



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 1

God's People
Abraham
– Sustained by Faith

Bible Readings
Genesis 11:26 to 15:20



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of “sustaining our faith” in the Bible.
- Express the theme or story in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the story to your own family and community.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question How can our faith sustain us through our everyday experiences?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Have you ever promised someone that you would do something for him or her? What happened? Have you ever had someone promise you something? What do you think the important elements of a promise are?

Five Fast Facts about Abraham:

1. Abraham's original name was Abram, which in Hebrew meant "exalted father".
2. The new name given to him by God was Abraham, which means "father of a multitude" in Hebrew.
3. Abraham was a nomad. He lived in tents with his family moving from place to place seeking new fertile land for his livestock. Abraham was also very wealthy, which is indicated by his abundance of flocks, servants, and necessity to constantly move because of the strain his flocks put upon the land.
4. The story of Abraham is a reminder yet again of God's desire for relationship with humanity through covenant.
5. Family and descendents were an indication of God's providence within the ancient world. Through your children, your memory and legacy endures; the more children you have, the greater your legacy.

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Genesis 12:1-20

The story of Abraham that we've encountered today raises some very interesting questions about how God can be the one who sustains us by faith.

The beginning of this story has God instructing Abraham to leave his homeland, family, and his people and enter into a foreign land. This was a huge ask! Essentially, Abraham would be leaving all of his safety nets behind, cutting himself off from his community, which was the only way people could survive in the ancient world. The community was necessary for everything, food, child care, judicial systems, identity, self-worth, status, security from invading forces.

The subtle message here is that God will be the one that Abraham will rely on, not his family, not his fame, not his social status, but God would provide Abraham with a home, and a promise of descendants.

Yet, we're told that he didn't exactly do as God had requested, perhaps the request to leave all that he'd known behind was too great. Abraham brought his nephew, Lot, along with him as he travelled into Canaan.

We also read that when a famine struck the land, Abraham travelled to Egypt for safety and respite, rather than staying in the land of Canaan that God had promised to his descendants.

God was asking that Abraham be sustained by the promises that God had given to him, but Abraham, as we all do, struggled to remain devoted, especially when hardship arose

Explore – Express

Imagine you are Abraham from the story that we shared today.

Jot down some of the feelings that you think Abraham may have felt as he left his old life behind. What are some of the things that you think Abraham would miss? What people was he closest to? Why was that? How did he feel about his relationship with God? How did he interact with God?

Spend some time pondering what might have been going through Abraham's mind.

Once you've jotted some ideas down, share them with the group.

Explore – Integrate

What were some of the challenges that Abraham faced in his travels?

How did he respond to the adversity?

What are some of the challenges that you face? Do you think that God is a part of those challenges in some way? How might God be involved?

When you're faced with a challenge, or something that you find difficult, who do you go to for help? Why is that? Are there any other people that could be a useful resource?

When you hear a phrase like "being sustained by God", what do you think it means? What other phrases come to mind? What would it look like for God to sustain you in your own life? Who could help you with this?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Psalm 18 : 25-30

*With the loyal you show yourself loyal;
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;
with the pure you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you show yourself perverse.*

*For you deliver a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.
It is you who light my lamp;
the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness.*

*By you I can crush a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.*

*This God—his way is perfect
the promise of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.*

Amen.