

## The Call of Abram Genesis 12, 13 and 15

Today we're going to meet a guy named Abram. You may know him as Father Abraham who had many sons and many sons had Father Abraham. However, our story starts before he had any children, and when his name was still Abram. Abram was an old dude who lived with his wife, Sarai. Although they were old enough to be grandparents, they did not have any kids of their own. But God had a plan for that even though Abram didn't know it yet.

I need a volunteer to play Abram.

(Choose one of the kids to play Abram. Help him put on the robe (sheet) and give him the **walking stick**.)

In the book of Genesis, the Bible says that Abram and his father's family lived in Harran. Abram had a wife, servants, and livestock. Back in those days, having all of those things meant that you were pretty wealthy. Congrats, Abram!"

(**High five Abram**.)

One day, Abram heard the Lord speak to him. Listen to what God said.”

**GOD:**

**“Go from your country, your people and your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others. ... All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.”**

Pretty awesome promise! God would bless him and make him into a great nation! But it was the first thing that God said that was really important. God told Abram to leave his home and to go to the land that God would show him. That’s right. Abram had no clue where God was leading him, but Abram still obeyed. So, Abram, let’s start moving.

(**Guide Abram** through the room while continuing to tell the story.)

Abram trusted that God had told him the truth. So he left his home country along with his wife, his nephew, Lot, his servants, and his livestock.

(**Continue to walk with Abram** in a zigzag pattern through the room.)

Abram and his family headed toward the land of Canaan. They stopped at a place called Shechem where Abram worshiped the Lord. But Abram kept going south toward the hill country near Bethel and Ai. He worshiped the Lord there, too. But he kept on going and eventually ended up in Egypt. But Egypt wasn't the right place either, so they headed back north through the Negev region. Even though Abram and his family were traveling all over the place, Abram remained wealthy.

But having all this stuff actually caused another problem. Abram was traveling with his nephew Lot. Well, Lot had grown wealthy too. He had big herds of livestock and lots of servants just like Abram. And the two groups were trying to live off the same land. There wasn't room for everyone and some fights broke out between the herdsmen from both of the groups. Abram knew something had to be done. Abram had a conversation with Lot. Abram didn't want to fight over the land, so he let Lot choose what part of the land that he wanted. Lot looked out over the land and he saw that one area looked okay, but there was this other area that was lush and green and had plenty of water. It was beautiful! So guess which one Lot chose. *(Pause for response.)* Yep, Lot chose the land that looked the most beautiful. So Lot gathered up his family, servants, and herds of livestock and headed out to the good land. Abram moved on toward Canaan.

But God spoke to him again and said this.

**GOD:**

**“Look around from where you are. Look north and south, east and west. I will give you all the land you see. I will give it forever to you and your family who comes after you. I will make them like the dust of the earth. Can dust be counted? If it can, then your family can be counted. Go! Walk through the land. See how long and wide it is. I am giving it to you.”**

Eventually, all of the land—even the land Lot chose—would belong to Abram’s descendants. So Abram moved on to Hebron and camped there. And once again he worshiped God. Some time later, God spoke to Abram in a vision. This is what God said to Abram.

**GOD:**

**Abram, do not be afraid. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great reward.**

This was another amazing promise from God, but Abram was worried. You see, God had said a lot about Abram's children and his descendants, but Abram didn't have any children and he was already an old man. He was scared that all of his wealth and belongings would go to one of his servants when he died instead of to a son. But God gave Abram one more promise. Here's what God said."

**GOD:**

**"You will have a son of your own. He will get everything you have." "... Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can. That's how many children will be born into your family."**

And God kept His promise to Abram. He had many descendants and they did possess the land God had promised to him. But it all started back at that moment when God gave Abram instructions and a promise. Abram chose to obey even though he didn't know how it would turn out. Let's clap for our actor who played Abram.

(Have the volunteer go back to his seat.)

Here's the deal. We don't know exactly what will happen in the future, and we never will. But God does. God has always been faithful to us, and we can trust Him no matter what. We can obey Him knowing He wants what is best for us.

It can be scary to step out in faith without knowing what will happen. But remember the story of Abram and how he trusted God. Abram could have played it safe and just stayed at home with his family. But he obeyed God, and his life became amazing as a result.