



Call of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-8; 13:2; 15:1-6; 17:1-8; 17:15-21

Story Context for Leader:

God created a perfect world, but the first two people disobeyed God. The population of the world grew, and so did their sin. The human race became so corrupt that God decided to destroy the entire world with a flood. He saved one family from destruction and let the human race have a second chance. From those descendants, God chose a family to accomplish His will on earth.

Bible-Telling Story

The Blessing

When Abram was 75 years old, the Lord said, “Abram, I want you to leave your family and country and go to a place I have selected for you. I will make you a nation and your name will be great. I will bless you, and I will also bless anyone who blesses you. I will curse anyone who curses you. All the families of the earth will be blessed because of you.”

So Abram and his wife Sarai started their journey following God. He took them to a place called Canaan and said, “I am giving this land to you and your children.” Abram believed God, even though he didn’t have any children. He knew God would keep His promise. So he built an altar in the new land God had given him, and worshipped God.

Waiting

Years went by and Abram prospered in the land. One night the Lord said, “I am your shield and exceeding great reward.” Abram answered, “Lord, I still don’t have a son, but I have a servant that is like a son to me. Let him inherit your promises to me.”

“No!” God said, “You will have a son, and he will be your heir. Look at the stars in the sky. Your descendants will be as hard to count as those stars.” This seemed impossible to Abram, but he believed it, and God was pleased!

A New Name

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord said to him, “You will be the father of many nations, and some of your descendants will be kings! Therefore I am changing your name to Abraham, which means ‘father of many nations.’ Your wife’s name will be Sarah.”

Abraham laughed and thought, “How is it possible for a man who is 100 years old and a woman who is 90 years old to have a child?”

God said, “Sarah will have a son and you will call his name Isaac. I will give my promises to him and his descendants, and I will be their God. The whole earth will be blessed because of them.”

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The Blessing

seven fingers and five fingers
75 years old

**push back from one direction
and point to another**
leave your family and go to a place I have selected

**make a big wide circle
move both hands up**
I will make you a nation and your name will be great

**sign for bless (put palm on back of other
hand, as on top of someone's head)**
I will bless you

**sign for bless – wide circle,
and sign for bless again**
I will bless every one else who blesses you

**point thumb down – wide circle
and point thumb down again**
I will curse every one who curses you

hand wide out – sign for bless
all the families of the earth will be blessed

point out and then down
started journey and came to Canaan

point down, forward, and far out
I am giving this land to you and your children

hands out to the side – hands on heart
didn't have children but he believed God

**hands over top and sides of altar
and together**
he built an altar and worshipped God

Waiting

**hand moves from top to down
open hands out**
shield—exceeding great reward

hands out—point to side
don't have children—let my servant inherit

**left palm pushes out
right hand points out**
“No, you will have a son.”

move hand over top of head
hard to count as the stars

hands over heart – nod & smile
Abram believed, and God was pleased

New Name

nine fingers and nine fingers
99 years old

**thumb of open hand taps side of forehead
both hands out**
father of many nations

crown on head
some of your descendants will be kings

hands around chin (beard)
Abraham

**both hands out and laugh
one finger – nine fingers**
“How is it possible...?” – 100 yrs old – 90 yrs old

hand on stomach – smile
Sarah will have a son – call his name Isaac

**move hands out to both sides
and point to self**
My promises to his descendants – I will be their God

big circle slowly & sign for blessing
all the world will be blessed because of them