

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**  
*Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One*

**Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a**

In the early Church the Easter Vigil was the only time that Baptisms were performed. The forty days leading up to Easter was used as a time of reflection, self-examination, and instruction for the catechumens, or new converts, in preparation for the new life they would receive at Baptism. Lent has always been a teaching season. All the lectionary readings during Lent point towards Baptism, either its promises and covenants, or its signs and symbols. Lent is often referred to as a short course in Baptism or a primer of our Christian faith.

**Notation for This Week’s Scripture**

Abraham is the great patriarch of our religion, known as the prime model of faith. He put his total trust in God when he said yes to leaving his familiar homeland to journey to an unknown land. His example becomes a blessing to all of us. The story’s connection to the Baptismal Rite is the concept of saying yes to God. It is not enough to say no to evil; we must be ready to say yes to Jesus. In the Baptismal Rite we are asked: “Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior? Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?” [*Book of Common Prayer*, pp. 302-303.]

**Theme: Faith in God**

**Continuing the Journey of Lent**

**Lenten Waiting Table**

A wonderful visual reminder to the children would be to create a “Waiting Table.” A purple cloth covering a table, a box or even a ledge would provide the display space. At the beginning of the season you could plant grass seed in a basket to produce a “living Easter basket.” Other ideas include fast growing seeds or bulbs, and caterpillars. The message we convey is that growth takes time and nurturing, and although we can’t always see it we can trust that it is taking place.

**Lenten Roadmap:** A visual tool to help the children mark time is recommended. Some possibilities include a large paper cross with forty spaces marked off, a “road map” with forty spaces leading to Easter, and made or purchased Lenten calendars.

**Lenten Giving**

A jar or other container to collect Lenten offerings is a visual reminder of sacrificial giving.

**Before Class:** Write “yes” and “faith” on construction paper. Prearrange cell phone call. This week you will also need: a Bible map, a cell phone, something to make a blindfold, paper cups, and a pitcher of water or juice. You may want to search online for a map of Abraham’s Journey and print it out.

**Beginning:** Announce that it is the second Sunday in Lent, the season that helps us to be ready for Easter. Show the children where you are at on the Lenten calendar or time-telling aid from the week before.

Collect contributions for your mission project.

Hold up a sheet of construction paper that says YES on one side and FAITH on the other. Say that these are the key words of the day. Take out a cell phone and tell them you are going to call someone [prearrange this with a friend or family member] Say out loud: “I wonder if this will work. I wonder if anyone will answer.” Ask the children if they think it will work. Explain that we have faith in the process, even if we can’t see or understand how it is happening. We trust our cell phones to work for us. It is like that with God. We can’t always see God or know how He works, but we have faith that He is there and we trust that God loves and cares for us.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God help us to say yes like Abraham and to be ready to go where you lead us. We give you all our faith and trust. Amen.

**The Story:** The Lord was feeling disappointed and sad at the wicked and disobedient ways that people were behaving. But God did not give up on humankind. God never did and God never will. God called on Abraham, who was seventy-five years old. God asked Abraham to leave his father’s house, his friends and family and his country. God wanted Abraham to go to a new and unknown country that He would show him. God promised to bless Abraham and all his descendants and to make them into a great nation. God told Abraham that all the way into the future people would remember his name and remember Abraham as a man of great faith. The good example of Abraham and his family would become a blessing for generations of families to come. Abraham said yes to God without questioning, complaining, or doubting. So Abraham left his home and father, taking with him his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot and began the journey to the land where God would lead him.

### Reflection Questions

- What are some things in our modern lives that we are asked to trust or believe in that we can’t see? [ex., electricity, internet, etc.]
- What is faith? St. Paul quote: “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1) or use your own quote here.
- What is a covenant?
- What is a blessing?

### Activity: Map Quest

Trace Abraham’s journey on a Bible map. Talk about the difficulties and dangers of travel in those days. What gave Abraham the courage to take the journey? Ask if the children have ever gone somewhere new to them or had to try something new and scary. How did they deal with it?

Discuss their hopes and fears for the future in terms of something new they would like to try or place they would like to see. Give each child the opportunity to express his faith by making up a short prayer asking God for what they need to accomplish this.

**Activity: Blessings**

Ask if anyone has seen someone give a toast at a wedding or other party. Explain that blessings are similar but stronger. Ask them what the priest says at the end of a worship service. We all have the capacity to bless one another. When we wish for someone else the best and most important things in life, the kinds of things that God wants for us, we are offering a blessing. We know we cannot accomplish these things without God's help, so we often start a blessing with words like "May the Lord....." asking for God's participation in the blessing.

- **Option 1:** Pass out paper cups with water or juice and have the children practice giving one another "toast blessings." After each toast they may take a sip.
- **Option 2:** Invite the children to write their own blessings for each other, a family member, someone who is traveling, or the congregation.

**Activity: Reader's Theater**

Print out in advance or pass the book around to read "The Right Man" from *Does God Have a Big Toe* by Rabbi Marc Gellman and Monsignor Thomas Hartman.

**Closure:** Invite the children to share their prayers or blessings. Invite the children to stand and stretch their arms up to the ceiling and then bow to the teacher to say thank you, and then to one another, as a way of thanking one another for the time together. Remind them to bring in their Lenten offerings next week

**Closing Prayer:** Dear Lord, We thank you for this time to learn about you. Help us to always say yes to your will for us. May we become blessings to our families, friends, school, church and the world. Amen.

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**The Scripture for Today: Genesis 12:1-4a**

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

*Lent Lesson Plans for Older Children written by Trudy Ardizzone.*

*Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

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