



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Abraham, Big Heroes have faith in God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of believing God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 15:1-6. God Makes a Covenant with Abram.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

God promised that Abraham would be the father of a great nation – that his descendants would be God's chosen people. The only problem was that Abraham was an old man with no children. Despite the seemingly impossible promise, Abraham had faith in God. With unceasing faith in God, we can be heroes like Abraham.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

You have big plans for each of us. We simply have to believe. Help us to put our trust and faith in you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

"A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls the third, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Work as a group to create motions to accompany the verse. Say the verse several times while acting out the motions.



SKIT

BIG HERO EMPLOYMENT AGENCY: FAITH

ITEMS NEEDED:

Desk
Phone
Chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Gladys - Secretary
Mr. Jones – Head of the Employment Agency
Chuck – Construction Foreman

Gladys sits behind the desk. Charles paces in the waiting area.

The phone rings. Gladys answers.

GLADYS: Big Hero Employment Agency. Need a plumber? We got one. Need a maid? We got one of those too. Need a secretary? We've got three of those. And for the right price, you can have me too. At the Big Hero Employment Agency, we have a hero to get you out of any jam you find yourself in. So, just sit back and tell me how the Big Hero Employment Agency can make it all better. *(looks into phone)* Hello? Another hang up. I think there's something wrong with this phone.

Mr. Jones enters.

JONES: Gladys, who is my next client?

Chuck rushes over to Mr. Jones.

CHUCK: It's me, sir. Name's Chuck. Good to meet you.

SKIT

JONES: You seem a little nervous, Chuck?

CHUCK: Nervous and in a hurry.

JONES: Well then, how can we be of service?

CHUCK: You see. I'm a construction foreman.

JONES: And you need us to find you work?

CHUCK: No, sir. I already got work. I've been hired to build that huge new high rise building on the other side of town.

JONES: Oh well, congratulations.

CHUCK: Thank you, sir.

JONES: So, what do you need?

CHUCK: Well, I can't build it all by myself, can I? A foreman needs a crew to build a high rise.

JONES: Yes, I suppose they do.

CHUCK: A crew needs people to mix cement, and people to put up dry wall, and people to operate the heavy machinery.

JONES: Well, I'm not sure if we have any construction workers here, but it wouldn't hurt to take a look.

CHUCK: Thank you, please hurry. The job has to be completed by February.

JONES: Gladys, can you get me the list of all of our employees.

GLADYS: I'm confused, Chuck.

CHUCK: About what?

GLADYS: I was on the other side of town just the other day and it looked like the high rise was already being built.

CHUCK: Oh, it is.

SKIT

GLADYS: It looked like you already had a crew.

JONES: Did they quit? Do you need a new crew?

CHUCK: No. I've got a full crew. I've got Alex to mix the cement, and Brandon to put up the dry wall, and George to operate the heavy machinery.

JONES: Are they working too slowly? Did you need to replace them?

CHUCK: No. They're hard workers. According to them, the high rise will be finished about two months ahead of schedule.

JONES: So, why are you here?

CHUCK: What if they're wrong? What if it doesn't go the way it's supposed to? I want to have a back up crew lined up, just in case something goes wrong.

GLADYS: You know what you need?

CHUCK: A back up crew.

GLADYS: No. You need faith. You need to trust that the work that needs to be done, will be.

CHUCK: I do?

GLADYS: Are your people hard workers?

CHUCK: Oh yes.

GLADYS: Are they honest?

CHUCK: Absolutely.

GLADYS: Then believe them when they tell you that the high rise will be done in time. Put your trust in their hard work.

CHUCK: What should I do when I get nervous?

GLADYS: Turn to God. Put your faith in him, and he'll never let you down.

CHUCK: Thanks, lady. You just saved me a ton of worry. And a ton of money.

SKIT

Chuck exits.

GLADYS: Nice man.

JONES: There goes another paying customer.

GLADYS: Another one will come along, Mr. Jones. Have faith.

End.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Quarter

Come out with the quarter cupped in your hands. You want to make sure the kids can't see it.

I have something in my hands, but I'm not going to show you what it is. If you guess what it is, I might even give it to you. Does anyone want to guess what it is?

Let the kids guess. Even if someone guesses quarter, keep going.

Let me ask you a question: since you can't see the thing I'm holding, how do you know I really have something? I could be making it up. Does anybody think I'm making it up?

Do you know what trust is? Trust means believing in something. We can trust in God. We can trust in a person. We can trust in ourselves or even in things. If you believe me when I say that I have something in my hand, it means that you trust me.

By the way, the thing that I'm holding says the words "In God We Trust" on them. Does anybody know what it is now?

If no one does, give a few more hints until someone comes up with it. At the end, reveal that you did have the quarter. Give it to the first right guesser.

See, I didn't lead you astray. You could trust that I had something in my hands.

The great heroes of the Bible had faith in God. They trusted him. And he never let them down. Our faith should be as strong as theirs if we truly want to be big heroes.



LARGE GROUP GAME

STARS ON THE FLOOR

ITEMS NEEDED:

White ping pong balls (LOTS)

Orange ping pong balls (LOTS, the same number as white balls)

Two baskets

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose four kids for this game – two teams of two. (Team Orange and Team White)

Set out two baskets on either side of the stage. Assign each team a basket and have them stand next to it. Release all of the ping pong balls into the center of the stage. (The higher up the balls when you release them, the more bounce and the more fun chaos.) As soon as the balls are released, kids need to gather the balls matching their team color and place them into the basket.

The first team to get all of their color balls into the basket wins.

VARIATION:

To reduce chaos, you could time the teams individually in two separate rounds. The team with the fastest time wins.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

If you think that was a lot of ping pong balls, just imagine God's promise to Abraham... that his children would be more numerous than all the stars in the sky!



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Abraham, Big Heroes have faith in God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of believing God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 15. God Makes a Covenant with Abram.

INTRO

Last week, we learned how to shoot spider webs from our hands right? Oh we didn't, I thought we were talking about superheroes? Does anyone remember what we learned about?

Take an answer from the audience.

That's right! Last week, we looked at the virtue of obedience. You can't do great things for God unless you are willing to obey him. The next virtue that we're going to look at is related to obedience. It is the virtue of faithfulness.

Faithfulness is trusting. It's believing that what God says he will do he will do. It's an unwavering dedication to stay true to that belief even if things don't look so great.

Things didn't look so great for this guy named Abram. Earlier God had called Abram and his wife Sarai to leave their home and move to a strange land. God promised Abram that his children and their descendants would live on that land as a great nation. The only problem was that Abram didn't have any children. And he and his wife were old – well passed the age when people had children.

But as we will see in just a few verses, what Abram did have in abundance was faith.

READ Genesis 15:1-6.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT

God promised Abram what seemed impossible – that he and Sarai would have a child and, through that child, Abram would have more descendants than there are stars in the sky. Have you ever been out camping and looked up at the night sky? Away from the lights of the city, you can see a whole lot of stars. More stars than you can even count. That's what God showed Abram.

And Abram believed what God told him. He had faith that God would do what he promised. The Bible says that his belief was credited to him as righteousness. What that means is: Abram wasn't perfect, none of us are. But God chose to look past Abram's imperfections to his strong faith.

Later in the Bible, we read how Abram, God later changed his name to Abraham, became the father of Isaac. Isaac had a son Jacob and Jacob had twelve sons. These sons and their families became the nation of Israel. God fulfilled his promise to Abram.

DRIVE IT HOME:

God has great big plans for you too. Great things that he wants to accomplish through you. Do you believe that? Do you have faith?

Sometimes, it's hard to see how we can do big things. There are people smarter than us or stronger than us. We may think we're too young to do much good. But God doesn't ask us to be the best, or the strongest. He wants more than anything for us to simply put our faith in him. To trust God. Because God is stronger than even the strongest person you know. He's wiser than the smartest person you'll ever know. He's more loving and kind and generous than we can even fathom.

If we believe in him, and put our faith in him, he will see us through every problem and do amazing things through us. Just like our hero, Abraham.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

You have big plans for each of us. We simply have to believe. Help us to put our trust and faith in you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

Who is the person you trust the most?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Work as a group to create motions to accompany the verse. Say the verse several times while acting out the motions.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Lead the group through a trust fall exercise. One kid stands one to two feet in front of the other kids. The kid is encouraged to fall backward and trust that the other student will catch him. (Before you do this, make sure that you trust the catcher job.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

What did God say that he would give to Abram?

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What obstacles stood in the way of God's promise?

How many stars are in the sky?

Why was Abram seen as righteous in God's eyes?

What are some things that you trust God for?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to trust you and have faith in you like they did. We know that you love us and will take care of us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

Who is the person you trust the most?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Work as a group to create motions to accompany the verse. Say the verse several times while acting out the motions.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Lead the group through a trust fall exercise. One kid stands one to two feet in front of the other kids. The kid is encouraged to fall backward and trust that the other student will catch him. (Before you do this, make sure that you trust the catchers to do the job.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

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What would make God's promise to Abram hard to believe?

Read the rest of Genesis 15. What is going on in this passage?

Why did God make a covenant with Abram?

Why was Abram seen as righteous in God's eyes?

How can you show that you have faith in God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to trust you and have faith in you like they did. We know that you love us and will take care of us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

True or False

1. The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision.

TRUE

2. Abram was childless.

TRUE

3. God told Abram that he would have 300 descendants.

FALSE (He would have as many descendants as there were stars in the sky)

4. Abram was righteous and it was credited to him as faith.

FALSE (The other way around)

5. God fulfilled his promise and Abram (Abraham) had a son named Isaac.

TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Heroes Lesson 2

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: ABRAHAM



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we learned that big heroes have faith in God. When God told the childless Abram that he would have numerous descendants, Abram could have focused on the obstacles. He could have said "it's impossible." Instead, Abram believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. Eventually, Abram's faith was rewarded with the birth of a son.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Invite your children to sit down. Ask them how they knew that the chair would hold them up. Talk about how faith is often built upon past evidences. Discuss ways that God has been faithful to your family in the past and how you can build on that to believe God for great things today and into the future.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did God promise Abram?
- Why was Abram's faith so strong?
- Do we have faith that God will take care of us and give us good things?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

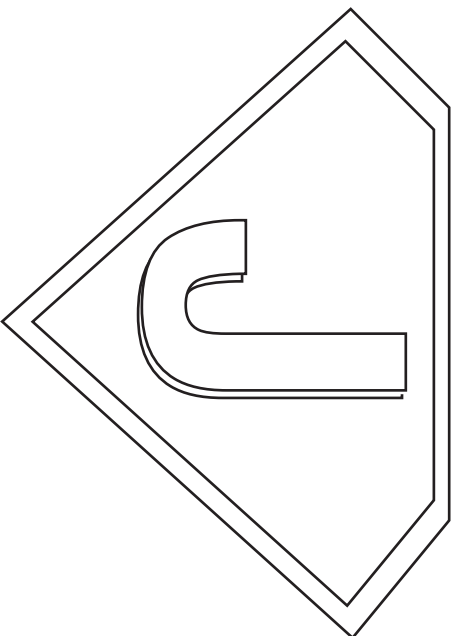
What you need to know:

This week ask God for things you've been afraid to ask for before: healing for loved ones, salvation for family members, the resolution of an insurmountable problem. We can believe God for big things. Our faith gives us the reassurance that God is "for us."



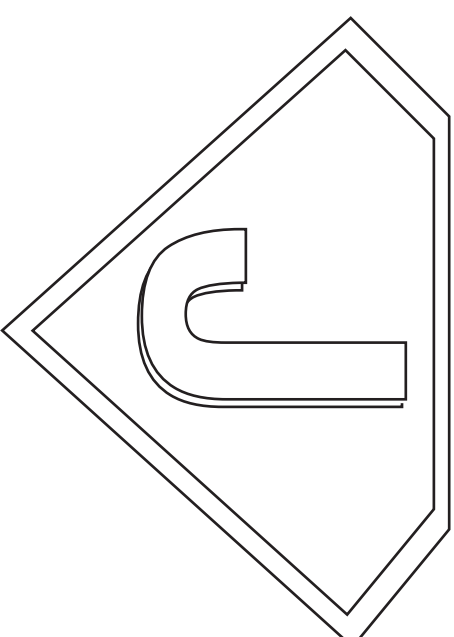
CRAFT PROJECT

Have kids imagine they are camping at night. Give them markers and paper to draw what the scene looks like – including the night sky. How does the sky remind us about faith and the promises of God?



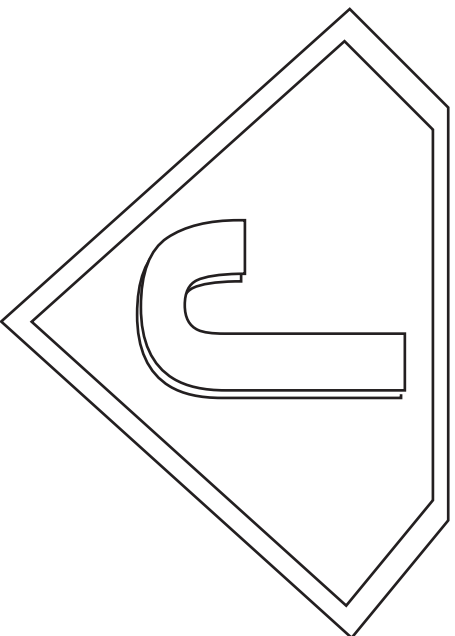
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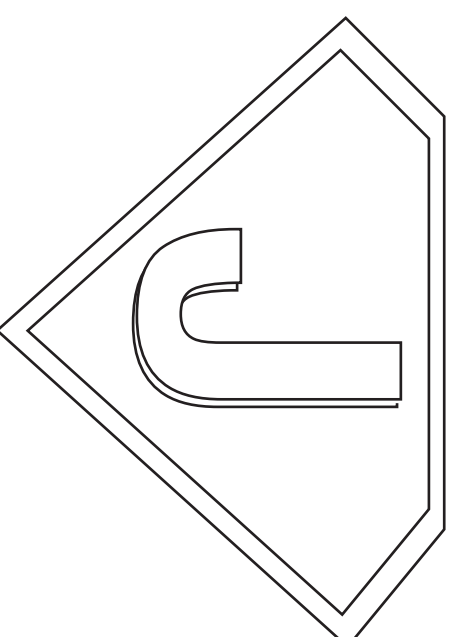
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