



Bible Story
Abraham & Sarah
Follow God
(Genesis 12:1-9)

Mile Marker
God is with us on
the journey!

Abraham & Sarah Follow God

Genesis 12:1-9

Preparation

Costumes & Materials

- Road Trip Complete Music CD and CD player (or mp3 player)
- Storyteller – could be modern attire, or all black
- Bible-time attire for Abraham and Lot – tunics or robes, sandals, perhaps a grey/white beard for Abraham.
- Bible-time attire for Sarah – tunic or robe, sandals, head scarf optional
- A couple of leafy branches for the Tree of Moreh to hold.
- Some rolled up or folded fabric to serve as rolled up “tent.”
- A few small cardboard boxes—maybe shoeboxes—painted as stones for Abram to make into an altar.
- Storyteller seat – could be as simple as a stool, but if an old seat from a car is available, that could be fun, maybe even a steering wheel so the Storyteller can “steer” the conversation. Preferably just off stage right as most cast entrances will happen from stage left.
- Holy Land backdrop – something very basic like rocks, sparse trees, and a daytime sky, maybe even a road/path. This basic backdrop could work for most of the stories with very little tweaking.
- A Bible or large prop Bible for the Storyteller to hold.

Setting the Scene

- Designate one wall to be the focal point, serving as the backdrop for the action.
- The wall can be decorated to give the feel of daytime in the Holy Land.
- The main staging area should be open.
- The small box “stones” can be placed upstage right.
- Provide wall space for each Mile Marker to be posted daily.



Bible Background

The Bible is full of stories of God and God's relationship to humans. As we learn in Road Trip! VBS, God is present with us everywhere we go! The Session 1 Bible story, from Genesis chapter 12, is about a man named Abraham and his wife Sarah. God told Abraham to move to a new place. Although moving to a new place can sometimes be a difficult thing, God promised Abraham that he would not be alone, but that God would be with him along this journey. The first 11 chapters in the Book of Genesis are about God creating everything, and God's relationship with and love for all people. However, those first 11 chapters also tell stories of humans who acted against God's wishes for them, and bad things that happened as a result of those actions. But Genesis Chapter 12 begins Abraham's story, and reflects a turning point in the Bible, as God promises blessings to Abraham instead of curses.

God told Abraham to leave his land, his family, and his father's household for a land God would show him. When God says to Abraham, "your land, your family, and your father's household," God is being increasingly specific. God is asking Abraham to leave all that he knows and to move to a place that is completely unknown to him. But it is known to God, and Abraham can trust God to be with him on his journey. So Abraham leaves all he knows and goes with God. Unlike people in some of the stories from the first 11 chapters of Genesis, Abraham responds obediently to God. This represents a turning point in the relationship between God and humans: because of Abraham's example, we know that we can trust God, as well. Once Abraham arrives in the land God has promised him, called Canaan, he visits three places. First is in the north, at a place called Shechem. Next, Abraham visits a place in the middle of this new land, between places called Bethel and Ai. Finally, Abraham goes toward the south, which the passage describes as an arid plain. Each of these stops along Abraham's journey would have been important to different groups of his descendants who would live in each respective region generations later.

At Shechem and near Bethel, Abraham responded to the things God had promised—land, descendants, and blessing—by building altars and worshipping God. In doing these things, Abraham began a tradition of worship that would be passed down for generations through Abraham's descendants. Abraham's descendants throughout Israel's history would view the promises God made Abraham as past, present, and future indicators of God's love and promise throughout generations. By hearing the stories of God's promises and God delivering on those promises, Abraham's descendants knew God would be with them along their journeys, as well. God told Abraham that he would be a blessing, and that all the families on earth would be blessed because of him. The most commonly accepted understanding of this blessing is that it would become so great that it would overflow to all people on the earth, including to us today! Because God blessed Abraham so that he and his descendants could bless all the other people in the earth, we can look at God's promises to know that God will also be with us along the journeys in our lives!



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▲ Teacher Tip
This Bible Background feature is a supplemental aid provided for you, the Storyteller, to give context for each session's story before you teach on it. You may share this information with your Travelers, if desired, but it is not a recommended portion of the intended lesson.



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Story Starter

Travelers! You made it! I'm so glad you're here because we're about to head out on a road trip, and it's always more fun to be on the road when you've got friends on the journey with you.

But we've got more than friends with us on this road trip. We have an ever-present, ever-loving God with us. That's an easy thing to say, but it's not always an easy thing to remember, especially when our journey takes us through so many of life's twists and turns, ups and downs.

So, it's important for us to pack something special for our road trip – a **Green Light Verse** that we can turn to in any situation. This verse comes from the Old Testament Book of Joshua. It's the second part of Joshua 1, verse 9 – **The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**

Repeat after me.

The LORD your God is with you

(Have the Travelers repeat)

Wherever you go.

(Have the Travelers repeat.)

Now let's say the whole Green Light Verse together.

(Have the Travelers join you.)

Great! People have needed to hear that message from the very beginning. And that's exactly where our road trip starts, in the Book of Genesis, which means "beginning." Today we find a loving family who is devoted to God.



Bible Story Option 1

Drama

Cast

- Storyteller
- Abram (Abraham)
- Sarai (Sarah)
- Lot
- The Great Tree of Moreh (one line)

Costumes & Materials

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- Bible-time attire for Sarah – tunic or robe, sandals, head scarf optional
- A couple of leafy branches for the Tree of Moreh to hold.
- Some rolled up or folded fabric to serve as rolled up “tent.”
- A few small cardboard boxes—maybe shoeboxes—painted as stones for Abram to make into an altar.
- Storyteller seat – could be as simple as a stool, but if an old seat from a car is available, that could be fun, maybe even a steering wheel so the Storyteller can “steer” the conversation. Preferably just off stage right as most cast entrances will happen from stage left.
- Holy Land backdrop – something very basic like rocks, sparse trees, and a daytime sky, maybe even a road/path. This basic backdrop could work for most of the stories with very little tweaking.
- A Bible or large prop Bible for the Storyteller to hold.

Storyteller: **One day the Lord said to Abram...**

Lot: *(entering stage left, says to Storyteller)* **That’s Abraham.**

Storyteller: **Technically not, Lot. Not yet anyway. Right now, it’s the story of Abram and Sarai. But later on, God will do something special and change their names to Abraham and Sarah.**

Lot: **What about me? Will I get a special name change, too?**

Storyteller: **No. You’ll still be Lot.**

Lot: **Aw, man!** *(exits)*

(Abram enters stage left.)

Storyteller: **So, God told Abram, “Go from your country, your people, and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”**



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Abram: **Wait! God wants me to just pick up and leave?**

Storyteller: **Yes.**

Abram: **Leave my country?**

Storyteller: **Yes.**

Abram: **Leave my people?**

Storyteller: **Yes.**

Abram: **Leave my father's household?**

Storyteller: **That's what God says. It's right here in the Book of Genesis, found here in the Bible. But there's more, Abram. Here's what else God says, (reading from the Bible)**

**"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."**

Abram: **Wow. I knew I could trust in God, but that clinches it. If God wants me to go, I will. But leaving my whole family...that's going to be a little lonely.**

Storyteller: **Actually, you take your wife with you.**

Abram: **That's great news. Hey Sarai! Come out here! (Sarai enters stage left.)**

Sarai: **Yes, Abram? What's going on?**

Abram: **I've got great news. You and I are going to leave our home and everyone we know.**

Sarai: *(dryly)* **I'm still waiting for the good news part.**

Abram: **The good news is that God will show us a new place to live.**

Sarai: **And that place is...?**

Abram: **Um, I don't know yet. But God will be with us.**

Storyteller: **You get to go too.**

Lot: *(jumping to center stage)* **Yay! I get to go! Road trip! Road trip!**



Sarai: *(sighing)* **This journey just got longer.**

Abram: **All right everyone, make sure we get everything we need for the journey – our tent, tools...**

Sarai: **Food, water...**

Lot: **My squishy pillow, my rock collection, my teddy bear Simon, my...**

Abram: **Just the stuff we need, Lot.**

Lot: *(resigned)* **Fine. Can I carry the tent for you, Uncle Abe?**

Abram: **Thank you. That would be a big help. Okay everyone. It's off to Canaan.**

Storyteller: *(While Abram, Sarai, and Lot are crossing to stage right, Tree of Moreh enters stage right.)* **So Abram, Sarai, and Lot took all they could with them and headed for the land of Canaan. Once they arrived, they travelled north to Shechem.**

Lot: *(to Abram and Sarai)* **Wow! Look at that! I wonder what it is.**

Tree or Moreh: *(standing like a tree, unenthusiastically)* **I am the great Tree of Moreh. This is all I have to say.**

Storyteller: **Here at Shechem the Lord appeared to Abram and Sarai and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.”**

(Abram and Lot start “building” an altar near the tree.)

Sarai: **Offspring? As in children and grandchildren? But Abram is seventy-three years old, and I am... *(pauses)*...well, Abram is seventy-three.**

Storyteller: **God said it. It's right here in the Bible.**

Sarai: **Well, if God said it, it must be true. Abram, what are you and Lot doing?**

Abram: **We're building an altar on this place where God appeared to us. Wherever we go, we must remember to give our thanks and praise to God.**

Abram, Sarai, and Lot: **Thanks be to God.**

Storyteller: **From there they went towards the hills east of Bethel and built an altar to the Lord there.**

Lot: **But we just got here in Shechem two verses ago!**

Storyteller: **It's right...**

Lot: **I know, I know. It's right there in the Bible.**

Abram: **Let us be on our way. It will be okay. God keeps God's promises and will be with us on our journey.** *(Abram, Sarai, and Lot exit stage right.)*



Bible Story Option 2

Single Storyteller

Listen closely to the following Bible story. Along the way, I'll need your help. Sometimes I'll ask a question and when the answer is yes, you say *Oh yeah, uh-huh. Oh-yeah, oh-yeah, uh-huh!* while nodding your head enthusiastically. Let's practice.

(Lead the Travelers to do so.)

And when the answer is no, shake your head side-to-side and say *No way, uh-uh. No way, no way, uh-uh!* Let's try that.

(Lead the Travelers to do so.)

Great. Ready? Here we go!

The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing."

Did God care about Abram and Sarai?

Oh yeah, uh-huh. Oh-yeah, oh-yeah, uh-huh!

God continued -

"I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you."

So, do you think Abram and Sarai obeyed God?

Oh yeah, uh-huh. Oh-yeah, oh-yeah, uh-huh!

That's right! Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan.

Do you think it was an easy journey? *No way, uh-uh. No way, no way, uh-uh!*

Nope, probably not. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time.

But did God leave them all alone there?

No way, uh-uh. No way, no way, uh-uh!

The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants." So, Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him.

Did Abram and Sarai understand the importance of thanking and worshipping God?

Oh yeah, uh-huh. Oh-yeah, oh-yeah, uh-huh!



Bible Story Option 2 (Continued)

Single Storyteller

From there they traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched a tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There Abram built an altar to the LORD and worshipped in the LORD's name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went. Were Abram, Sarai, and Lot ever alone on their journey?

No way, uh-uh. No way, no way, uh-uh!

Did God go with them every step of the way?

Oh yeah, uh-huh. Oh-yeah, oh-yeah, uh-huh!

Life Application

God told Abram and Sarai to leave all their family and friends to go someplace new. Can you imagine how that must have felt? Have any of you ever had to move to a new town? Change schools? Change churches? We may even have some friends here right now who are trying VBS for the very first time.

Did God make them go all alone?

(No)

Who went with Abram, Sarai, and Lot?

(God)

God made a promise that they would find a new place to live and that they would be blessed. One of those great blessings is that God would be with them every step of the way.

And God is with us every step of our way too.

Along our road trip we'll have special Mile Markers to help us know where we are and whose we are. Our Mile Marker for today is – God is with us on the journey.

Let's say that together, while we put a key in the ignition of our Bible Mobile for our road trip while pantomiming.

(Lead the Travelers to say the Mile Marker together.)

Let's do it again, while walking in place to a steady beat. Abram, Sarai, and Lot didn't have a car for their road trip.

(Lead the Travelers to do this.)

Way to go, Travelers!



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Active Learning

Road Signs

Materials:

- sign coloring templates
- crayons or markers

What to Do:

In our story, God was with Abram and Sarai (Abraham and Sarah) on their journey to their new home all along the way. One of the ways Abram and Sarai knew God was with them was because God appeared to them and spoke to them. Sometimes we call this a sign. And on a road trip, we pay attention to signs because they help us know important things.

What are some important things signs on the road or on road trips help us know?

(how fast to drive, where I can buy gas, when to stop, how far it is to the next town)

What are some important things God's signs helped Abram and Sari know?

(God would give them land, God would bless them, they would have many descendants, God would be with them)

Abram and Sarai also built altars to remind them of the times and places God showed that God was with them on their journey. These were also signs.

What are some ways we can know God is with us on our journey in life?

(family, friends, church, that we have food to eat and a place to live and sleep and so on)

Now, we are going to make our own road signs. Please take a road sign blank and use the crayons/markers to write or draw a picture of a reminder that God is with you on your journey. It can be as simple as writing "God is with me on my journey!" on the sign or drawing a picture of a person who is constantly showing God's love to you.



Closing Prayer

God Is Always with Me

Our closing prayer is a call-and-response prayer. I will say something and then you will always respond - God is always with me. God is always there.

Let's try your part.

(Practice the response with the Travelers.)

Let us pray

In the morning, warm and bright,

In the middle of the night,

God is always with me. God is always there.

When my heart is full of song,

When I put my shoes on wrong,

God is always with me. God is always there.

In my classroom, church, or home,

With my friends, or on my own,

God is always with me. God is always there.

Amen.



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