

Abram Follows God's Direction

Genesis 12:1-8

Fifth- and sixth-graders' growing knowledge of and concern for the world—and its unfairness—can call into question their belief in God's trustworthiness. Their logical-thinking ability is growing, and preteens will have challenging faith questions. Take those as opportunities to discover new things about God, and they'll see they can do the same. Questions about faith don't necessarily mean giving up on faith. Use this lesson to spark important discussions and guide kids to understanding that we 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

Preteens will explore trusting God no matter the circumstances or situation.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Ballooning Trust (about 15 min.) Practice trusting others, and explore the relationship of trust.	balloons, permanent markers	
2 Bible Exploration	Marching Orders (about 10 min.) March like Abram and his family.	Bibles, Bible Buzz Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	Journey of Abram (about 10 minutes) Follow a map indicating Abram's journey, and build an altar.	Bibles, pens, sticky notes, 1 copy each of the "Haran," "Shechem," and "Bethel" handouts (at the end of this lesson), tape Teacher Pack: "The Journey of Abram" poster 	Tape the signs for Haran, Shechem, and Bethel on opposite sides of the room with several Bibles at each.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Straight Path <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to create straight paths on their own and with help.	Bibles, pencils, paper, ruler	
	82-Second Countdown <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Choose whether to trust the leader in a game.	Bible Buzz, cellphone timer or watch	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



Ballooning Trust Supplies

balloons
permanent markers

! **BALLOON WARNING**

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

1

GETTING STARTED

Ballooning Trust

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Then have kids form pairs. Give each pair a marker and each child a balloon.

Say: **With the marker, take turns carefully writing on the balloon the name of something you value most, such as an electronic device, a book, a photo—whatever you value most. Allow one minute. Now, blow your balloon up and exchange it with your partner. Tell about the thing you wrote on your balloon and why it's one of your most valued possessions.** Help kids that may need assistance in blowing up or tying off their balloons.

Throughout our time here today, you'll care for and not break or lose your partner's balloon because it represents something very important to him or her.

To start our lesson, let's form a circle and play a quick game. Remember as we play that you need to keep track of your partner's balloon. The goal of our game is to keep all the balloons in the air without breaking away from our circle. You can't move your feet. Try to keep the balloons moving in the air and in the circle. You'll have two minutes to try. If any balloons fall out of the circle, leave them there and keep the remaining balloons in the air. **Any questions?** Answer any questions about the directions. **Ready? Go!** Allow time.

Freeze! Great job playing the game, but does anybody know where your partner's balloon is? Allow responses. **Find your partner's balloon, and then let's all sit in a circle with the balloons.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What about our game distracted you from your original task of taking care of your partner's balloon—a balloon that represents one of his or her most valuable possessions?
- What are things in life that can distract you from being trustworthy?
- What makes it hard to trust others with your most precious things?
- What about a person makes him or her trustworthy?

Say: **Trust is an important part of the relationships in our lives, and often the people we trust most are the people we know best. As we get to know God more and more, we'll discover that ► WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD. Let's look at the trusting relationship a man named Abram had with God.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Marching Orders

What You'll Do

Distribute this week's Bible Buzz page. Have kids form pairs and line up, one pair behind the other. Read aloud Genesis 12:1-4. Show kids the Bible Timeline, and have kids find and point to the picture of Abram obeying God.

Say: **God asked Abram to move to a new place. It's time to move out just as Abram did, except that we'll move in a military style. Ready?**

Start kids marching in place, coordinating their lefts and rights as they march. When everyone is moving together, begin marching slowly around your room. Say: **Repeat the following words after me as we march. The words are printed in the "Marching Orders" section on your Bible Buzz pages if you'd like to look there as we march. If not, you can simply repeat after me.**

God has asked us to move out. (God has asked us to move out.)
We're not sure what it's about! (We're not sure what it's about!)
We are trusting in God's plan, (We are trusting in God's plan,)
Trusting now the best we can. (Trusting now the best we can.)
Sound off! (1-2!)
Sound off! (3-4!)
Sound off! (1-2-3-4, 1-2...3-4!)

Abram and his nephew Lot (Abram and his nephew Lot)
Took the things that they had bought, (Took the things that they had bought,)
Took their families and their flocks, (Took their families and their flocks,)
Walked across the sand and rocks. (Walked across the sand and rocks.)
Sound off! (1-2!)
Sound off! (3-4!)
Sound off! (1-2-3-4, 1-2...3-4!)

Got no directions, got no map, (Got no directions, got no map,)
Got no place to take a nap. (Got no place to take a nap.)
But God will take us by the hand (But God will take us by the hand)
And lead us to the Promised Land. (And lead us to the Promised Land.)
Sound off! (1-2!)
Sound off! (3-4!)
Sound off! (1-2-3-4, 1-2...3-4!)

When you've finished the march, have kids sit in a circle.



Marching Orders Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

Marching Orders Easy Prep

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



Journey of Abram Supplies

Bibles
pens
sticky notes
1 copy each of the
“Haran,” “Shechem,”
and “Bethel” handouts
(at the end of this
lesson)
tape
Teacher Pack
“The Journey of Abram”
poster

Journey of Abram Easy Prep

Tape the signs for
Haran, Shechem, and
Bethel on opposite sides
of the room with several
Bibles at each.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like marching around following directions?
- When you follow someone’s directions, what does that do to show you trust that person?

Say: **Abram knew ► WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD**, so he followed God’s directions to leave his home behind. Let’s find out more of what Abram did.

Journey of Abram

What You’ll Do

Invite a willing child to read aloud Genesis 12:5-8.

Say: **We’re going to go on a little journey following the route on a map of Abram’s journey.** Show kids “The Journey of Abram” poster, and invite a willing child to be the Navigator to lead the rest of the group around the room looking for signs that match the stops read about in the verses. Help kids find the starting place at Haran, if needed. At the Shechem stop, invite a willing child to again read aloud verses 6-7. Then say: **You can work together to build an altar here at our Shechem stop using the Bibles.** Repeat this sequence at the Bethel stop with verse 8.

Ask: **What things help you to trust God?**

Distribute a pen and several sticky notes to each child. Have kids sit on the floor around “The Journey of Abram” poster and write on sticky notes reasons they trust God. Allow two minutes. Say: **Now you can stack your notes on the poster as an altar of the reasons you trust God.** Allow time.

Say: **Abram built altars to offer sacrifices and to create a visible reminder that God had done something at a certain place. Abram trusted God to keep a promise, and God did just that.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways did you have to trust the Navigator to lead you to the right place?
- How was that like or unlike how Abram trusted God on his journey?
- Tell about a time you trusted God even though you were confused, scared, or uncertain.
- What did you do to show God your trust in that situation?



Say: **Abram trusted God even when Abram didn't know where he was going or what was coming next. ► WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD, too.** God may not ask us to travel a long way from home, but we'll go through times that are difficult. The best way to get through those tough situations is to trust God, because God knows what's best in our lives. Knowing how to trust God can be hard, though. Let's find out what it takes to trust God, and then we'll commit to trusting God in our lives.

**3****WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Straight Path

What You'll Do

Make sure everyone has a Bible, and then help kids find the Key Verse, Proverbs 3:5-6. Invite a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: "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."

Ask:

- **God promises to make our paths straight. What do you think that means?**

Say: **Let's explore what it looks like to trust God and how that impacts our actions.** Distribute pencils and sheets of paper. **You have five seconds to draw a perfectly straight line on your paper without any help. Go!** Allow time. If kids try to use a straight edge to trace a straight line, remind them that they can't have any help.

Time's up! Raise your hand if you think you have a *perfectly* straight line.

Take a ruler or other piece of paper to any child who claims to have drawn a perfectly straight line, and check out the results. It may be close, but you won't find a perfect line.

Let's try again with the help of something to guide us.

Show kids how to use the edge of a ruler or Bible as a guide to draw a straight line.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did a straight edge, such as the edge of a Bible, do to guide you?**
- **In what ways can reading the Bible help us stay on the path God wants us on and keep our path in life straight?**
- **How does that remind you of the way God makes our paths straight when we trust him to guide us?**

**Straight Path
Supplies**

Bibles
pencils
paper
ruler





82-Second Countdown Supplies

Bible Buzz
cellphone timer or
watch

Say: It was impossible to make the path you drew on your paper perfectly straight without the help of something else. God promises to guide us and make our paths straight if we'll trust and lean on God. Abram trusted God to keep that promise, and God showed Abram which paths to take. Like Abram, ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD.** Let's do a challenge to learn more about trust.

82-Second Countdown

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In this challenge, I want you to keep your eyes closed until I tell you to open them. Close your eyes now. While your eyes are closed, I promise I won't take a squirt bottle out and squirt you with ice-cold water. Really. You can trust me.**

Pause and make a few noises so it sounds as if you could be pulling out a squirt bottle. Ask kids to open their eyes.

Ask:

- **What made you keep or lose trust in me when I mentioned the squirt bottle?**

Allow responses; then say: **Close your eyes again.**

Now we'll put a twist on the challenge. I'm going to ask you to raise your right hand when you think 82 seconds have passed. I'll keep an eye on a clock so I'll know exactly when 82 seconds have passed. You keep your eyes closed, and don't look at any watch or clock. Raise your hands silently when you think the time has passed. Keep your eyes closed until I tell you to open them. Ready? Begin now.

Keep track of which kids guess closest to 82 seconds when they raise their hands. Create confusion by rambling on about anything that involves lots of numbers.

When 60 seconds have passed, say: **In just a few seconds, it'll be time. If you think you can trust me, raise your hands when I tell you. If you don't trust me, raise them when you want to raise them.**

At precisely 82 seconds, say: **Now.**

See who raises their hands. Make sure kids keep their eyes closed until all hands are raised. When all hands are raised, ask kids to open their eyes. Announce who was closest in his or her estimate, pointing out that you really were honest about what you told them—they simply needed to trust you.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why did you choose to trust or not trust me?**



- What made it easier or harder to trust me the second time? Explain.
- Why did the situation make a difference in whether you chose to trust me or not?
- What has God done for you to prove you can trust him?
- What can you do to trust God no matter the situation?

Say: People may disappoint us, by accident or on purpose. But no matter how confused we are or how uncomfortable we feel, ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD.** Abram trusted God through many unknowns. It's not easy to keep going when you don't know what's next. But Abram chose to trust God no matter what difficulties or uncertainties he faced on his journey. Let's talk about ways we can do that this week.

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4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD** no matter what happens this week.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz page and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Tell God about a struggle you're having, and ask God to guide you on the path to a solution.
- Ask God to help you try something new that you'd be afraid to try on your own.
- Spend time reading your Bible to get to know God better. There's a prayer guide with Bible verses to get you started on your Bible Buzz page in the "Trusting God Prayers" section.

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: Abram trusted God on a journey to an unknown place. Let's remember that ► **WE CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD**, even if we don't know where he's leading us. It'll help us as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week and through the rest of our lives.

Daily Challenges Supplies

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Bible Buzz





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

CD player
copies of the lyrics
page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust in the Lord"
(Proverbs 3:5-6)
(track 16)

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God's trustworthiness. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Say: **Let's sing "Trust in the Lord" as a closing commitment prayer.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 16 on the CD). Sing along with the kids, and refer to the lyrics page for the words.



(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.



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;

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(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

Yeah, he will make your paths straight.

Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.

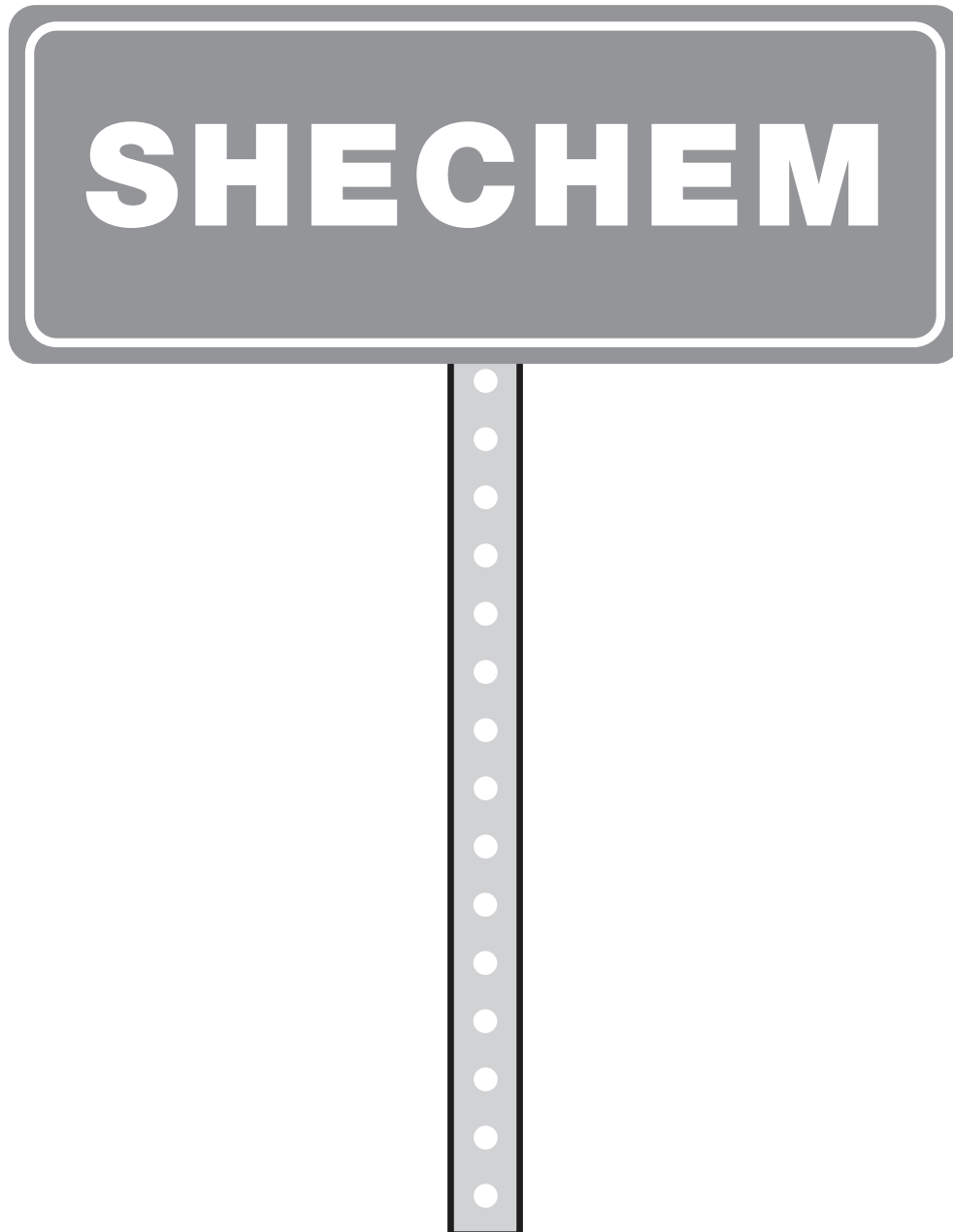
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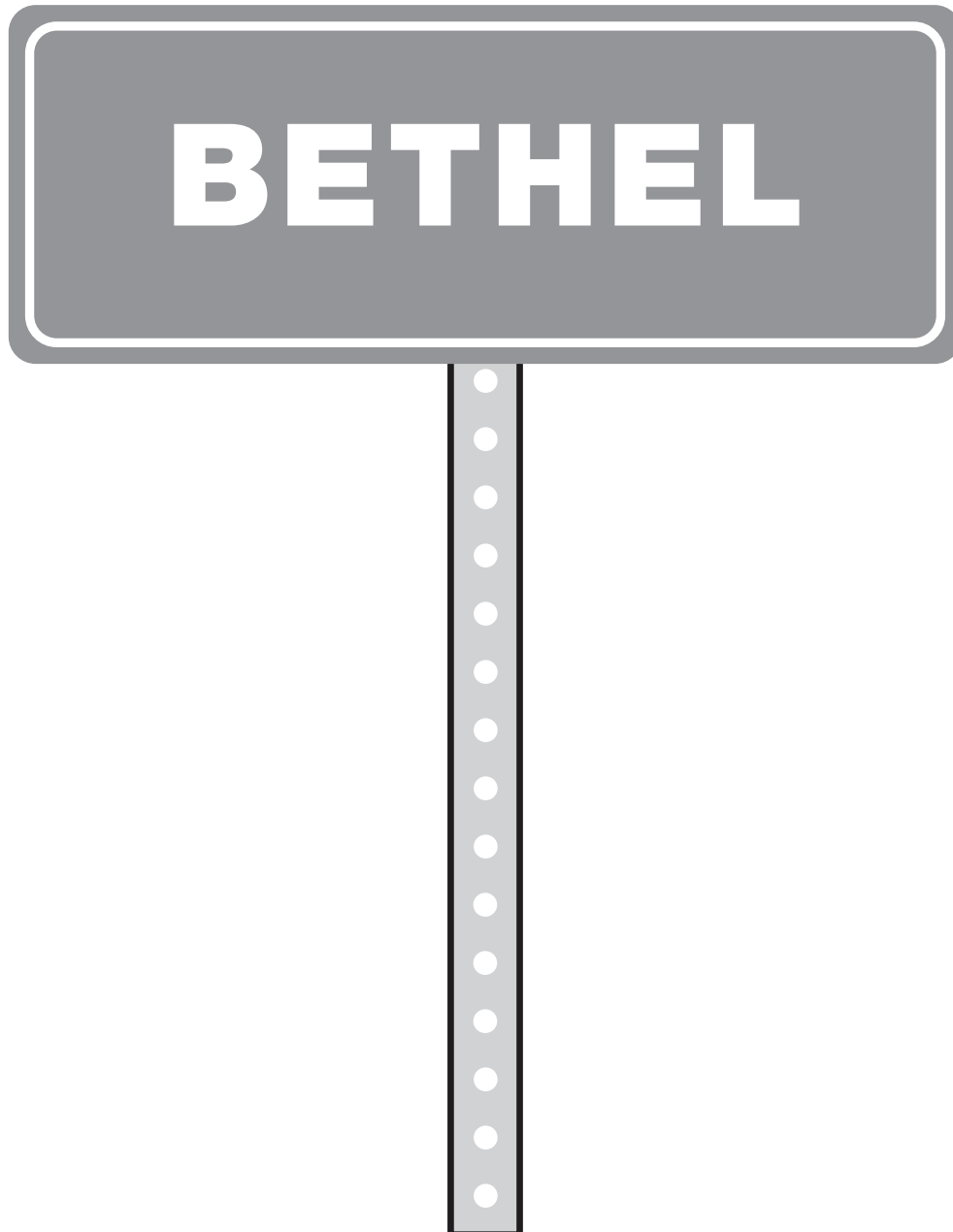
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