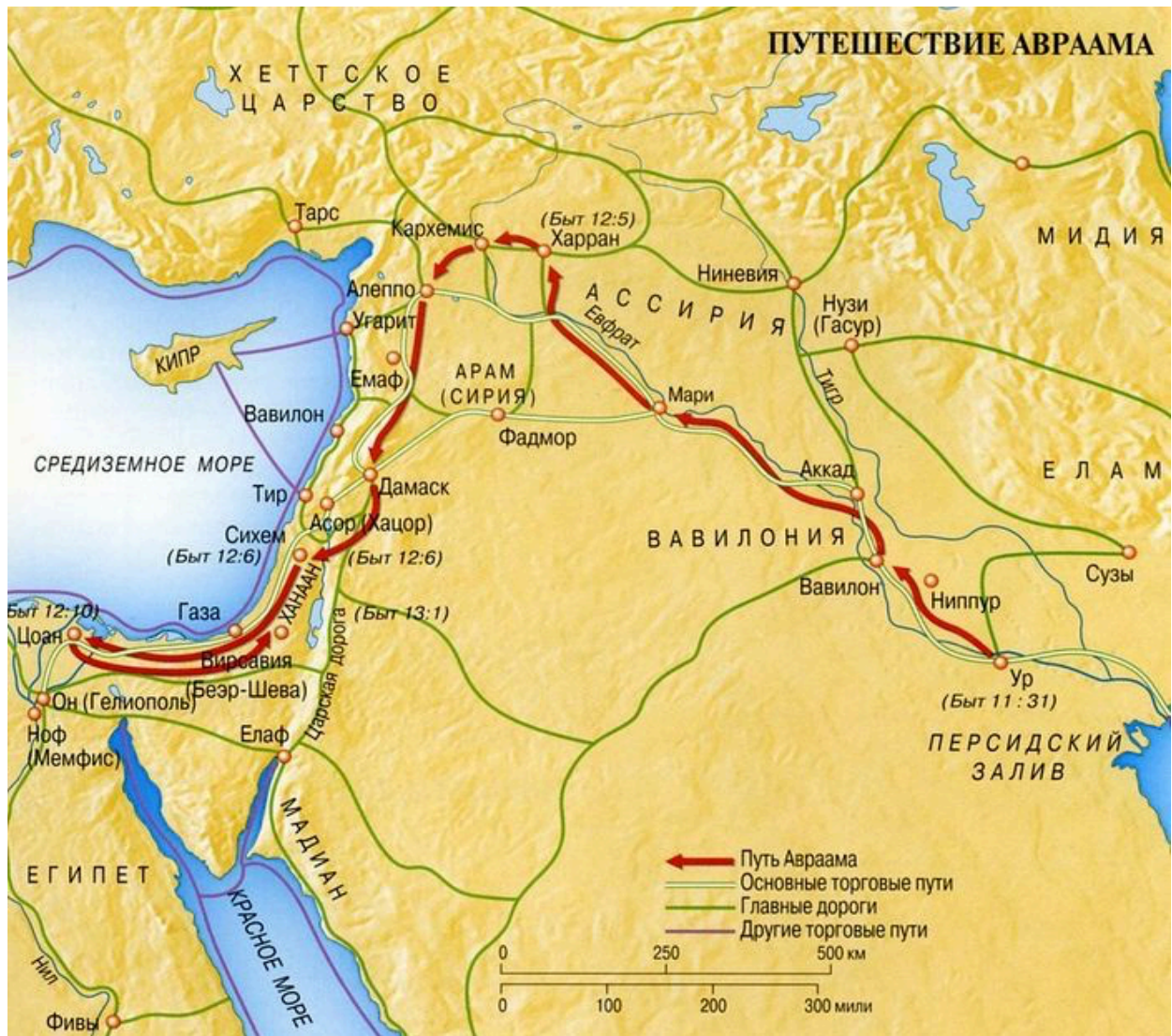


Lesson 2 The Life of Abraham (Part One)



Introduction

When we hear the name *Abraham*, we immediately think of the man who became the “father of faith” and an example of obedience to God. But few stop to consider the journey he walked: filled with trials, hard decisions, victories, and failures. This is the story of how an ordinary man from a pagan city chose to trust the invisible God and followed Him, even when the path was unclear.

The life of Abraham shows us that faith is not just words. It is a daily choice: to follow God even when you are afraid, even when it is hard, and even when no one else around you is living that way. In this lesson, we will walk with Abraham on this journey—the path of faith and God’s promises.

Lesson Goal


This lesson will help you:

- Understand how God leads a person step by step through trials and victories.
 - See that faith means trusting God in every circumstance.
 - Be inspired by Abraham’s example to build your life on God’s promises and learn obedience to Him.
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Historical, Geographical, and Theological Background


History and Geography


Abraham was born in Ur of the Chaldeans—a large, wealthy city in the south of modern-day Iraq. The city was famous for its temples and idol worship. God called Abraham to leave this land and go to Canaan, the region now known as Israel and Palestine. On the way, he lived in Haran (in present-day Turkey or Syria). Abraham’s journey of faith took him through Mesopotamia, Syria, Canaan, and even Egypt.


 A map of Abraham’s life shows that his journey was not only spiritual, but also a real journey across different lands and cultures.

Theological Background

The life of Abraham is the story of the first great covenant between God and man after the flood.

 Through Abraham, God showed that salvation and blessing come through faith and obedience.

 God’s covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15; 17) became the foundation for all future promises, fulfilled in the nation of Israel and ultimately in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16).

 It is important to remember: God chose Abraham not because of his achievements, but by His grace—to bless all nations of the earth through him (Genesis 12:3).

Main Part of the Lesson

1 Abraham's Origins and Calling

Abram was the son of Terah and was born in Ur of the Chaldeans (Genesis 11:27–28). He grew up in a pagan culture that worshiped idols:

“Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor... served other gods” (Joshua 24:2, NKJV).

But Scripture never says that Abraham himself served those gods.

In spite of this, God chose him for a special mission. When Abraham was about 70 years old, the Lord first called him to leave his homeland, his father's house, and his relatives, and to go to the land that He would show him (Genesis 12:1–4). Together with his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot, and all his servants, Abram set out for Canaan. This step marked the beginning of a great journey of faith.

The book of Acts explains that the original call came even earlier, while Abraham was still in Mesopotamia:

“The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you’” (Acts 7:2–3, NKJV).

Practical Applications

1. God Calls Regardless of the Past

Abraham grew up in an idolatrous culture, but that did not stop God from calling him.

✓ Don't let your past define your future—God can begin a new story with you.

2. The Call Requires Leaving the Familiar

God's call meant leaving his homeland, his father's house, and his ties.

✓ Are you willing to leave your comfort zone to follow God where He leads?

3. Family Influence Does Not Decide Your Destiny

Abraham's father served other gods, but Abraham chose to follow the living God.

✓ You don't have to repeat your family's mistakes—you can choose the path of faith.

4. A Great Journey Begins with Small Steps

Abraham's calling was the beginning of salvation history—with one step of simple obedience.

✓ Never underestimate small acts of obedience—they can change the course of history.

2 Arrival of Abraham's Family in Canaan and the First Altars

When Abraham arrived in Canaan, he stopped at Shechem, where the Lord appeared to him and promised to give that land to his descendants (Genesis 12:6–7). There he built an altar to the Lord as a sign of gratitude and worship. Then he moved on to the hill between Bethel and Ai, where he built another altar and called on the name of the Lord.

Practical Applications:

1. The Altar—A Symbol of Ongoing Worship

Abraham built altars at every important stop along his journey.

✓ Build “altars” in your life—habits, times, and places set apart for personal worship of God.

2. God's Vision Strengthens Faith

God did not promise the land immediately, but to Abraham's descendants in the future.

✓ Learn to trust God even when His promises are for future generations, not just for you.

3. A New Beginning Starts with Worship, Not Worry

When Abraham entered the land, he didn't focus on settling down first—he built an altar.

✓ Whenever you start something new, let your first step be worship, not busyness.

3 Tested by Famine and the Journey to Egypt

When a severe famine struck Canaan, Abraham was forced to go down to Egypt (Genesis 12:10). There he made a mistake: out of fear for his life, he asked Sarah to say she was his sister. Pharaoh took Sarah into his household, but the Lord struck Pharaoh's house with plagues. When Pharaoh discovered the truth—that Sarah was Abraham's wife, not his sister—he returned her and sent Abraham away with gifts, urging him to leave Egypt in peace.

Practical Applications:

1. Trials Expose Weak Spots in Faith

During the famine, Abraham panicked and compromised by hiding the truth about Sarah.

✓ Pay attention to your reactions in hard times—they reveal where you still need to grow in trusting God.

2. **Fear Leads to Wrong Choices**

Abraham's fear for his life drove him to tell a half-truth that almost caused disaster.

✔ Don't let fear control your actions—choose faithfulness and honesty, even when it seems risky.

3. **God Protects His People Despite Their Failures**

The Lord stepped in and protected Sarah, even when Abraham faltered.

✔ Even when you stumble, God remains faithful—His mercy covers your mistakes.

4 **Return to Canaan and Separation from Lot**

Abraham returned to Canaan and settled again near Bethel, at the place of the altar he had built earlier. By this time, both his flocks and Lot's had grown so large that conflicts broke out between their herdsmen. Choosing peace and generosity, Abraham allowed Lot to pick any portion of the land. Lot chose the fertile plains near Sodom, while Abraham remained in Canaan (Genesis 13). After this, God once again confirmed His promise to give Abraham the whole land.

Practical Applications:

1. **Returning to the Altar Means Returning to God**

Abraham went back to the place where he had first worshiped the Lord—Bethel and the altar.

✔ When you feel lost or weary, return to where your fellowship with God was alive—through prayer, Scripture, and repentance.

2. **What Looks Best Isn't Always Best**

Lot chose land that looked fertile and prosperous, but it was near sinful Sodom.

✔ Don't make decisions based only on outward gain—seek God's will and spiritual safety.

3. **A Generous Heart Attracts God's Blessing**

After Abraham gave Lot the right to choose first, God renewed His promise to him.

✔ When you put peace and faithfulness above personal advantage, God will provide and bless you.

5 **The War of Kings and the Rescue of Lot**

When Lot was taken captive during the war of the five kings against the four, Abram gathered 318 trained men from his household. Dividing his forces by night, he attacked the enemy, rescued Lot, and brought back the captives and possessions (Genesis 14). After the victory,

Abraham was met by Melchizedek—the king of Salem and priest of God Most High. The king of Sodom also came out to offer him friendship. But Abraham chose not to align himself with the king of Sodom. Instead, he received Melchizedek’s blessing and gave him a tenth of the spoils.

Practical Applications:

1. **True Love Acts, Even Toward Those Who Made Mistakes**

Abraham did not abandon Lot, even though Lot selfishly chose the best pastures and settled near sinful Sodom.

✔ Faith shows itself in helping those who fail. Don’t seek revenge—choose to save.

2. **After Success, Choose Your Alliances Carefully**

Abraham rejected the offer of the king of Sodom and chose fellowship with the holy priest Melchizedek.

✔ Not every opportunity is from God. After success, test your partnerships.

3. **God’s Blessing Is Greater Than Earthly Profit**

Abraham valued Melchizedek’s blessing above the wealth offered by Sodom.

✔ Treasure spiritual things more than material gain. Never accept a sinful compromise, even if it looks profitable.

4. **Be Selective About Who Influences Your Life**

Abraham refused the king of Sodom so no one could say, “I made Abraham rich.”

✔ Guard the purity of your testimony. Don’t tie yourself to anything that could stain your reputation before God and people.

5. **Faith Means Trust, Obedience, and Separation from Evil**

Abraham’s choices in this story reveal the maturity of his faith.

✔ Aim to live as a person who walks with God—in battles, in decisions, and in worship.

6 God’s Promises and the Covenant with Abraham

Once again, God appeared to Abraham and encouraged him with these words:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward”
(Genesis 15:1, NKJV).

God promised him descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. To confirm His covenant, a special sacrificial ritual was performed. God revealed that Abraham’s descendants would live as strangers in another land, but He also promised their return and inheritance of the land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates.

Practical Applications:

1. **God Strengthens Us in Times of Fear**

The Lord said, “Do not be afraid,” knowing Abraham’s concerns and doubts.

✔ When fear and uncertainty fill your heart, turn to God’s Word—He knows how to comfort you.

2. **Faith Sees Beyond What Eyes Can See**

God promised countless descendants while Abraham had no children.

✔ Trust God’s promises, even when you see no evidence yet—He is faithful to His Word.

3. **God Works According to His Plan and Timing**

God told Abraham the promise would unfold over generations—but it would surely happen.

✔ Don’t demand immediate results. Trust God’s timing—His plans are eternal.

7 The Birth of Ishmael through Hagar

At Sarah’s urging—because she believed she could not bear children—Abram took her servant Hagar as a wife. Hagar gave birth to a son, Ishmael, when Abraham was 86 years old (Genesis 16). This brought tension into the household, as conflict arose between Sarah and Hagar.

Practical Applications:

1. **Don’t Try to “Help” God with Your Own Methods**

Sarah tried to “help” God’s promise by giving Hagar to Abram. The result was conflict and pain.

✔ Trust God’s timing—rushed decisions can destroy peace and upset God’s order.

2. **Family Decisions Require Spiritual Maturity**

Abram agreed to Sarah’s plan without prayer or seeking God’s counsel.

✔ Before making important family decisions, seek God’s guidance—not just human reasoning.

3. **Pride and Jealousy Destroy Relationships**

Hagar became prideful, Sarah began to mistreat her, and strife filled the home.

✔ Pay attention to your heart—pride and envy will always lead to conflict unless stopped.

4. **You Bear Responsibility for Your Choices**

Though Hagar was a servant, she suffered because of the choices made by others.

✔ Consider how your actions affect others—especially those who are weak or

dependent.

5. **God Still Works Even in Our Mistakes**

The birth of Ishmael was not part of God's perfect plan, yet God still cared for him.

✓ Even when you make mistakes, repent and trust God with the outcome—He will not abandon you or those impacted by your decisions.



Homework

1. **Practical:**

Think about your life: do you have “altars”—habits or places where you regularly meet with God (prayer, Bible reading, serving)? If not, choose one practice and start doing it every day this week.

2. **Creative:**

Draw a map or make a diagram of “Abraham’s journey of faith” (from Ur to Canaan through Haran). Mark the key places and note what happened there. Then reflect: what does your own “journey of faith” look like today?