

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 1 **Entering a New World**

Point to Emphasize: We should learn to follow the authorities in our life.

Reference Reading: Genesis 9:1-7

Memory Verse: Let every person be subject to the authorities over him, for there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are ordained by God. (Romans 13:1)

Story Sample

After the flood, the ark had landed and the water had withdrawn. And what do you suppose would happen now to Noah and his family? We know that only Noah and his family remained on the earth—only eight people, and that the earth was different than before. This was the time for a new beginning in a new world!

Because man had been so evil, there was a need for God to change things. In the beginning of Genesis, God created man in His image and made him the authority over all of the animals. But starting after the flood, God gave the people an authority, someone to represent Him and be in charge of man. Noah was the first deputy authority of God. Deputy means that Noah was given the authority to act on God's behalf. Noah represented God. God was still over everything, but he gave Noah a special responsibility.

We have a lot of authorities in our life, right? In our family, our dad and mom are the authorities over us. At school, our teachers and the principal are the authorities over us. In our city, the police are the authorities over us, and in our country, the federal government is the authority over us. All of this authority over us is according to God's plan. So, if we want to do what God wants, we need to obey all of those authorities in our life.

Sometimes it is hard to obey authority. I'm sure we have all failed to obey at least our mom or dad at some time. When I was young, I used to love to run on the block wall behind my house, but my mom and dad would say "Absolutely NOT!" One day, though, I was showing off and began to run along the fence. A rose bush was growing over the fence, and I tripped on it and fell to the ground. It really hurt me, and I knew if I had listened to and obeyed my parents, it would never have happened. *[Insert your own story telling about not obeying your mom or dad.]* We should try our best to obey our parents and other authorities God put's in our life. *[Read the memory verse, Romans 13:1, and discuss what it means.]*

The authorities in our life are very important. If moms and dads weren't in charge, their children would be a mess; if the teachers weren't in charge, the class would never be able to learn; if the police weren't in charge, there would be all kinds of problems, and it wouldn't be safe to go out of our house.

So God made Noah in charge of the new world with deputy authority over the people. This was the best way for God to be represented on earth.

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 2 **The Building of the Tower—A Name for Themselves**

Point to Emphasize: Our goal is to follow God.

Reference Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

Memory Verse: That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:6)

Story Sample

Originally, the whole earth had one language—everyone spoke the same way. This was because God wants His people to be one. He wants us all to have the same one goal: to follow Him. God created man to express Him and represent Him, and He wants His people to worship Him.

Noah and his family were one, they had one goal in following God. That saved them. But many years later, the people on the earth were not interested in following God any more. Instead, they came together in the land of Shinar and decided to build a city and a tower for themselves. They wanted this tower to be so high that it would reach the heavens, as high as God. They wanted to make a name for themselves.

Maybe we don't think it sounds like a big deal to build this kind of tower, but actually, it was very wrong of them. Why did they want to build this high tower? What did they have in mind? Actually, they were building the tower to make a name for themselves instead of worshipping God's name. Building this tower showed that they only cared for themselves and what they could do all by themselves without God. How terrible! God had a wonderful plan for man, but man was not interested in God at all—man was only interested in himself.

When I was young, I really liked to tell jokes. I liked people to think I was really funny. Sometimes the children's meeting teacher would say something that reminded me of a joke I wanted to tell. I would get so excited to tell it! I couldn't wait to show how funny I was. But the teacher had a different goal. She wanted to teach her lesson. When I interrupted to tell my joke, it turned all the attention to me instead of the Lord. *[Storyteller, insert your own story.]* This is a little bit like the people at the Tower of Babel. They wanted to get all the attention for themselves—and they didn't give any to God.

This was a big disappointment to God, so He decided to limit man so that he couldn't do anything worse. God confounded their language to limit man. Originally, everyone had spoken the same language, but God made it so that everyone spoke different languages. They could not build up anything for themselves anymore, because they couldn't even talk to or understand each other. They were scattered and confused and began to divide into different groups.

Today we don't want to make the same mistake and become divided. We are God's people and we want to have one goal—following God and giving Him the glory. We want to speak the same thing about God according to His Word.

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 3 **Having a New Beginning—God Choosing and Calling**

Point to Emphasize: God has chosen each one of us

Reference Reading: Genesis 11:26—12:3; Acts 7:2-3

Memory Verse: You did not choose me, but I chose you. (John 15:16)

Story Sample

Last week, we talked about Babel, right? *[Short review.]* So by the end of this story, men no longer spoke the same language, but were divided and scattered all over. Since the time of Noah, men had made a real mess of the earth again. They no longer followed God, they thought too highly of themselves, and they worshipped idols. It was time for God to have a new beginning—AGAIN!

God's plan was to call someone in particular, a man whose descendants would be the chosen race, the Jews. He made this plan in eternity past, before man was even on earth. This would be a new beginning for man. Abram was the man God would choose for His new beginning. Later we will hear about how his name was changed to Abraham.

Have you ever been chosen for something? Maybe you are in the fourth grade and the teacher needs to choose a student representative for the class. Don't you think the teacher knows what kind of person they need for the job? So she considers one by one each person in the class to see who would best represent her, as well as the whole class someone who would be faithful to carry out the responsibilities of the job. Wouldn't you feel so special to be chosen? Or would you run away from taking the responsibility? *[Storyteller, add a personal story of being called and chosen for a particular task because of the kind of person they were.]*

Abraham was born in Ur of the Chaldeas. In this place, the people worshipped many idols. Abraham's father was a man named Terah. Eventually, Terah decided to go to the land of Canaan with his son, Abraham's wife Sarai, and Abraham's nephew Lot. But before they got all the way to Canaan, they stopped in a place called Haran. It was in this city that God came to Abraham and called him.

What does it mean to call someone? When I call, "John," *[Call out a name of one of the children in the room.]* you see, he looked at me because I called him by name, and he knows I am about to speak something to him. Well, the very God Himself not only called Abraham, but God came to visit Abraham and speak to him. In this visit God told Abraham, "Go from your land and from your relatives and from your father's house to the land that I will show you; and I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing." (Genesis 12:1-2)

Out of all the men on earth, God chose this man. And one day, while Abraham was worshipping other gods, the one true God visited him to call him to a better place. Next week we will hear how Abraham responded to God's call.

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 4
Abraham Learning the Lesson that God Takes Care of Him

Point to Emphasize: We can be those that respond and obey when we are called, even when the task seems impossible.

Reference Reading: Genesis 12:1-8

Memory Verse: By faith Abraham, being called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. (Hebrews 11:8)

Story Sample

Last week we learned how God was having a new beginning. And for this purpose, He called Abraham. Out of all the men on earth, God chose this man. God chose and called Abraham. Today we will see how Abraham responded.

Abraham was living in a place called Chaldea which was in the land of Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia means "between rivers". Who likes Geography in this room? According to geography, the region of Mesopotamia was bound by two great rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris. Now, since there was no modern transportation, the people back then had to walk where they wanted to go. How was Abraham able to get out of Chaldea? How was he going to cross any of those rivers? God called Abraham, but Abraham needed to get himself out.

Now, I want you to imagine with me that you are Abraham and you live in a great plain bounded by two rivers, and God comes to you and He says you need to come out of that country. It might be hard for you to picture that, but maybe something similar has happened to you. Has your teacher called you and given you a task that you might think is too difficult for you? What is your first reaction? Do you say, "What?!? That is too hard!! I can't do that!" Or, are you willing to respond and obey?

I will tell you a story of something that happened to me. One day my dad told our family that God had called him and our family to move to another country. First I thought, "Oh, WOW it sounds exciting." But then, my dad began to tell us that he didn't know where we were going to live. He told us he didn't know what school we were going to go to. He told us he didn't know if there were children our age for us to play with. Oh, I tell you I thought it was just impossible for me to go with him! But, I am SO glad I did! God showed my dad step by step and placed us in the best street, in the best house, in the best school and I even met the best friends! *[Storyteller, insert a story about obeying something God or a grown up called you to do.]*

I am happy to tell you that Abraham obeyed God's calling. Abraham went out even not knowing where he was going. Abraham responded to God's call! I hope that the next time you are asked to do something you might think is impossible you remember Abraham. We can be encouraged to obey just like Abraham did. Abraham went as God had told him. Abraham took his wife and his nephew called Lot. He got all his possessions and the people that he had gathered and went out to the land that God had given to him. The fact that Abraham responded positively to God's calling afforded God a way to have a new beginning!

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 5 **Abraham Living a Simple Life of Faith**

Point to Emphasize: We should be those that live a life that is simple, just following God.

Reference Reading: Genesis 12:1-8

Memory Verse: For we walk by **faith**, not by appearance. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Story Sample

Two weeks ago we talked about God calling Abraham, and last week we talked about how he responded to God's call. Now this week we would like to talk to you about what kind of living Abraham had after he began to follow God. God had promised him that He would lead Abraham to a land He had chosen, and would even make a great nation of him, blessing him greatly. So Abraham began to travel to the land God had promised.

When Abraham came to a place called Shechem, at the oak of Moreh, God appeared to him again. Once again, He promised Abraham that he would give him a land. Do you know what Abraham did? He built an altar. Do you know what an altar is? It is a place to worship God. So the first thing he did after God spoke to him was to build an altar. Before he did anything else, he worshipped God. He put God before everything else, even himself. He didn't start by building a house, or getting a job, or going to the store. He set every worry about his living aside and only worshipped the one true God.

Many people will say it is foolish to worship only God. Some of the people I love very much will say to me, "Are you going to ANOTHER meeting? Wouldn't you rather go to the movies or a ball game with us?" They think I'm crazy to go to so many meetings. Do you have this happen with your friends too? Well, I'll tell you, I would much rather go to a meeting any day! I love to be with all of God's people!

Then later, after worshipping God, Abraham pitched a tent. He didn't build a brick building or even a tower like they had in Babel. He knew he wouldn't stay in the same place for long. So he built a tent. When you go camping, do you take a tent with you? That's because you know it will only be for a short time. And Abraham knew that he would not want to get too settled because he was following God, wherever He went! This was a very simple life—a life of faith. He believed God would lead him wherever He wanted Abraham to be. Nothing was as important as living this life of faith. Wherever he traveled, he would build altars and pitch his tent. He never cared for more than that, just going where God was going.

I also know people who ask me why I don't care so much about a new car, or a fancy house, or the best job ever. But you know what? Those things would just make my life so complicated! I wouldn't have time or the money to spend on what God wants. What about you? Would you rather spend all your allowance so you could have the BEST shoes, or the NEWEST video games, or spend all your time with friends who don't love God, or just simply love God and His people? *[Draw the children into a discussion about things that complicate their lives.]* I would rather have a simple life of praising God and living by faith to follow Him.

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 6
Abraham Learning the Lesson that God Takes Care of Him

Point to Emphasize: We can be encouraged that our sovereign God takes care of us even when we choose wrong.

Reference Reading: Genesis 12:9—13:18

Memory Verse: For whom Jehovah loves He disciplines, / Even as a father, the son in whom he delights. (Proverbs 3:12)

Story Sample

During Abraham's time there was a famine in Canaan. What's a famine? A famine is an extreme scarcity of food in a region. A famine is a really bad situation. Abraham was living right there in Canaan, and we learned last week that he was living a simple life trusting in God for everything. But now, what is Abraham going to do in the midst of a famine? There is simply not enough food! Actually, this famine was a part of a test designed by God for Abraham. Will Abraham trust in God that He will take care of all his needs and his family's needs, even in providing for them to eat? Well, there was no food in Canaan, but there was food in Egypt. What will Abraham do?

Abraham failed this test. Abraham decided to go down to Egypt. Remember that God called Abraham out of Egypt. Now Abraham went back to Egypt, back to the place that God had called him out from! Abraham did not trust God to supply his daily necessities and he decided to go down to Egypt to get food. While in Egypt, Abraham told a lie to Pharaoh and because of this he acquired a lot of possessions. He was given sheep, oxen, camels, menservants and maidservants. Abraham became rich. Now, because Pharaoh realized that Abraham lied to him, he was not happy with him and sent him out. So, Abraham went out of Egypt and back into Canaan. Abraham returned to the place where he was at first sent by God, and there he built an altar and pitched his tent again, just like he had before. Abraham learned his lesson. God took care of all of Abraham's needs even when he chose wrong.

Dear children, we can learn a lot from this story of Abraham. When we lie, it might work on our side for a little while, but the truth will always come out. We shouldn't lie. But it is so encouraging to see that in spite of what Abraham did, God was still caring for Abraham. God's care still comes to us as we are learning the lessons that He teaches us.

I'll tell you what happened to me. One day I was in the children's meeting, and the serving one gave everyone a drink in really pretty Dixie cups. I kept playing with the cup, and I ended up with it in the car after being picked up by my mom. My mom saw the cup and asked me, "Where did you get that cup?" I looked at the cup and from nowhere I responded, "I got it in children's meeting because I was a good girl today!" My mom praised me for being a good girl, and oh, I felt SO good. Days later, my mom happened to be talking to the serving one that had been with me that day and started talking about the Dixie cup. Yes, the serving one told my mom she had served the juice in them and all the children had gotten one. When my mom came back home, she sat me down and told me what she found out. I had lied to my mom. I felt SO bad. After getting disciplined for lying, I knew my mom still loved me. My mom's care was still there for me as she tucked me in bed that night. *[Storyteller, insert your own example of learning that God or an adult took care of you even when you chose wrong. Ask children about being disciplined but still knowing that their parents love them.]*

Our God knows everything. Everything is under His control. God prepared a famine to teach Abraham that no matter what, God will take care of him. As with Abraham, God also cares for us. His care and love toward us will always be there!

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 7 **Abraham—the Friend of God**

Point to Emphasize: We can talk to God as our friend.

Reference Reading: Genesis 18

Memory Verse: And Abraham...was called the friend of God. (James 2:23)

Story Sample

One day, Abraham was sitting in the door of his tent during the heat of the day, and he saw three men approaching. They were just normal men, so at first, Abraham did not realize that one of them was actually God Himself, or that the other two were angels. He just saw three guests approaching his tent, so he ran out to greet them. He was such a good host. He offered them water and food and a chance to wash their feet and take a little rest. The men accepted Abraham's offer, so he, Sarah, and their servants prepared some meat, milk, and cakes for them. Abraham brought the food out to the men, and they ate it and talked with him.

As they talked, Abraham began to realize that these men were very special, that one of them was God. Abraham was sitting outside of his home, eating and talking with God! He wasn't scared or shy, because God had appeared as a normal man. If God were to appear to you as the Mighty All-powerful God, wouldn't you be a little scared? I would be! If He came with all His power and glory, I would feel really uncomfortable and shy. God knows we might feel like that, but since He really wanted to sit and talk with Abraham, He appeared as a normal man. Because of that, Abraham could sit and talk to God the same way he would have talked to a friend. In the Bible, Abraham is even called the friend of God!

We can be the friends of God, too. We may know that we can pray to the Lord when we are in trouble or sad, but that isn't all. We can tell Him when we are happy, mad, scared, or excited. We can tell Him about our day, about how we are feeling, or about anything else. Don't you like to talk to your friends? And don't you like it when your friends talk to you? We can talk to God just like that too! We can talk to Him while we are doing our homework or riding in the car. We can talk to Him during the school day or when we're out running errands with our parents. *[Storyteller, insert your own story about talking to God. Then write on the board "I can talk to God when I'm _____" and have the kids give examples to fill in the blank (happy, mad, etc.).]*

We can talk to God any time, any place, and we can tell Him anything. He wants to hear! He is our friend! The more you talk to someone, the better friends you become. It is the same with our God, the more we talk to Him, the closer friends we become.

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 8 **The Birth of Isaac—the Time of Life**

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who wait on God's timing.

Reference Reading: Genesis 17:15-27; 18:10-19

Memory Verse: Is anything too marvelous for Jehovah? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. (Genesis 18:14)

Story Sample

When Abraham was ninety-nine years old, his name was still Abram. One day God appeared to Abram and said that He would make a covenant with him. Who knows what a covenant is? That's right; it is a kind of agreement, with a promise. God promised Abram that he would become the father of many people—of a multitude! The name Abram means "exalted father," but God was promising to make Abram more than just a father—He was promising to make him the father of many, many people. So God changed his name to *Abraham*, which means "the father of a multitude."

But how could Abraham be the father of a multitude? He and Sarah did not even have one son. Abraham tried to think of a way he could work this out himself. But God is so amazing. He did not need Abraham to work it out. If God wants to do something, He can do it, no matter how hard it seems. God told Abraham that he would have a son named Isaac. This was so mysterious to Abraham! He was ninety-nine years old, and God was promising him a son! Abraham couldn't believe it! Would you have believed it? We might have thought it was too late for Abraham to have a son. Shouldn't God have given him a son earlier? But God always does things in His perfect time.

Not long after this happened, God and Abraham were talking again—remember, they were friends! God asked Abraham where Sarah was, and Abraham said that she was in the tent. God wanted to tell them something. He reminded them of His promise. He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and then Sarah your wife shall have a son."

Sarah heard this, and she could not believe it. She was almost one hundred years old! How could she have a baby? Have you ever seen such an old woman have a baby? We might think that's pretty funny! Sarah too, thought that was funny. She laughed when she heard this. But God was not being funny. He meant what He said. He asked her, "Is anything too marvelous for Jehovah?" God can do anything! Nothing is impossible for Him, and nothing is too hard. He told Abraham and Sarah, "At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." God did exactly what He said. At the right time, Sarah had a son and they named him Isaac.

God does everything in His own perfect timing. Sometimes that timing seems impossible to us or we may not understand it, but we can be like Abraham who learned to wait on God's timing. *[Storyteller, insert your own story about waiting on the Lord's timing and seeing His promise being fulfilled.]* If the Lord promises something, He will always fulfill that promise. He will do it in the best way, in the perfect timing. We can trust in Him for that.

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 9 **Abraham and Isaac Trusting and Obeying**

Point to Emphasize: We should be those who trust and obey our parents as they follow God.

Reference Reading: Genesis 22

Memory Verse: Commit your way to Jehovah, / And trust in Him; and He will act. (Psalm 37:5)

Story Sample

Last week it was so good to hear how God gave Abraham a son, Isaac. But this story doesn't end there. Abraham had waited so long for this son, and he must have been so happy. But a time came when God required something very difficult of Abraham. God asked Abraham to give his son Isaac back to Him. Abraham was told by God to offer up his son to God on a mountain. Even though it must have been hard for Abraham to do this, he responded and obeyed God immediately! The next morning he saddled his donkey, split the wood and headed out with Isaac to the place God had told him. When he got to the place, he prepared the wood for an offering and bound Isaac and prepared to offer him to God. He trusted God for his son and he obeyed God's instructions. And because of this, God provided a lamb instead for the sacrifice, and Isaac was spared.

Now, did any one of you stop to think...What about Isaac? What was he thinking while all of this was going on? Did Isaac have a say in this? Was Isaac okay with this?

Now, if Isaac was always following and cooperating with his father, do you think he was okay in letting his father offer him up to God? Let's picture this together. Let's imagine what Isaac was thinking. His father wakes him up one day, and he doesn't tell him what is going on. He just brings Isaac with him to offer something to God. Imagine he started to walk up the mountain with Abraham. Even helping him to carry the firewood. Imagine then that his father starts to build up the place for the offering. He sets the wood and binds Isaac, and puts him on top of the wood! Wouldn't you be full of questions?

The Bible shows us a precious conversation between Isaac and his father. Isaac said, "My father! The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" To which Abraham responded, "God Himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son". This conversation shows us that, just as Abraham had trusted and obeyed God, Isaac trusted and obeyed his father. Abraham never asked Isaac what he thought about what they were about to do! Nevertheless, Isaac trusted and obeyed his father by following him to the mountain. He trusted and obeyed his father in carrying the wood and in being bound! Isaac never complained. Isaac never argued with his father. Isaac never said no! Isaac just trusted and obeyed his father.

Wow, what a story! It tells of Abraham obeying and trusting God, and it also tells of Isaac obeying and trusting his father. While we are young, we may not know what God wants us to do, but we do know what our parents want us to do! I hope we all learn from Isaac. We should be those that trust and obey our parents as they are also obeying God in what God is asking them to do! We can trust our parents, because our parents trust in God!

I remember my dad waking me in the morning many times and asking me to get dressed and to eat something because we needed to leave quickly. Oh, I always wanted to know where we were going! But he would tell me, "You just need to follow me." He would take me to visit

someone that was sick or to help clean the meeting hall. I was one that was asking him all the time, "Are we there yet? Where are we going? Are there going to be more children there? Are we going to be there for a long time? Do I really have to go?" *[Storyteller, insert your own story of needing to trust and obey your parents or someone older than you when they were obeying God].*

I hope that this week we will all be like Abraham and Isaac, trusting and obeying! I hope that instead of asking too many questions and complaining to our parents, we would just trust and obey!

Intermediate Level, Block 2, Week 10

Isaac Getting a Bride

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who accept God's choosing.

Reference Reading: Genesis 24

Memory Verse: Out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. (Romans 11:36)

Story Sample

Do you remember the story of Rebekah? Abraham wanted to get a bride for his son Isaac, so he sent his servant to find one. The servant was waiting at the well when he met Rebekah. She offered to fetch water for him and for all his camels, too! The servant felt that God had answered his prayers, and he went to meet Rebekah's family. When he asked if she would willingly come with him to marry Isaac, she said "I will go." Do you remember this story? *[Storyteller, please see the story Beginner Level, Block 2, Week 9—Rebekah Cooperated With God.]* Well, today we want to consider the same story, but from Isaac's perspective.

While Abraham and the servant were working hard to get Isaac a bride, Isaac was not really doing anything. That might seem a little funny, but it's also very sweet. Isaac did not have to do anything because he was a person who just enjoyed his father's blessings. His father took care of everything for him, so all Isaac had to do was receive and enjoy. We can also receive and enjoy many things that have been given to us.

One day, Isaac was out in the field meditating. That shows that he did not have to work hard; he was able to live a life of enjoyment—just enjoying all the good things provided to him by his father. And while he was out in the field that day, Rebekah came to him. She had traveled far with Abraham's servant, and she had left her old life behind. But Rebekah was so excited when she saw Isaac that she jumped off her camel! The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done to bring Rebekah there, and Isaac married her.

Isaac married her because he trusted his father's choice. He must have heard how his father Abraham coordinated everything to get him a bride, and he must have trusted his father. He accepted the choice that his father had made for him. When we are young, our parents make a lot of choices for us, and we have to accept them. Sometimes it's easy, and sometimes it might be hard. When I was younger, my parents decided that I should take piano lessons. Oh, I had such a hard time with that—I did not like to sit still every day and practice. It was so hard. But I accepted it, and it really was a good choice. After that, I could play piano! *[Storyteller, insert your own story of accepting your parents' or God's choice for you.]*

I resisted a little when my parents wanted me to learn piano, but Isaac accepted his father's arrangement happily. This is my favorite part of his story. Isaac didn't just marry Rebekah because he had to. The Bible tells us that he loved her and that she comforted him—she made him happy. Rebekah and Isaac happily accepted God's choice for them. Rebekah agreed to travel so far, and then when she saw Isaac she was so excited that she jumped off her camel! That sounds pretty happy, right? And Isaac loved Rebekah and was comforted because of her!

Abraham and God had the best choice for Isaac, and our parents and our God are choosing the best for us too. We can be like Isaac, living a life of trusting, enjoying, and accepting what God and our parents arrange for us.