

FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

AUG 17

Origin Story: Where Our Story With God Begins

Today's Bible Story: God Chooses Abram

• *Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6*

Today's Key Question: What does it look like to trust God?

Today's Bottom Line: You can trust that God has a plan.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Water Bottle

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct two kids to stand and face each other a few feet apart.
- Place the water bottle on the floor between them.
- Explain that when you say a command, they are to make the action you say.
- Demonstrate each action.
 - "STARS!" —raise your hands above your head.
 - "BYE!" —wave your hand.
 - "OFF WE GO!" —turn around in a circle.
 - "BOTTLE" —reach down and grab the water bottle.
- Say, *"I will say the words in random order. When I say 'BOTTLE!', be the first to grab the water bottle to win the round."*
- The winner stays for the next round, and a new kid steps in.
- Play until each kid has had at least one turn.

What You Say:

"Whew, that game was fast, but FUN! The actions in our game may have seemed random, but a lot of them actually show up in today's true story from the Bible. **[Transition]** Can you guess what the story is? (*Invite responses.*) Let's go find out how

God did something EPIC for all of us through a guy named Abraham!"

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- ☐ "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Mix together the cards from the "Unlikely Heroes" Activity Page and hand them out in no particular order.
 - If you have fewer than 10 kids, it's okay if some kids have more than one card.
- Tell kids to look at their card but not to let other kids see what it says.
- Explain the activity:
 - Each kid is to take a turn reading the story statement at the top of their card, which describes something that happened in today's Bible Story.
 - When each kid reads the card out loud to the group, they are to read the statement using the "secret superpower" described at the bottom of their card.
 - The rest of the kids will try to guess their unusual "superpower."
- After all the cards have been read, recap by reminding kids that from the very beginning, when people turned away from God and ushered in that evil curse, God had a plan to restore us because He loves us and wants to be our close friends. Throughout God's Big Story—which is recorded in the Bible and which we are going through this year—we see how God has been working out that plan. He worked on His great rescue plan for a long, long time.
- Ask:
 - Why would it have been a challenge for Abram and Sarai to trust God's plan and promise?
 - What does it teach you about who God is that He stayed faithful to His promises even when Abram and Sarai made bad choices?
 - What is something you learned about God's character from the Bible Story?

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- What does it look like for a kid your age to trust God in a situation that might require you to wait a long time?
 - What can we take from Abraham and Sarah's story to encourage us to trust God?
- Encourage kids to share their own stories or the stories of someone they know who trusted God in a situation that took a long time to work out. Discuss why these stories help us have faith too.
- Encourage kids with that even when things take a long time, we can trust that God still has a plan.
- Share that nothing can stop God's plan to work things for good!

2. Discussion Questions

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What does it look like to trust God in your everyday life?
- Think about a person you really trust. What makes them trustworthy?
- Now, think about God. What do you believe about God that makes Him even more trustworthy than the most reliable person you know?
 - *(Examples: God always keeps His promises, God knows everything, God loves me no matter what.)*
- Why is it still possible to trust God even when things don't go as expected?
 - *(Point kids to the idea that God has a plan, and God sees things we can't see yet!)*
- Faith means trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see. What's something you can see in your life that reminds you to trust God?

3. Pray With Your Group