

## Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God saves sinners
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Genesis 12:1-9
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Genesis 11:10 – 12:9.</b> The events that occur in these verses come as a profound surprise, given all that has happened since God created the world. There was the fall, and then the flood, and finally the rebellion at Babel. Surely the time has come for God to give up on his creation, and judge them as they deserve! And yet this is not the next event we read. Instead, “The Lord said to Abram...”. God speaks. He chooses yet again to reveal himself to human creatures. And the person to whom he speaks is Abram. Abram and his family were at the time living in Ur (see Acts 7:2-4), a place renown for pagan worship, most likely of the Moon God. Joshua 24:2 makes it clear that Abram and his family also participated in this worship. God seeks out followers from amongst those who are his enemies and this is still how he operates today. He calls the unexpected to follow him, those who are his enemies (1 Corinthians 1:22-31). Not only that, he promises to bless Abram in terms of descendants, land, personal protection, and to be the means by which the whole earth will be blessed. Abram responds to the call with simple obedience. Hebrews 11:8-9 commends Abram’s faith that leads him to follow God’s call, even without knowing exactly where he was going. We then follow Abram to Shechem, where he builds an altar and worships God, in the midst of his pagan neighbours. This section of the narrative ends with God reiterating his promises to Abram, despite seemingly impossible circumstances, and Abram choosing to trust God in the face of these difficulties.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God saves those who do not deserve to be saved. Our response should be to obey his call and worship him.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> Take a picture of something you own that is very precious to you. Bring some paper and pencils. Also get hold of a map that shows Ur, Haran, and Shechem (to be used during the lesson).</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p>What is the most precious thing you own? <i>Get the children to talk about the one thing they own that they would not want to lose. Maybe get them to draw a picture of it. Show them a picture of something you own that is precious to you.</i> Has anyone ever done something to you that was very hurtful? Maybe someone at school? How did it make you feel? What did it make you want to do? What if the next day you went up to that person and gave them something that was very precious to you <i>Use their examples to illustrate this.</i> Did the other person deserve this gift from you? That is exactly what God does – as we will find out today.</p>
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Abram’s pagan background (Genesis 11:27-32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review the story from last week. Point out that yet again, the people that God had created had rebelled against him and tried to live without God.</li> <li>• <i>Q: If you were in God’s place, and the people you had created kept rejecting you, how would you feel? What would you want to do with these people?</i></li> <li>➤ God would be completely just in giving up on people and punished them as they deserved. But this is not what happens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 11:27-28</b></p>

<p>2. An unexpected call (Genesis 12:1-3)</p> <p>3. Abram's response (Genesis 12:4-9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Show where Ur is on the map</li> <li>➤ Ur was a place where people did not know about the true God. They worshipped false gods instead (most likely they worshipped the Moon god). Abram and his family also worshipped false gods. They also didn't know about the true God.</li> <li>➤ One day, suddenly the true God spoke to Abram. This is what he said</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Abram didn't know God. He wasn't looking for God. God simply chose to make himself known to Abram and to speak to him.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What kinds of people do you expect God to save and to become Christians?</i></li> <li>➤ God saves sinners – people who are not looking for him. He calls all sorts of people to follow him. <i>You might want to give examples of others throughout history that God has called and used, despite seeming unlikely (eg. John Newton, the apostle Paul, yourself...)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:2-3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What promises did God make to Abram?</i></li> <li>➤ God promised Abram land (v1), children (v2), to look after Abram (v2) and to show kindness to the whole world through him (v3).</li> <li>➤ Not only did God choose Abram, even though he had done nothing to deserve it, he also gave him these amazing promises! How kind and gracious our God is!</li> <li>➤ Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity. Compare how God behaved to his enemy (Abram) to how we would behave to our enemies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:1 again</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did God ask Abram to do?</i></li> <li>➤ A God that Abram didn't even know existed suddenly spoke to him and asked him to leave his home and family and go to a place he knew nothing about.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What would you do if you were Abram?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:4-7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did Abram do?</i></li> <li>➤ Abram simply went! No questions, no argument, no bargaining. He just obeyed.</li> <li>➤ Use the map to show where Shechem was.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What promise did God repeat to Abram in Shechem? (v.7)</i></li> <li>➤ God repeats his promise to give this very land to Abram's children. But there are two problems. Someone else was currently living in the land (v6) and Sarai his wife can't have children (11:30).</li> <li>• <i>Q: How does Abram react to this second time God makes him a promise?</i></li> <li>➤ He again shows his trust in God by building an alter and worshipping God, despite the apparent difficulties of his situation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<p>God doesn't save people who deserve to be saved. He calls people who were once his enemies. He calls us to follow him too. <i>Q: How will you respond to this?</i> If you are already following God, then thank God that he chose you, his enemy, to be his friend. Pray for people you know who seem unlikely to be saved. God can save them too!</p>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><b>PSALM 145:2</b>  <i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

## Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God saves sinners
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Genesis 12:1-9
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Genesis 11:10 – 12:9.</b> The events that occur in these verses come as a profound surprise, given all that has happened since God created the world. There was the fall, and then the flood, and finally the rebellion at Babel. Surely the time has come for God to give up on his creation and judge them as they deserve! And yet this is not the next event we read. Instead, “The Lord said to Abram...”. God speaks. He chooses yet again to reveal himself to human creatures. And the person to whom he speaks is Abram. Abram and his family were at the time living in Ur (see Acts 7:2-4), a place renown for pagan worship, most likely of the Moon God. Joshua 24:2 makes it clear that Abram and his family also participated in this worship. God seeks out followers from amongst those who are his enemies, and this is still how he operates today. He calls the unexpected to follow him, those who are his enemies (1 Corinthians 1:22-31). Not only that, he promises to bless Abram in terms of descendants, land, personal protection, and to be the means by which the whole earth will be blessed. Abram responds to the call with simple obedience. Hebrews 11:8-9 commends Abram’s faith that leads him to follow God’s call, even without knowing exactly where he was going. We then follow Abram to Shechem, where he builds an altar and worships God, in the midst of his pagan neighbours. This section of the narrative ends with God reiterating his promises to Abram, despite seemingly impossible circumstances, and Abram choosing to trust God in the face of these difficulties.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God saves those who do not deserve to be saved. Our response should be to obey his call and worship him.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> Take a picture of something you own that is very precious to you. Bring some paper and pencils. Also get hold of a map that shows Ur, Haran, and Shechem (to be used during the lesson).</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p>What is the most precious thing you own? <i>Get the children to talk about the one thing they own that they would not want to lose. Get them to draw a picture of it. Show them a picture of something you own that is precious to you.</i> Has anyone ever done something to you that upset you? How did it make you feel? What did it make you want to do? What if the next day you went up to that person and gave them something that was very precious to you <i>Use their examples to illustrate this.</i> Did the other person deserve this gift from you? That is exactly what God does for us...</p>
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Abram’s pagan background (Genesis 11:27-32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Briefly review the story from last week. Remind them that yet again, the people that God had made had tried to fight against him.</li> <li>• <i>Q: If you were in God’s place, and the people you had made kept trying to get away from you, how would you feel? What would you want to do?</i></li> <li>➤ God would be completely fair if he decided just to punish everyone and not have anything more to do with them. But instead of this he decided to make friends with one particular family.</li> <li>➤ Talk about the members of Abram’s family (from Genesis 11:27-29)</li> <li>➤ Show where Ur is on the map</li> </ul>

<p>2. An unexpected call (Genesis 12:1-3)</p> <p>3. Abram's response (Genesis 12:4-9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In Ur, nobody had ever heard about the true God. They worshipped false gods instead (like the Moon).</li> <li>➤ Abram and his family also worshipped false gods. They didn't know about the true God as they had never met him.</li> </ul> <p>➤ One day, suddenly the true God spoke to Abram. This is what he said</p> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Abram didn't know God. He wasn't looking for God. God simply chose Abram as the one he would speak to.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What kinds of people do you think God wants to talk to and be friends with?</i></li> <li>➤ God doesn't choose people who think they are nice, or good. He chooses to be friends with all sorts of people. <i>You might want to give examples of others throughout history that God has called and used, despite seeming unlikely (e.g. John Newton, Paul, yourself...)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:2-3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What promises did God make to Abram?</i></li> <li>➤ God promised Abram land (v1), children (v2), to look after Abram (v2) and to show kindness to the whole world through him (v3).</li> <li>➤ Not only did God choose Abram, even though he had done nothing to deserve it, he also gave him these amazing promises! How kind and loving our God is!</li> <li>➤ Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity. Compare how God behaved to his enemy (Abram) to how we would behave to our enemies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:1 again</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did God ask Abram to do?</i></li> <li>➤ He asked Abram to leave his home and his family and go to a place he knew nothing about.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What would you do if you were Abram?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did Abram do?</i></li> <li>➤ Abram simply went! No questions, no argument. He just obeyed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<p>God doesn't save people who deserve to be saved. He saves people who were once his enemies. He calls us to follow him too. <i>Q: How will you respond to this?</i> If you are already following God, then thank God that he chose you, his enemy, to be his friend. Pray for people you know who seem unlikely to be saved. God can save them too!</p>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><b>PSALM 145:2</b>  <i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

## Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God saves sinners
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Genesis 12:1-9
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Genesis 11:10 – 12:9.</b> The events that occur in these verses come as a profound surprise, given all that has happened since God created the world. There was the fall, and then the flood, and finally the rebellion at Babel. Surely the time has come for God to give up on his creation and judge them as they deserve! And yet this is not the next event we read. Instead, “The Lord said to Abram...”. God speaks. He chooses yet again to reveal himself to human creatures. And the person to whom he speaks is Abram. Abram and his family were at the time living in Ur (see Acts 7:2-4), a place renown for pagan worship, most likely of the Moon God. Joshua 24:2 makes it clear that Abram and his family also participated in this worship. God seeks out followers from amongst those who are his enemies, and this is still how he operates today. He calls the unexpected to follow him, those who are his enemies (1 Corinthians 1:22-31). Not only that, he promises to bless Abram in terms of descendants, land, personal protection, and to be the means by which the whole earth will be blessed. Abram responds to the call with simple obedience. Hebrews 11:8-9 commends Abram’s faith that leads him to follow God’s call, even without knowing exactly where he was going. We then follow Abram to Shechem, where he builds an altar and worships God, in the midst of his pagan neighbours. This section of the narrative ends with God reiterating his promises to Abram, despite seemingly impossible circumstances, and Abram choosing to trust God in the face of these difficulties.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God saves those who do not deserve to be saved.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> If possible, ask the children in advance of the Sunday School lesson to bring along something that they own that they really love. Bring something along that is precious to you as well. If it isn’t possible to ask this in advance, bring paper and pencils so they can draw things they own during the lesson.</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p>Get the children to show you something they own that they love and have brought in with them. Or alternatively, talk about something they own that they wouldn’t want to lose. Show them something you own that is precious to you. Has anyone ever done something to you that upset you? (<i>Get some examples from the children</i>) How did it make you feel? What did it make you want to do? What if the next day you went up to that person and gave them something that was very precious to you. <i>Use their examples to illustrate this. If they have it with them, act out giving it to someone else.</i> Would you do this for someone who had hurt you? Today we will find that this is exactly what God does for us.</p>
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Abram’s pagan background (Genesis 11:27-32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review the story from last week. Remind them that yet again, the people that God had disobeyed him and tried to fight against God</li> <li>• <i>Q: If you were in God’s place, and the people you had made kept trying to get away from you, how would you feel? What would you want to do?</i></li> <li>➤ Instead of punishing people as they deserved, God chose to be kind to one particular family.</li> <li>➤ God chose to be kind to a man called Abram and his family.</li> </ul>

<p>2. An unexpected call (Genesis 12:1-3)</p> <p>3. Abram's response (Genesis 12:4-9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They lived in a place called Ur.</li> <li>➤ In Ur, nobody had ever heard about the true God. They worshipped false gods instead (like the Moon).</li> <li>➤ Abram and his family also worshipped false gods. They didn't know about the true God as they had never met him.</li> </ul> <p>➤ One day, suddenly the true God spoke to Abram. This is what he said</p> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Abram didn't know God. He worshipped false gods (like the Moon), so he was God's enemy. But God chose to speak to Abram and to be his friend.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What kinds of people do you think God wants to talk to and be friends with?</i></li> <li>➤ God doesn't choose people because they are nice, he saves sinners. He calls all sorts of people to follow him. <i>You might want to give examples of others throughout history that God has called and used, despite seeming unlikely (eg. John Newton, Paul, yourself...)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:2-3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Not only did God choose to be Abram's friend, he also gave him some amazing promises! God promised that Abram would have somewhere to live (v1), lots of children (v2), he promised to look after Abram (v2) and to show kindness to the whole world through him (v3). How kind and loving God is!</li> <li>➤ Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity. Compare how God behaved to his enemy (Abram) to how we would behave to our enemies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:1 again</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did God ask Abram to do?</i></li> <li>➤ He asked him to leave his home and family and go to a place he knew nothing about. It would be like saying "leave your home and go and live in Australia!"</li> <li>• <i>Q: What would you do if you were Abram?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Genesis 12:4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did Abram do?</i></li> <li>➤ Abram obeyed God! He left his home and travelled to the place God told him to.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<p>God doesn't choose people to be his friends because they are nice. He chooses all sorts of people to be his friends! God wants us to be friends with him too, even though we have done things that make him sad. He wants us to obey him, just like Abram did. What will you do? Pray for the children, and for those they know that aren't yet trusting God. God can save them too.</p>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><b>PSALM 145:2</b>  <i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i></p>
<p><b>Alternative to worksheet</b></p>	<p>Make an obstacle course with chairs, etc from the room. Act out Abram's journey from Ur to Canaan using the obstacle course.</p>