



Abram Follows God’s Direction

Genesis 12:1-8

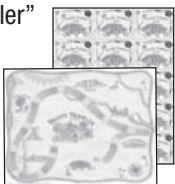
Third-and fourth-graders are in a time of life where they’re discovering not everyone is always trustworthy. Trust becomes fragile for kids this age as friendships can change or end abruptly and social bullying can become more prevalent. But they can find comfort and peace in knowing they’re loved by a God who’s trustworthy. Third- and fourth-graders can begin to grasp the idea that even if answered prayers look different than they were expecting, God is faithful to all of his promises. Use this lesson to show kids that they can always trust God.



►Bible Point
We can always trust God.

Key Verse
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will learn that they can trust God through difficult situations.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started</p>	<p>Treasure Hunt <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Search for hidden treasure with help.</p>	<p>various coins, bag of candy, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Hide 1 coin for every 3 kids in different places in your room. Make sure the coins will be moderately difficult to find, and remember where you hid them.</p>
<p>2 Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Trusty Travelers <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Play a game as they read about the way Abram trusted God.</p>	<p>Bibles, paper, washable markers, 4 different coins, tape Teacher Pack: “Trusty Traveler Game” poster, “Trusty Traveler” cards, game spinner</p> 	<p>Separate the “Trusty Traveler” cards and stack them in numerical order, so that 1 will be the first card drawn.</p>
	<p>Trust Talk <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Read and discuss Bible verses about trust.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth, pens</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	A Trusting Tune <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Learn a song based on Proverbs 3:5-6, and experience the need to trust God.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), chairs Teacher Pack: CD	
	Map Reminders <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make trust maps.	CD player, 1 brown paper lunch bag per child, several pairs of scissors, washable markers, washable paints, paintbrushes Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Maps from the "Map Reminders" activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Treasure Hunt Supplies

various coins
bag of candy
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Treasure Hunt Easy Prep

Hide 1 coin for every 3 kids in different places in your room. Make sure the coins will be moderately difficult to find, and remember where you hid them.

1 GETTING STARTED

Treasure Hunt

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form trios.

Say: **We're going to start our day with a treasure hunt! Your trios must stay together as you search for a coin hidden somewhere in the room. There are enough coins for each team to find one. To begin, stand in a single file line in your trio, holding on to the shoulders of the person in front. The first person in each line is the Leader. The other two people are the Hunters. I'll whisper to the group Leaders whether or not your team is getting close to a treasure. If you're close or moving toward it I'll whisper "hot," and if you're not close or are moving away from it I'll whisper "cold." Then it'll be up to the Leader to guide the rest of the group according to what I whisper. But the Leader must keep his or her eyes closed as the Hunters direct him or her around obstacles. Ready? Start hunting!**

When a group finds a coin, say: **Congratulations! You've found the treasure.** Then reveal the bag of candy, and allow each child in that trio to take a piece. Have kids clean their hands before eating. After all the groups have found a coin and received candy, gather kids together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Hunters, in what ways did you have to trust your Leader?
- Leaders, in what ways did you have to trust your Hunters?
- Tell about some people you trust to lead you to good choices.

Say: **Sometimes it's hard to trust someone if we don't know where we're going or what's going to happen. But that's the point of trust. Today we're going to hear about a man who trusted God's direction, even though he didn't know where God would lead him. And we'll discover why ► WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD. Let's find out what happened.**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Trusty Travelers

What You'll Do

Have kids form four groups. (A group can be one person, if needed.) Have groups sit together in a circle around the “Trusty Traveler Game” poster on the floor. Place the cards in a pile facedown (with the words not showing) next to the poster. Set out the other supplies nearby.

Say: **Today we’re going to hear about a man in the Bible named Abram. As we play this game, we’ll see how Abram trusted God and how God directed Abram’s journey. As we travel along with Abram, you’ll need to listen carefully to the directions. I’ve set out supplies that you’ll need along the way. With your group, choose a coin to be your game piece and study it so you’ll remember which one is yours.** Allow time.

Next, take turns spinning the game spinner to see which group will begin play. The first group to have the spinner point to red will go first. Allow time. **As you play, move to the next space on the poster that corresponds to the color the arrow points to when you spin the game spinner.**

Have the starting group spin the game spinner, move to the appropriate space, choose a card, read it aloud, and follow the directions on the card. Each group will follow the same procedure. If a group lands on a space with directions on it, have the group follow those directions instead of picking a card. They’ll be able to pick a card on their next turn. When they get to a fork, they’ll follow the straight arrow unless they land on the space at the fork. If they land on the space at the fork, they’ll go left. Play until all the cards have been read. Throughout the game, encourage kids within each group to take turns moving their coin, reading aloud, and so on.

When the first group arrives at the finish line, lead kids in a round of applause for everyone. Invite kids to help you collect the game pieces and tape the “Trusty Traveler Game” poster to the wall as a visual reminder of Abram’s journey.

Say: **Wow! Abram sure proved that he trusted God. Abram and his family had to carry everything they owned or leave it behind. They didn’t know where God would take them, but they went anyway.**



Trusty Travelers Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- washable markers
- 4 different coins
- tape

Teacher Pack

- “Trusty Traveler Game” poster
- “Trusty Traveler” cards
- game spinner

Trusty Travelers Easy Prep

Separate the “Trusty Traveler” cards and stack them in numerical order, so that 1 will be the first card drawn.





Trust Talk Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

Trust Talk Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was the game we played like or unlike Abram's journey?
- In our game, what made it difficult to take the most direct route to the finish line?
- What are things that happen in our lives that can make us feel like we've lost our way?
- Tell about a time you had to do something without knowing what could happen.
- What makes it difficult or easy to trust God to guide us when we're not sure what's going on?

Say: ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD**, just as Abram did. Sometimes it's easy to trust God. Other times it can be hard and even scary. The way God leads us might not always look the way we expected, and we might come across some difficult situations that make us feel like we can't get to the finish line. But we can still always trust God, because God knows what's best for us. Let's find out more about trusting God like Abram did.

Trust Talk

What You'll Do

Have kids form pairs to discuss the following questions.

Ask:

- Who are some people you trust?
- Why do you trust those people?

Say: **The people we trust the most are the people we're closest to, whether it's our best friends or our families. We have a relationship with the people we trust. A big part of trusting God is knowing him. Abram had a personal relationship with God. He got to know God as his friend, and God spoke to him, so Abram could trust him.**

Ask:

- How does God talk to us today?

Say: **One way God talks to us is through his words in the Bible.** Distribute pens and today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids find the "Trust Talk" section. Say: **Read the Bible verses written there, and choose which verse is the most special for you today, right now. In the space provided, write why that verse is special to you.**

Give kids a few minutes to read and write, and then say: **Now tell your partner why you chose the verse you did, and explain or read what you wrote.**

Give kids another few minutes to share their ideas.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is the verse you picked special for you?
- What is God saying to you through that verse?
- What's a specific situation in your life that you can apply the verse to?

Say: **God told Abram to move, but he didn't tell him where to go right away. God speaks to us in many different ways. As we talk to God and get to know him, we'll discover that ► WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD. God has some great plans for our lives, we just have to listen and trust. Let's find out what we can do to trust God in our own lives.**



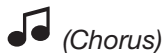
3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Trusting Tune

What You'll Do

Say: ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD, no matter what happens. Here's a song to help us remember that we can trust God.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 15 on the CD). Sing along with the kids.



(Chorus)

Trust in the Lord *(trust in the Lord)*
With all your heart *(with all your heart)*
And lean not on your own understanding. *(understanding)*
In all your ways *(in all your ways)*
Acknowledge him *(acknowledge him)*
And he will make your paths straight.

Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;
You'll be on your way to an amazing life.
Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;
You'll be on your way to an amazing life.

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

Yeah, he will make your paths straight.
Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.

"Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

A Trusting Tune Supplies

Bibles
 CD player
 copies of the lyrics page
 (at the end of this
 lesson)
 chairs
Teacher Pack
 CD: "Trust in the Lord"
 (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track
 15)





Say: **The words to the song we've just learned are the words of today's Key Verse.** Make sure kids have Bibles, and help them find Proverbs 3:5-6. Say: **Find a partner, and read the Key Verse together.**

Say: **Let's do a quick activity that might help us understand part of the Key Verse.** Have each pair find two chairs. **Stand in front of your chair, and start to sit down, but don't sit all the way down. Stop just short of actually sitting on the chair.** Pause as kids follow your instructions.

Stay in that position as you answer these next questions with your partner. Remember, don't sit all the way down!

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead pairs in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What makes trusting God with all your heart easy or hard?**
- **Why do you think it's better not to lean on our own understanding?**
- **Explain whether what you're doing now is more like trusting God or leaning on our own understanding.**

Say: **Okay, sit down! I'm sure that feels better! Sitting without a chair to support you is like trying to run your life without letting God support you. You'll eventually collapse! Abram showed us how to lean on God as he trusted God through a long journey. And our Key Verse tells us to trust God instead of leaning on our own understanding. ► WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD to support us and show us the way to go.**

Map Reminders Supplies

CD player

1 brown paper lunch

bag per child

several pairs of scissors

washable markers

washable paints

paintbrushes

Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust in the Lord"

(Proverbs 3:5-6) (track
15)

Map Reminders

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute lunch bags, and have the craft supplies available. Say: **We're going to make treasure maps of our lives to see how we can trust God. Cut the brown paper bag so it'll lie flat for your map.** Allow time, and help kids as needed. Then have kids write the beginning words of today's Key Verse at the top of their maps: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).

Say: **Think of how God has led you in your life so far. Think of the family God's given you, the place you were born, the places you've lived, the schools you've gone to, and the pets you've had. Draw your map so it shows all those things, and connect them with a path. Then think of the things you can trust God for in the future. Think of what you hope to be when you grow up and the places you want to see. Include those things on your map, too.**

As kids work, play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 15 on the CD). Give kids about 15 minutes to work, and give a 5-minute warning to finish their maps.



Talk With Kids

After kids have completed their maps, gather everyone in a circle. Go around the circle and have kids briefly describe three things they included on their maps.

Ask:

- As you look at the things you put on the future part of your map, what can you learn from Abram that will help you trust God with those things?

Say: ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD**, just as Abram did. Your map shows how you've been able to trust God so far in your life and how you plan to trust him in the future. Take your map home, and hang it up in your room. Every time you look at it, remember that God loves you and you can trust him to guide you—through any situation you experience this week, as well as through your whole life!



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Today we learned that ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD**. On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, look at the Daily Challenges and pick one way you'll trust God this week. You can choose one or more of these three options:

- Trust God to give you peace when you're worried.
- Trust God to help you talk to a friend you're not getting along with.
- Ask God to help you trust him in a tough situation during the week.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: Let's remember what we learned from Abram's journey and that ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD** as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Maps from the “Map Reminders” activity

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about trusting God. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for always being trustworthy, no matter what happens in our lives. Have kids lay their maps in front of them and point to one thing they trusted God for in the past and point to one thing they’re trusting God for in their future. Then pray aloud: **God, we thank you for how you’ve already guided our lives and we trust you to guide us in the future. Help us remember to lean on you, God, as we follow you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Lyrics ■■■■

Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6)

(Chorus)

Trust in the Lord *(trust in the Lord)*

With all your heart *(with all your heart)*

And lean not on your own understanding. *(understanding)*

In all your ways *(in all your ways)*

Acknowledge him *(acknowledge him)*

And he will make your paths straight.

Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;

You'll be on your way to an amazing life.

Once you begin that way, don't you ever, ever stray;

You'll be on your way to an amazing life.

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

Yeah, he will make your paths straight.

Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.

"Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



OK
TO COPY



