies**

* Bible

**Welcome**

* Thank kids for coming.
* Just for fun, have kids give a foot five (high-five with feet) to a friend near them.
* Make announcements.
* Introduce new kids.
* Celebrate birthdays by having kids sing the words “happy birthday” like opera singers.

**Introduce the Lesson**

 Say: **I’m so glad we can be here together! You know, things are a little bit different now, and maybe there’s a lot you feel uncertain about. That’s okay, because today we’re going to see how we can trust God’s power.**

**Share**

* Tell kids about a time *you* had to follow directions.
* Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about when *they’ve* had to follow directions.
* After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

**Summarize**

Open a Bible to Genesis 12 and say: **Today’s Bible story is about a guy who followed God’s directions too…even when he didn’t have them all! He had to trust God with the things he didn’t know. Right now, there’s a lot we don’t know, either. But even when we have uncertainties, we can trust God’s power. We’ll explore what happened in the Bible, which is God’s true book for us. We can learn about other people, how they trusted God, and how we can trust God too! First, let’s talk with God.**

Pray, asking God for help trusting his power.

**Music Videos----------------------------------------------------------**

My God Is Powerful

**Supplies**

* video player
* “My God Is Powerful” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6827563/video/394499092))
* “I Will Trust You” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/4445582/video/206090670))
* “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/4445582/video/206089355))

**Tip**

* Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided.

**Sing Songs to God**

 Sing the three songs in any order.

**Bible Discovery------------------------------------------------------**

Abram Moves to a New Place (Genesis 12:1-9)

**Supplies**

* Bible
* paper (4 pieces per child)
* washable markers (several colors per child)

**Pack Suitcases**

Say: **Great news! We’re going on an imaginary trip! In order to be prepared for our trip, you’ll need to pack a suitcase. But I’m not going to tell you where we’re going until *after* you pack. Then we’ll find out if you packed what you need!**

Have kids each get out a piece of paper and pretend it’s a suitcase. Then have kids draw what they think they’ll need to pack inside their suitcases.

 Allow several minutes. Then have kids show someone near them what they drew.

 Say: **Let’s see if you’ve packed what you need! We’re going to…the beach!**

Ask: **• Do you have what you need? What do you wish you’d packed?**

Say: **Let’s try again. Get out a new piece of paper, and pack for another trip.**

Allow several minutes for kids to draw. Then say: **Alright, are you all packed? I hope you have what you need for…a ski trip!**

Ask: • **Are you ready for that cold mountain air? What else would you need?**

Say: **Let’s pack one more time.** Have kids get out a fresh piece of paper and pack a new suitcase.

 Say: **This time we’re going…on a picnic!**

Ask: **• What food did you pack? How’d it feel to pack for trips you didn’t know where you were going?**

Say: **Hmm…it’s hard to pack for a trip when you don’t know where you’re going! But that’s just like what happened to Abram in the Bible.**

**Pack for Abram**

Read Genesis 12:1-3.

 Say: **Hmm…what do you think Abram would have packed for this trip? Get out another piece of paper and draw what you think would be in his suitcase.** Allow time for kids to draw.

 Ask: **• What did you pack for Abram?**

Say: **Just like we didn’t know where we were going on our imaginary trips, Abram didn’t know where he was going! But you know what? Even though there was a lot of uncertainty about God’s directions…he went! He trusted God’s power. Let’s see what he brought with him.**

Read Genesis 12:4-6.

 Ask: **• What did you notice Abram brought with him?**

Say: **Wow! He brought his family, his animals, and some camping gear. I think he probably needed more than one suitcase!**

 **The cool thing about Abram is even though God didn’t tell him where he was going, Abram went. He trusted God’s power to guide him, and we can trust God’s power, too. God showed Abram to go to Canaan, and he went. Then God promised that one day, Abram and his family would own that land.**

**Worship God**

Say: **There’s something else Abram did along the way.**

Read Genesis 12:7-9.

 Say: **Abram built altars to worship God. Today, we worship God in different ways.**

Ask: **• What’s one way we worship God today?**

Say: **Let’s worship God by cheering and clapping for him!** Lead kids in cheering and clapping.

 Say: **We can trust God’s power, even when we feel uncertain about what’s coming next or how things will end. Sometimes, we just need to do the first thing he told us to do and wait for more instructions. And along the way, we can worship God!**

Ask: **• What’s one thing that feels uncertain to you right now?**

Say: **Life was uncertain for Abram, and there’s a lot of uncertainty right now. Let’s trust God with our uncertainties.**

Have kids hold up all their suitcases and shout: We trust God’s power!

Say: **Abram showed us how we can trust God even in uncertain times. He showed us how we can follow what God says to do even when we don’t understand everything that’s going on. And he showed us that we can worship God as we follow him! We can always trust God’s power.**

**Lesson Video----------------------------------------------------------**

God’s Plans

**Supplies**

* video player
* “God's Plans” (watch or download [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/7296489/video/433782612))

**Tip**

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**Discuss and Watch “God’s Plans”**

Say: **Today we’re learning that we can trust God’s power. God had a trustworthy plan for Abram to move to a new place…even though God didn’t tell him the whole plan right away.**

Ask: **• Have you ever had to move, or had a friend move away? What was that like?**

 Say: **Moving can be hard, even if we *do* know where we’re moving! But God can bring good things out of moving. Let’s see what he can do.**

Watch “God’s Plans.”

Ask: **• What good things happened because Ethan, Ryan, and Liam moved?**

 **• What good things has God done for you?**

 **• How did this story remind you of Abram’s story?**

Say: **We can trust God’s power. He had a good plan for Ethan, Ryan, and Liam…just like he did for Abram. Sometimes, trust means doing things we don’t understand. It means that even when life feels uncertain, we trust God has something good in store for us.**

**Game---------------------------------------------------------------------**

Heads or Tails

**Supplies**

* coin (for teacher use only)
* upbeat music (optional)
* music player (optional)

**Guess the Next Direction**

 Say: **Today we’re exploring how we can trust God’s power. Abram had to trust God even when he didn’t know all the details of what came next. Let’s play a game where you’ll have to figure out what comes next.**

* Explain that you’ll flip a coin, and kids should face toward you if the coin is heads up, and away from you if the coin is tails up.
* However, kids have to pick which direction to face *before* you flip the coin.
* If they are facing the right direction when you flip the coin, they’ll keep playing. If not, they’ll sit for the rest of the round.
* If you’ve chosen to play music, start it now.
* Play several rounds, starting a new round each time you get down to 1-2 kids standing.

**Talk About It**

 Ask: **• How did you decide what to do in this game?**

 **• How did you feel when you guessed wrong?**

 **• How is this game like trusting God even when you don’t know what’s going to happen?**

 Say: **In this game, you didn’t have any idea what to do next! Abram didn’t know where he was heading, but God *did* lead him each step of the way. Even when we face uncertain times, we can trust God’s power and ask God to guide us, one step at a time.**

**Bible Exploration-----------------------------------------------------**

Is It Ever Okay to Feel Uncertain about *God*?

**Supplies**

* Bible\*

**Share a Fun Fact**

Say: **In our Bible story, Abram followed God even though he didn’t know what was going to happen. Even though he was uncertain, Abram trusted God! That makes me wonder…is it ever okay to be uncertain about *God*?**

 **Let’s practice being uncertain with a fun game. Each person will get a turn to stand up and share a fun fact about themselves. But you can choose whether you share something true or false!**

 **Everyone else will give a thumbs down if you’re uncertain, and a thumbs up if you trust that it’s true. Ready?**

Start with your own fun fact, and then have kids take turns sharing a fun fact about themselves. If you have a really large group, not everyone needs a turn to share, because everyone will get to vote each round.

 Ask: **• When did being uncertain pay off in this game?**

 **• What are some things that would be good to question sometimes?**

Say: **If you see an ad promising that new, expensive shoes will make you an all-pro soccer player…that might be a good time to withhold trust. Or if a friend says putting your school textbook under your pillow will help you learn everything inside the book while you sleep…same thing.**

 **But what about God? Is it ever okay to be uncertain about him? And if so…what do we do about that? Let’s look at two guys in the Bible and see how they handled their questions about God.**

**Explore**

Say: **The first guy we’ll look at is John the Baptist. It was his job to prepare the way for Jesus, telling everyone that Jesus was coming. But later, John got thrown in prison. And he started to wonder if Jesus was *really* the Messiah—the one God promised to send to save people. John wasn’t certain that Jesus was who he thought.**

 **As I read about John, pay attention to what John *did* when he had questions about who Jesus was.**

Read Matthew 11:2-6.

 Ask: **• What did John do about his questions?**

 **• What did Jesus do about John’s questions?**

Say: **John wasn’t too certain about Jesus. But instead of letting his questions take his faith away, he checked in with Jesus. He asked Jesus for the truth, and Jesus gave him evidence about who he was.**

 **Next up is Thomas. Thomas is actually nicknamed “the Doubter” because he is so famous for doubting! Doubting is what happens when we feel really, *really* uncertain. When Jesus came back to life, all of his friends got to see him…except Thomas. So while everyone else was sure Jesus was alive, Thomas wasn’t so sure.**

 **Listen for what Thomas did…and what Jesus did…with those uncertainties.**

Read John 20:24-29.

 Ask: **• What did Thomas do about his questions?**

 **• What did Jesus do about Thomas’ questions?**

 **• Based on these two stories, do you think Jesus is mad if we have questions and uncertainties about him? Why or why not?**

 **• Based on these two stories, what are good things to do when we’re struggling to trust God with uncertainties?**

Say: **Both these guys had questions, but they both checked in with Jesus about their uncertainties. We can trust God’s power, but when we’re struggling to do that, we can talk to Jesus about it! Jesus won’t get mad, and he’ll help us have faith.**

 **Right now, it seems there’s a lot we’re uncertain about.**

Ask: **• What are some things you wish you knew about what’s coming next?**

Say: **Like Abram, we don’t know how things will end. We don’t know what’s going to happen next or how long it will take for everything to be back to normal. Maybe we’re not sure things *will* ever be normal again! It’s natural to have doubts when things feel uncertain, but we can trust God’s power. And like John and Thomas, we can talk to God about our questions to turn uncertainty into trust.**

**Closing Prayer--------------------------------------------------------**

March and Pray

**March and Pray**

Say: **We can trust God’s power. He showed Abram where to go…even though God didn’t tell Abram all the information right away. Even when we’re not sure how things are going to end, we can trust God. Follow my instructions and let’s march like Abram as we pray for God’s help in trusting him.**

* Have kids march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you even when we feel uncertain.**
* Have kids turn around and march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you when the world feels backwards.**
* Have kids face a friend and march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you even when our friends aren’t so sure about you.**
* Have kids close their eyes and march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you when we just don’t know what’s going on. In Jesus’ name, amen.**
* Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.
* Collect kids’ bags of supplies and disinfect anything that you’re planning to reuse.

**---------------------------------------------------Credits------------------------------------------------------**

**Empowering Courageous Kids: Back-to-Church Edition**

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