



Our Faithful GOD

VOLUME 2

1st-6th Grade Guide Book

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6



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Contributors: Eric Ballard, Emily Jennings, Amy Pitcher, Kathlyn Longtine, Reggie Coats, Todd Williams, and the Union Gospel Press staff

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Semester 1: Faithful to His Promises

In these four units, we study God's faithfulness in keeping His promises to His children throughout many generations.

UNIT 1

FAITHFUL TO ABRAHAM

God keeps His promises. He never fails. This is clearly seen in the lives of Abraham and Isaac. God selected them to be fathers of His chosen people and promised to bless them with abundant land and countless offspring. Though these men were not perfect, they were good examples of faithfulness.



ABRAHAM IS CALLED

 Memory Verse: Galatians 3:29


What is the most surprising thing that has ever happened to you?

Surprised by God. Imagine you get dressed for a normal day. Then you walk into the kitchen. Sitting at the table to join you for breakfast is the president of the United States! A visit from the president would be surprising. But Abraham (also called Abram) was even more surprised when God talked with him.

The Bible does not tell us how Abraham heard from God the first time. But Abraham's hometown does give us some clues about Abraham himself. Abraham was living in the city of Ur (Gen. 15:7; Acts 7:2). People in Ur worshipped *false* gods and idols. Abraham was like all the other idol worshippers in his city. But God, in His great kindness, specially chose Abraham. God decided to bless him greatly. Here are five awesome things God promised to Abraham:

1. God would make Abraham's future family into a great nation.
2. God would bless Abraham and make him famous.
3. God would bless anyone who blessed Abraham and would curse anyone who cursed him.
4. God would give Abraham's promised family the land of Canaan to live in.
5. God would bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham.

Deeper meaning. Abraham was probably stunned. He did not understand the full meaning of these promises. When God said He would bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham, He was speaking of all those who would one day believe the gospel of Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:8). Jesus' earthly mother and father came from Abraham's family. So if you trust Jesus to save you from your sins, you are being blessed through Abraham.



God's command. God gave Abraham only one command. It had two different parts. First, Abraham had to leave his country, his people, and even his father's family. Moving to a new place would be hard enough. But leaving everyone he knew—even his family—would be very painful.

The second part of God's command had a strange twist. Abraham had to go to another land, but God did not tell him where it was. God simply said, "I will show you the land." How do you go to a place when you do not know where it is? Abraham surely was confused by that too! But he got up and went. One day when he was camping in the land of Canaan, God appeared to him and said, "I will give your **descendants** this land."

Abraham was an idol worshipper at first, but he did not stay that way. Now Abraham had something that pleased God: **faith**. Faith is trust in someone else. Abraham trusted God. He did not enjoy leaving his home and family to go to a land he did not know. But Abraham trusted God. He believed that God would bless him just as He had promised. By faith, Abraham obeyed God (Heb. 11:8-9).

Prayer Point

Ask God to give you faith to follow His commands.

Christ Focus

Through Jesus Christ, God's promised blessing to the whole world extends from Abraham to us.

Living in Tents

Abraham and his family lived in tents as they traveled. Their tents were not like the tents we have today. The tents we use are made of canvas, cotton, or nylon. The tents back then were made of goat hair. This woven material keeps the inside of the tent cool in desert heat.



The Moon God: Sin



People in Abraham's hometown of Ur and the city of Haran worshipped many false gods. One of the most important of these gods was the moon god, Sin. This god's name is not connected with the English word "sin." But "Sin" seems like a fitting name for an idol! Sin's followers used a few symbols to stand for their god. Two of these were the crescent moon shape and an old man with a long beard. Sin was often called the lord of wisdom. Thankfully, the true God—who is truly all-wise—called Abraham out of idol worship.

Camels

When Abraham left the city of Ur, he likely used camels. Abraham's camels were probably the kind with only one hump. God gave camels special features to help them live in the desert. They can live for months without food. They can live over a week without water. (But did you know that no water is stored inside their humps?) Camels have two sets of eyelashes that help shield their eyes. They also have an extra set of eyelids that are clear. During sandstorms, they can close those eyelids to keep sand out of their eyes but still see!



ABRAHAM IS CALLED

 *Memory Verse: Galatians 3:29*

God did not just pinkie swear with Abraham. God made a serious promise called a **covenant**. God's covenant with Abraham was a free gift. But what exactly was the "gift? Let's learn about it!"

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STARS!

Scientists have guessed that there may be as many as 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 (one billion trillion) stars in the universe! That's a lot! God told Abraham that the number of his descendants would be like the number of stars in the sky. God was saying that Abraham would have too many descendants to count! God kept His promise. Abraham went from not having a child at all to having a big family that grew and became the nation of Israel. Sometimes we call Abraham's promised descendants Jews or Hebrews.

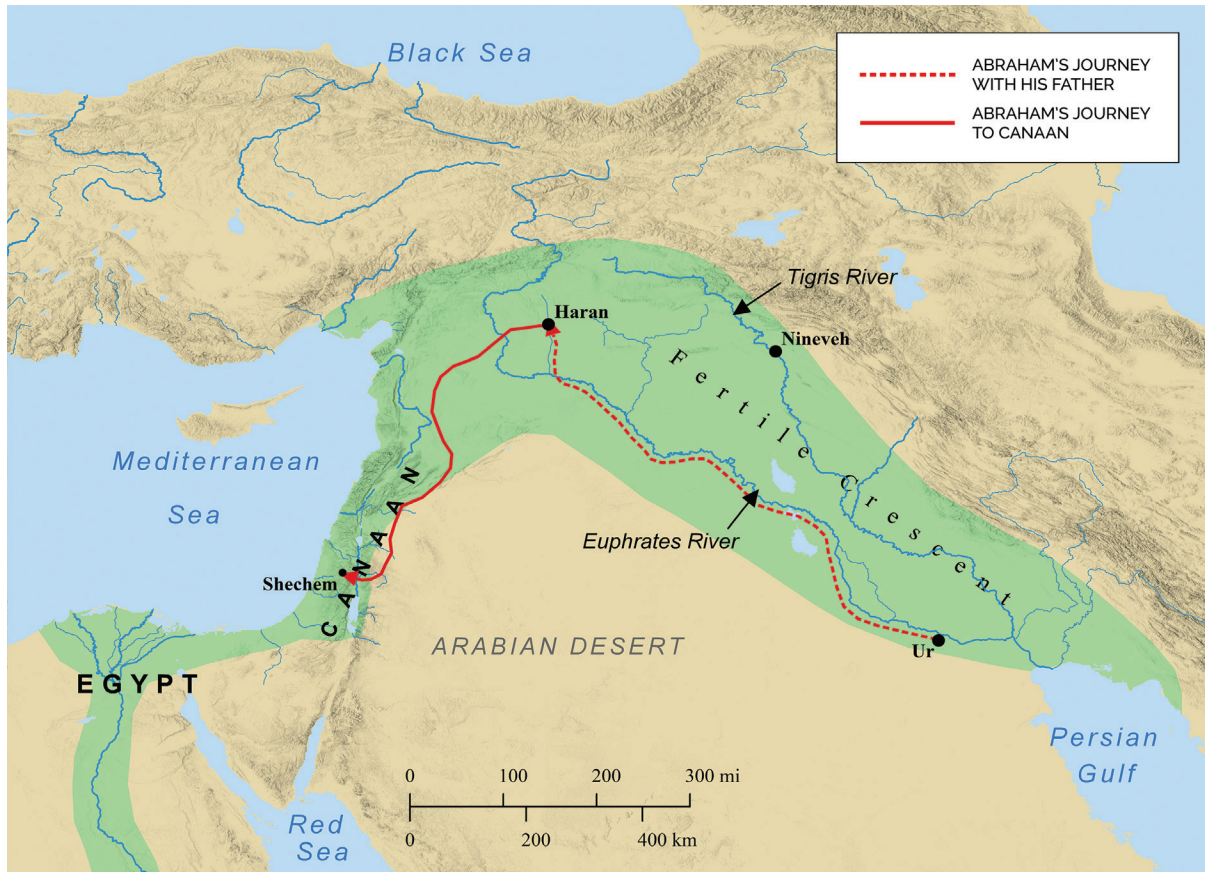
Home, Sweet Home

But wait—there's more! God promised to give Abraham a great land. The land would belong to his family forever. But to find this new home, Abraham had to leave his old one.

Can you find Ur on the map? That was Abraham's hometown. Ur was located in the area where Iraq is today. Ur was a beautiful and rich city with great palaces, large markets, temples, statues, and gardens.

The people of Ur worshipped false gods. To honor their gods, they built in the center of their city a ziggurat (a pyramid with different levels that has steps on the sides). The people hoped a god might come to visit them, so they built a house on top of the ziggurat. Of course, not one of their false gods ever came to visit.





Abraham **MOVES** Out

Find the land of Canaan on the map. That is where Abraham and his family were headed. But they went to Haran first. Going straight across from Ur to Canaan would have been the shorter way. Why do you think Abraham and his family did not take the shorter way?

If you guessed that it would have been too dangerous to cross the Arabian Desert, you are correct. Water and food would have been hard to find. They might have faced sandstorms and bandits too.

Instead, they traveled through an area called the Fertile Crescent (the area in green). They could find plenty of water and food on their trip. Some modern countries in the Fertile Crescent today are Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, and parts of Turkey.

Did You Know? If Abraham had traveled twenty miles per day for a total of five hundred miles, the trip from Haran to Canaan would have taken about a month.

Prayer Point

Praise God for His great promises to Abraham and the world!

Christ Focus

God promised that Abraham's family would be a blessing to the world. He kept that promise when Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again to give all believers eternal life!

ABRAHAM IS CALLED

 Memory Verse: Galatians 3:29


Scripture Connections: Rom. 4:16-18; 9:3-5; Gal. 3:26-29

Look-alikes. Has anyone ever said you are the “spitting image” of your parents? That means you look a lot like your parents. Some children look almost like small copies of their parents.

People with faith in God are much like Abraham. In fact, the Bible says they are his children (Rom. 4:16-18; Gal. 3:5-7). Christians do not really look like Abraham. But because of their trust in God, they are amazingly like him in a different way. The apostle Paul tells us why.

Having a *face* that might look like Abraham’s does not make us Abraham’s children. Paul taught that it’s having a *faith* that trusts God like Abraham that makes us children of Abraham. When our faith is the “spitting image” of his faith, we are his children. And together with Abraham, we are the children of God. We will receive the spiritual blessings that God promised to Abraham (Rom. 4:13; Gal. 3:14, 29).

People in many nations trust Jesus as Savior and in this way are true children of Abraham! (See Galatians 3:7-8.)

God’s special people. Do you remember God’s promises to Abraham? One of those promises was that Abraham’s family would grow into a great nation. This happened just as God had promised. The nation became known as Israel, and the people became known as Jews. God blessed the Jews greatly and helped them in many wonderful ways (Rom. 9:3-5). Israel was chosen by God to learn about His grace and salvation in a special way. God’s desire was also to use them to tell others about Him. The Israelites were God’s special people (Deut. 7:6).

Faithless people. Sadly, the Israelites were not thankful for God’s kindness to them. They knew God’s promise to Abraham, so they felt sure that God would *always* bless them. They thought they deserved the blessings that God promised Abraham. As a result, they stopped caring whether they pleased God or not. They even angered God by worshipping idols and false gods.

They did not know that just being part of Abraham’s family was not enough. The true children of Abraham are those who trust God the same way Abraham did. Hundreds of years later, Jesus said this very thing. He told some evil Jews that if they were really children of Abraham, it would show, because they would behave like Abraham (John 8:39).

Through faith in Christ, believers all over the world are our brothers and sisters. The United States, South Africa, China, Belgium, Peru, Israel, Iraq—we have family members scattered far and wide!

One blessed family. So why is all this important? It shows how everyone who trusts God like Abraham did will receive God’s promised blessing of salvation. God’s blessings are not limited to only those of the Jewish people. His plan and promises are for all whose faith is like Abraham’s faith. He believed that God would act in an amazing way to fulfill His promise. God promises salvation and forgiveness to all who trust Jesus as Savior. He died to pay the penalty for our sins. Through faith in Jesus, Jews and **Gentiles** become part of the same spiritual family. Through faith, both receive God’s promised blessings as Abraham’s children (Gal. 3:9, 26-29).

Prayer Point

Rejoice! God made a way for us all to be Abraham’s children!

Christ Focus

The blessings of Abraham come to us through Jesus Christ.

ABRAHAM IS CALLED

 Memory Verse: Galatians 3:29
**Doctrine:** Children of Abraham

A special family. Have you seen pictures of family members who lived long before you were born? Do you know any stories about them? Those people are called your **ancestors**. It can be fun to see what our family members did long ago. Maybe one of your ancestors was a cowboy or a famous poet. What if a king or queen were part of your family's past?

As Christians, we have many stories about our family right in the Bible. But this family is not like many of the families you know. The Christian family is a spiritual family. Our Christian family members are those who have also put their faith in God and trusted Jesus as their Savior. And like a normal family, the Christian family has ancestors too! Every one of our ancestors had faith in God.

To be in Abraham's family, the only thing you need is true faith in God!

Our spiritual ancestors. The Bible tells us about our ancestors. Our spiritual family has many famous people. Moses, Elijah, Ruth, and Esther are just a few of our famous ancestors. All these spiritual family members pleased God with their faith. They did great deeds that should have been impossible. But they were not truly the ones doing those things. God used them and their faith in Him to accomplish great things. He used them to show His power!

As Christians, we also have the power of God's Spirit. So we can live by faith as our ancestors did. By faith, we can do the great things God desires. Praise the Lord that we can be a part of this wonderful family!

The most special family member. This week we have learned who the true children of Abraham are. Now we will find out more about the most important person in Abraham's family: Jesus. Jesus is part of Abraham's family in two ways. Although Jesus has always been God, He physically entered the world when He was born on earth as a Jewish person. This means He was part of the nation of Israel, which God began through Abraham. Jesus is part of Abraham's physical family. But He is also the one who connects every member of Abraham's spiritual family through faith in Himself.

Did you know you have spiritual brothers and sisters in Botswana in Africa? Take some time today to think about those in other countries who are part of our family.

Jesus Christ is at the center of all God's promises to Abraham (Gal. 3:16). Because Jesus died on the cross, our sins are forgiven when we put our faith for forgiveness in Him. Anyone can trust Jesus to save them from God's judgment. That means it does not matter what country a person is from. It does not matter whether that person is rich or poor, a man or a woman, or young or old. Through faith in Christ, all can receive God's promised blessing. A person's faith in the Lord makes him a part of Abraham's family of faith. That also means that a person is a part of God's family (vss. 26-29).

Prayer Point

Pray for members of our spiritual family around the world.

Christ Focus

Faith in Jesus as Savior is what connects God's family of faith!

ABRAHAM IS CALLED

 Memory Verse: Galatians 3:29


REVIEW

This week, we learned about how **God called Abraham**. Let's do some review. For each day, begin by summarizing the lesson.



- What did God promise to make Abraham's **descendants** into? *A great nation.*
- What did Abraham do to deserve God's blessing? *Nothing.*
- What did Abraham have that pleased God? *Faith.*



- How many descendants did God promise Abraham in His **covenant**? *As many as the stars in the sky.*
- What did the people in Abraham's hometown (Ur) worship? *False gods.*
- What nation did Abraham's descendants become? *Israel.*



- How did the Jews show they were not thankful for God's kindness? *They worshipped idols.*
- Who made it so that anyone can become one of Abraham's true children? *Jesus.*
- How do **Gentiles** become children of Abraham? *By having faith in God as Abraham did.*



- All Christians are part of one big spiritual _____. *Family.*
- Name some of our spiritual ancestors. *Moses, Elijah, Ruth, Esther, etc.*
- How did Jesus fulfill God's promises to Abraham? *He died on the cross and let us be part of the family of faith.*

APPLY

After hearing from God, Abraham did not just say, "I believe You exist now, but I'm going to stay here and keep worshipping my fake gods." That would not show true faith. Abraham's faith pushed him to act in obedience and to trust God. Our faith should also push us to act. Get ready and take some time to think about what faithful actions you should be taking. Do you need to stop watching a certain TV show? Do you need to start treating your brother or sister with more kindness? Do you need to make a habit of praying or reading the Bible? Write something down. Get set by asking God for help. Then go and take action!



READY?

SET?

GO!

Prayer Point

Ask God to help you act out your faith.

Christ Focus

Jesus is the Starter and Finisher of our faith (see Heb. 12:2). His life on earth was a perfect example of a faithful life!