

# WEEK 1

## LESSON GUIDE

Staycation!

### BIG IDEA

God blesses us so we can bless others.

### BIBLE

**The Call of Abram:**  
Genesis 12:1-5, 13:1-18

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Worship in the House!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "All The Things" (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
  - "A Great Big House of Friends" (VeggieTales)
  - "God's Family" (Life Kids)
  - "Father Abraham" (CJ & Friends)
  - "We Are Family" (KidSpring Children's Ministry)

### ACTIVITY | Ready, Set, Stay!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a suitcase full of clothes on one end of the room and a laundry basket on the other. Have the kids unpack the suitcase and put all of the clothes in the laundry basket. You can do this as a relay race in teams.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers will have plenty of fun emptying the suitcase and pushing the laundry basket around the room. Keep the suitcase zipped closed and lay it on its side for the toddlers to climb on, but avoid using luggage with wheels.
- If we were to go on vacation, we'd have to pack a bunch of clothes . . . but on a Staycation!, you get to wear whatever you want at home!

### ACTIVITY | House Hop

- Let's play a game that turns our space into a house we all get to share together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up mini scenes of different places in a house: kitchen with pots and pans, bedroom with pillows and stuffed animals, living room with books, garage with toy cars, and play room with toys. Use masking tape to set up a path around the room and have kids hop through the house, identifying each room.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers can easily do this activity but some of them may not want to continue hopping but would much rather sit at one of the scenes and play with the toys there.

*It might be beneficial to set this up as more of a free play activity. Set a timer and let toddlers know that when the timer rings, it's time to move on to the next activity.*

- **Have you ever had to move to a new home before? What helped you get used to your new home?**
- We can feel like we are home whenever we are surrounded by people we love.
- In today's Bible story, we are going to learn about someone who had to move very far away from his home, but God had very special plans for him.

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | Genesis 12:1-5, 13:1-18 (The Call of Abram)

- Hey everyone! I'm so glad you are here for our Staycation! story time!
  - **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up for the Bible story as though it's a slumber party! Wear pajamas (have kids come in PJs, too!), and sit on the floor with blankets, cushions, and pillows. Have kids sit on one side of the room to begin. When prompted, instruct kids to move around the room.*
- Today, we are going to learn about a man named Abram who did a lot of moving. Every time I talk about Abram going somewhere new, I want you to move to the other side of the room.
- God told Abram to leave home and travel far away. *[Have kids move to the other side of the room.]*
  - Abram took his wife, his nephew, and all of his stuff and took a big trip to a new place far away. God had a plan to bless Abram. That means that God wanted to give what was best for Abram.
- Then Abram and his family traveled to the Negev. *[Give the kids a few seconds to move again.]*
  - There were so many people and animals traveling together that everyone became grumpy.
  - So Abram and his nephew, Lot, decided to head in different directions. Abram let Lot pick which part of the land he wanted and Abram took the other part.
- So Abram went to live in Canaan. *[Have the kids move one more time.]*
  - God told Abram that all of the land — as far as he could see — would be for him and his children. God even promised that Abram would have a big family.
  - Abram was so thankful.
- Even though Abram was far away from home, God gave him a new home and promised to bless him with even better things. But God wasn't going to stop with Abram.
- One of the reasons that God gave blessings to Abram was so that he could share what he had been given with his family and friends. So everyone who knew Abram was blessed, too!

### BIG IDEA | God blesses us so we can bless others.

- **Do you know if you have a "junk drawer" in your home somewhere?** A lot of people have a drawer in their house where they put all sorts of things that don't really belong anywhere else.
- Well, I have a junk drawer with me and I think I lost my Big Idea in here somewhere! **Can you help me find it?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare an empty "drawer" filled with odds and ends, like scraps of paper, rolls of tape, keys, pens, spoons — nothing sharp or pointy! Write one word of the Big Idea on a few of these items. Invite kids to rummage through the drawer with you to find all the words of the Big Idea. Once all the words are found, put the words in order and say the Big Idea aloud for the kids, then have them repeat the words after you along with the hand motions.*
- Today's Big Idea is . . .

- **God** (Point upward.)
- **Blesses us** (Point to self with right thumb.)
- **So we can** (Point to self with left thumb.)
- **Bless others** (Sweep arms horizontally in front of you, palms facing up.)

### VIDEO | Staycation!, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of Cali's World.

### ACTIVITY | At-Home Adventure

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a simple obstacle course using hula hoops, [a pop-up tunnel](#), cardboard boxes, cones, pool noodles, and anything else you can easily find.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Pick just two obstacles for the toddlers to do over and over again. As they play, you can call out, "God blesses us so we can bless . . ." and have them respond with, "Others!"
- Follow me – we are going on a trip!
- Just like Abram and his family had to travel through many different places on their trip, we are going to go over and under the tricky obstacles that we have in the room. Let's go!

### PRAYER

- God, help us remember that you take care of us no matter where we go. Thank you for blessing us so we can bless others. Amen.

## SHARING TIME

### SNACK | Sandy Snack

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide each kid with a vanilla pudding cup or sliced bananas. Give each kid their own small cup of crushed graham cracker "sand," and have them pour their "sand" onto their snack.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of having toddlers sprinkle the "sand" on top, put the sliced bananas in a bowl of crushed graham crackers and invite toddlers to use a fork or their fingers to dig it out.
- This snack makes me think of the sand that Abram traveled over with his family.
- **Who are the people in your family?**

### ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill an empty water bottle halfway with sand. Seal the bottle cap onto the bottle using hot glue. Have the kids sit in a circle and let the kids take turns holding the bottle as you ask questions about the Bible story.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers may not be able to repeat all of the story details, so give them each a turn to hold the bottle as you recap the story with them. As they shake it, say the Big Idea with them.
- **Who told Abram to take the big trip?**
- **What was the name of Abram's nephew?**
- **Would you take a trip far from home if God told you to?**

- **Why does God bless us?** That's right, so we can bless others!
- God blesses us so we can bless others.

### ACTIVITY | Great Name Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use white glue to trace the letters of each child's name. Provide the kids with brightly colored sand and have them decorate their name with the sand.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use graham cracker crumbs and white frosting instead of sand and glue or provide dot markers for toddlers to trace the letters for their name.
- Wow! You have a great name!
- Use this sand on the glue to decorate the letters in your name.
- God told Abram that his name would be great. Abram didn't have to try to be great. God made him great! That was a blessing to Abram.
- God thinks that you are amazing too. God also wants us to tell others that they are great. **God blesses us so we can bless others.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

- **"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach preschoolers a small part of the memory verse each week. This week, write one word of the suggested memory verse section on its own piece of paper. Tape them on the floor in a path.
- This month's memory verse is Galatians 6:10. We are going to learn a little bit of the memory verse every week.
- **Are you ready to travel across the memory verse?** Say each word with me as you step on it!
  - **Let us do good to everyone.**

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

### ACTIVITY | Staycation! Storytime

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids build a fort or set up a tent. Bring the book, [Tilly's Staycation](#), and read it aloud while kids are snug under the fort or tent. Bring out more picture books for kids to enjoy on their own afterward.

### ACTIVITY | Build a House

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids [plastic people figures](#) and blocks, and have them build a new home for Abram's family.