



The Story: Parents' Page

Week 2: God Builds a Nation

Timeless Truth: What sin changes, faith overcomes.

Bible Basis: Genesis 12:1-15:21, 17, 21:1-7

Key Verses: -Abram believed the Lord. The Lord accepted Abram

because he believed. So his faith made him right with the Lord. Genesis 15:6

-God said, "I will give you all of the land that you see. I will give it to you and your children after you forever. I will make your children like the dust of the earth." Genesis 13:15-16

Get the Point: God often encourages us to follow His will. We have to be willing to make sacrifices to follow God.

Abraham trusted and obeyed God. I can trust and obey him, too.

What does it mean to follow?

What does it mean to obey?

Who did Abraham follow?

(Abraham followed God by trusting and obeying Him.)

Who do you follow?

Who do you obey?

How do you know God is working in your life?

(Could be finding something that was lost, feeling better after being sick, answered prayers.)

What are some ways God worked in Abraham's life? (Giving him land, children, etc.)

Would you have had the same faith Abraham displayed by moving to a place you knew nothing about?

What does God do to help you feel better when things change or get hard?

According to Genesis 18:12, Sarah laughed when she overheard that she would have a baby. She was old. What would you do if you believed God was leading you to do something and people laughed? Have you ever read something in the Bible and thought, That's Impossible! Is anything impossible for God? How does our faith play a role in God's seemingly impossible plans for our life? After Abraham passed God's test, did God give Abraham "descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand" (Genesis 22:7) right away? What can you learn about Abraham waiting for God's plan to come true? Why is it so hard to wait?

Living Faith:

Gather your family outside or in the living room. For this activity, you'll need something to mark boundaries or items to set up an obstacle course. You can use pillows, empty 2-liter plastic bottles, stuffed animals, baseball bats, etc. Break family members into pairs. If there's an odd number, have one person rotate in. Explain that one member from each team will stand on one side of the obstacle course wearing a bandana so he/she can't see anything. The other team members will stand on the other side and call out verbal directions to guide their partner. Only verbal directions, such as "Two small steps forward," "one step left," or "Lift your foot really high and take a big step" are allowed. All teams go through the obstacle course at the same time, so it can sound pretty chaotic. If the blindfolded person steps on an obstacle, knocks one down (you can lean two bats together to create a teepee) or goes outside the boundary, then he has to guided back to the beginning and start again. Take turns being blindfolded and giving directions, and always rearrange the obstacle course once a person has made it through. Once you are finished playing, ask these questions: *What was the hardest part about being blindfolded? Do you think Abraham may have felt the same way when God called him to go to Canaan? Is it harder to obey when you can see the destination or when you're walking blind? How does faith help you trust God in your life, even when you can't see the next step? Because we can trust God, what should we do when we hear his leading?*

Extra Mile:

For added emphasis about living out a real faith, bring your family around a computer and do a search for "Stained Glass Masquerade" video. Then click on the YouTube video from Casting Crowns that's three minutes and 54 seconds long. You can also search for the song lyrics if you want to read along. After watching the video, ask:

What do you think the song means by "happy plastic people"?

According to the song, is it okay to fail?

How should the church treat people who fail?

Explain that the Bible is filled with people who failed and didn't have the faith to fully trust God. But God forgives and gives us a second chance. He doesn't want us to be plastic and pretend everything's okay when it isn't. We need to be real with God and each other. When we have faith in God, his love can help us live authentically as the person he's created us to be.

Parent Tips:

Read and discuss the key point from the Sunday School class your child(ren) attended. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. The questions provided are for a range of ages. Choose the questions most applicable to your child's age and maturity. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience God. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.



YOUTH PARENTS' PAGE: LESSON 2

God Builds a Nation

Timeless Truth: What sin changes, faith overcomes.

Bible Basis: Genesis 12-35

Key Verse: [God said,] "I will give you all of the land that you see. I will give it to you and your children after you forever. I will make your children like the dust of the earth."

-Genesis 13:15-16, NIV

Resource: *The Story*: Chapter 2



Parent Tips:

Read the key point from the Sunday lessons that relate to your children. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child understand the importance of listening to God's voice even when he can't see the next step. The Extra Mile idea will help you drive home the concept of authentic faith.

Get the Point:

Middle School/High School: God often encourages movement to follow His will. We have to be willing to make sacrifices to follow God.

Table Talk

Middle/High School

- According to Genesis 18:12, Sarah laughed when she overheard that she would have a baby, because she was so old. What would you do if you believed God was leading you to do something and people laughed?
- Have you ever read something in the Bible and thought, *That's impossible!* Is anything impossible for God?
- How does our faith play a role in God's "impossible" plans for our life?
- After Abraham passed God's test, did God give Abraham "descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand" (Genesis 22:17) right away?
- What can you learn from Abraham about waiting for God's plan to come true?
- Why is it so hard to wait?

Extra Mile

For added emphasis about living out a real faith, bring your family around a computer and do a search for "Stained Glass Masquerade video." Then click on the YouTube video from Casting Crowns that's three minutes and 54 seconds long. You can also search for the songs lyrics if you want to read along.

After watching the video, ask:

- What do you think the song means by "happy plastic people"?
- According to the song, is it OK to fail?
- How should the church treat people who fail?

Explain that the Bible is filled with people who fail and didn't have the faith to fully trust God. But God forgives and gives us a second chance. He doesn't want us to be plastic and pretend everything's OK when it isn't. We need to be real with God and each other. When we have faith in God, His love can help us live authentically as the person He's created us to be.