

ABRAM MOVES TO A NEW PLACE GENESIS 12:1-9

We Can Trust God's Power

Bible Background

- Read: Genesis 12:1-9
- In This Passage: God tells Abram to pack up and move to a new land. He doesn't tell Abram where to go right away . . . just promises to show him the land and bring Abram blessings. Despite the uncertainty of God's directions, Abram heads out, trusting and worshipping God as he travels.
- Bible Point: We can trust God's power.
- Theme Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

Prepare Your Heart

- You'll Be Discussing: ***We can trust God's power.*** Even as your church opens up and things aren't as unusual as they have been, kids may still feel a lot of uncertainty. What will school be like when it starts back up? When can I hug people again? When will people stop wearing masks? Will my parents have a job? This lesson will help kids trust in God's power, even in uncertain times.
- Think About: What uncertainties are you feeling right now? Give them to God in trust.
- Pray: for your kids because they might be wrestling with these uncertain times. Pray that they will trust in God's power.

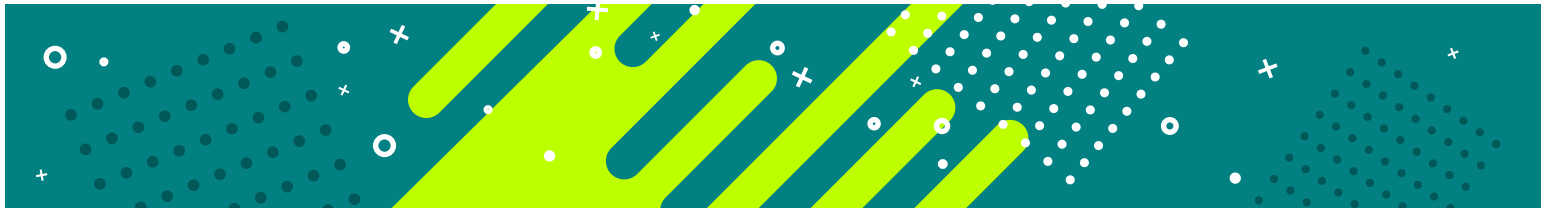
1. Watch the ECBC KidsChurch Video -- eastcooperbaptist.com/children

2. Family Discussion Time

God's Plans

Say: Today we've learned that we can trust God's power. God had a trustworthy plan for Abram to move to a new place . . . even though God didn't tell him the whole plan right away.

Remember When: Remind your kids of a time your family moved or had friends or a family member move away.



Ask: How did that experience make you feel? Was it easy or hard?

Say: Moving can be hard, even if we do know where we're moving! But God can bring good things out of moving.

Ask:

- What good things happened because Ethan, Ryan, and Liam moved?
- What good things has God done for you?
- How did this story remind you of Abram's story?

Say: We can trust God's power. He had a good plan for Ethan, Ryan, and Liam . . . just like he did for Abram. Sometimes, trust means doing things we don't understand. It means that even when life feels uncertain, we trust God has something good in store for us.

3. Family Game

Heads or Tails

Supplies:

- Coin (for adult use only)
- Upbeat music (optional)

Guess the Next Direction

Say: Today we're exploring how we can trust God's power. Abram had to trust God even when he didn't know all the details of what came next. Let's play a game where you'll have to figure out what comes next.

- Explain that you'll flip a coin, and kids should face toward you if the coin is heads up, and away from you if the coin is tails up.
- However, kids have to pick which direction to face before you flip the coin.
- If they are facing the right direction when you flip the coin, they'll keep playing. If not, they'll sit for the rest of the round.
- If you've chosen to play music, start it now.
- Play several rounds.

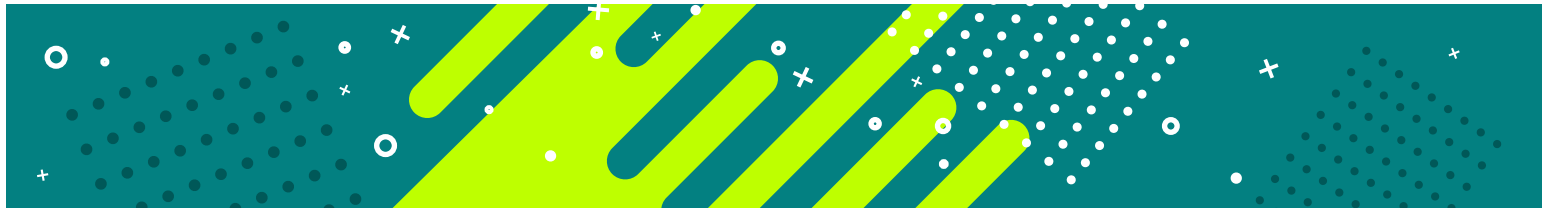
Talk About It

Ask:

- How did you decide what to do in this game?
- How did you feel when you guessed wrong?
- How is this game like trusting God even when you don't know what's going to happen?

Say: In this game, you didn't have any idea what to do next! Abram didn't know where he was heading, but God did lead him each step of the way. Even when we face uncertain times, we can trust God's power and ask God to guide us, one step at a time.





4. Family Prayer

March and Pray

Say: We can trust God's power. He showed Abram where to go . . . even though God didn't tell Abram all the information right away. Even when we're not sure how things are going to end, we can trust God. Follow my instructions and let's march like Abram as we pray for God's help in trusting him.

- Have kids march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you even when we feel uncertain.**
- Have kids turn around and march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you when the world feels backwards.**
- Have kids face a friend and march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you even when our friends aren't so sure about you.**
- Have kids close their eyes and march in place as you pray: **God, help us trust you when we just don't know what's going on. In Jesus' name, amen.**

5. Family Devo for the Week (Use this easy follow-up devotional anytime this week to reinforce the lesson.)

Is It Ever Okay to Feel Uncertain about God?

Supplies:

- Bible

Share a Fun Fact

Say: In our Bible story, Abram followed God even though he didn't know what was going to happen. Even though he was uncertain, Abram trusted God! That makes me wonder . . . is it ever okay to be uncertain about *God*?

Let's practice being uncertain with a fun game. Each person will get a turn to stand up and share a fun fact about themselves. But you can choose whether you share something true or false!

Everyone else will give a thumbs down if you're uncertain, and a thumbs up if you trust that it's true. Ready?

Start with your own fun fact, and then have kids take turns sharing a fun fact about themselves. If you have a really large group, not everyone needs a turn to share, because everyone will get to vote each round.

Ask:

- When did being uncertain pay off in this game?
- What are some things that would be good to question sometimes?

Say: If you see an ad promising that new, expensive shoes will make you an all-pro soccer player . . . that might be a good time to withhold trust. Or if a friend says putting your school textbook under your pillow will help you learn everything inside the book while you sleep . . . same thing.

But what about God? Is it ever okay to be uncertain about him? And if so . . . what do we do about that? Let's look at two guys in the Bible and see how they handled their questions about God.





Explore the Bible

Say: The first guy we'll look at is John the Baptist. It was his job to prepare the way for Jesus, telling everyone that Jesus was coming. But later, John got thrown in prison. And he started to wonder if Jesus was really the Messiah—the one God promised to send to save people. John wasn't certain that Jesus was who he thought.

As I read about John, pay attention to what John did when he had questions about who Jesus was.

Read Matthew 11:2–6

Ask:

- What did John do about his questions?
- What did Jesus do about John's questions?

Say: John wasn't too certain about Jesus. But instead of letting his questions take his faith away, he checked in with Jesus. He asked Jesus for the truth, and Jesus gave him evidence about who he was.

Next up is Thomas. Thomas is actually nicknamed “the Doubter” because he is so famous for doubting! Doubting is what happens when we feel really, really uncertain. When Jesus came back to life, all of his friends got to see him . . . except Thomas. So while everyone else was sure Jesus was alive, Thomas wasn't so sure.

Listen for what Thomas did . . . and what Jesus did . . . with those uncertainties.

Read John 20:24–29

Ask:

- What did Thomas do about his questions?
- What did Jesus do about Thomas' questions?
- Based on these two stories, do you think Jesus is mad if we have questions and uncertainties about him? Why or why not?
- Based on these two stories, what are good things to do when we're struggling to trust God with uncertainties?

Say: Both these guys had questions, but they both checked in with Jesus about their uncertainties. We can trust God's power, but when we're struggling to do that, we can talk to Jesus about it! Jesus won't get mad, and he'll help us have faith.

Right now, it seems there's a lot we're uncertain about.

Ask:

- What are some things you wish you knew about what's coming next?

Say: Like Abram, we don't know how things will end. We don't know what's going to happen next or how long it will take for everything to be back to normal. Maybe we're not sure things will ever be normal again! It's natural to have doubts when things feel uncertain, but we can trust God's power. And like John and Thomas, we can talk to God about our questions to turn uncertainty into trust.