

Bringing **The Story** Home- Ch. 2- Week of September 21st



GOD BUILDS A NATION

Bringing The Story Home is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.

Timeless Truth: What sin changes, faith overcomes.

Bible Basis: Genesis 12-35

Key Verse: *[God said], "I will give you all of the land that you see. I will give it to you and your children after you forever. I will make your children like the dust of the earth."* Genesis 13:14-16 NIV

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the key point from the Sunday school class your child or children attended. Use the Table Talk question to start a discussion around the dinner table or at some point this week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child know that they are perfectly created by God. The Extra mile idea will help your family spread God's love in the community.

Get The Point: Abraham trusted God and obeyed. I can trust God too.

Table Talk:

- **How do you see God working in your life?** (Could be feeling better after being sick, answered prayer, etc.)
- **What are some of the ways God worked in Abraham's life?** (Giving him land, children, etc.)
- **Would you have the same faith Abraham displayed by moving to a place you knew nothing about?**
- **Why is it so hard to move or adjust to new things? What does God do to help you feel better when things change?** (Love of family, speaks through His Word, etc.)
- **Have you ever read something in the Bible and thought, "That's impossible!" Is anything impossible for God?**
- **How does faith play a role in God's "impossible" plans for our life?**
- **After Abraham passed God's test, did God give Abraham "descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand" (Genesis 22:17) right away?**
- **What can you learn about waiting for God's plan to come true?**
- **Why is it so hard to wait?**

Living Faith: Gather your family outside or in the living room. For this activity you'll need something to mark boundaries and items to set up an obstacle course. You can use pillows, empty 2-liter plastic bottles, stuffed animals, baseball bats, etc. Break family members into pairs. If there is an odd number, have one person rotate in. Explain that one member from each team will stand on one side of the obstacle course wearing a bandana so he can't see anything. The other team member will stand on the other side and call out verbal directions to guide their partner. Only verbal directions, such as "Two small steps forward," "One step left," or "Lift your foot really high and take a big step" are allowed. All teams go through the obstacle course at the same time, so it can be pretty chaotic. If the blindfolded person steps on an obstacle, knocks one down, or goes outside the boundary, then he has to be guided back to the beginning and start again. Take turns being blindfolded and giving directions, and always rearrange the obstacle course once a person has made it through. Feel free to adapt to fit your family situation.

When you decide to stop playing, ask these questions:

- **What was the hardest part about being blindfolded?** (Couldn't see; hard to hear directions)
Explain that the blindfolded person had to totally trust the directions to stay safe and make it to the destination.
- **Do you think Abraham may have felt the same way when God called him to go to Canaan?**
- **Is it harder to obey when you can see the destination or when you are walking blind?**
- **What was the hardest part of giving directions?** (Had to shout; had to put yourselves in other person's shoes to guide left or right)
- **Does God ever mess up in the directions he gives us?**
- **Because we can always trust God, what should we do when we hear his leading?**
- **How does God call us to faith?** (Through the work of the Holy Spirit- See the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism for some more information about this. You can find the text of the Small Catechism on pages 321-330 of the Lutheran Service Book or online at: <http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>)

Extra Mile: For added emphasis about living out faith, watch the video "The March of the Unqualified" at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnoPluENS-I> Parents, please preview this video to make sure it is OK for your family.

After watching the video, ask:

- **Why do you think God chooses people who aren't perfect? How does that make you feel?**
- **How are we qualified to be part of God's army?** (By what Jesus did on the cross to forgive our sins)
- **How can God use you?**

Prayer Time: Dear God, thank you for calling us to faith. Help us to always live for you and listen to your guidance in our lives. Amen.