

## Session 2

Abram intercedes for others

Children learn how Abram interceded for sinners to be saved.

**Scripture:** Genesis 15–17 and 19

**Supplies:**

- Sandbox
- Characters: Abram, Lot's wife, Hagar, and a smaller puppet can be Ishmael
- Salt clay (recipe at end of session)



**Welcome**

**Play “Abram says”**

The game's purpose is to trick the children into doing the opposite of what you say. See if the children do what you say or do what you do. For example, “Abram says... bow down!” (you bow as well) “Abram says... lift your arm! (you also lift your arm) “Abram says... sit down!” (You bend but don't sit down). Everyone who just bent, is now out of the game. This game makes us think of Abram's disobedience in this story.

**S–T–O–P game**

One person stands against the wall with his back to the group. The others stand against the opposite wall in a row and look at the person in front. He calls out S–T–O–P... stop!” The children move forward as quickly as possible to get to the other wall. They may only move until the person in front says “stop”. Once the person in front has said “stop”, he looks as quickly as possible to see who is still moving. Anyone still moving is out. The person who touches the wall first, gets the next turn to call out “stop!”



**Worship**

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold each other's hands. Say: “Remember, God binds us together as believers and also to our ancestor, Abram.” Give each other's hand a squeeze to confirm this and then get up again.



**Word**

**Movement 1** (God makes a covenant with Abram)

Abram began to doubt whether God would really bless him and Sarai and give them a child. The Lord knew that he had to give Abram a sign that would help him to believe. He then made a covenant with Abram. The way they made a covenant was by slaughtering a sheep or another animal and make a promise on the animal's life. (*Take a sheep and let it lie in front of Abram.*) The wonder of this covenant was that Abram never had to promise anything, only God did. To tell you the truth, Abram slept the entire time. (*Put Abram flat next to the sheep*)

**Movement 2** (Abram is disobedient and has a child with his slave) (*Here you must put up the tent and put Ishmael in the tent beforehand.*)

Although Abram had this special covenant with God, he still doubted. He and Sarai made their own plan and asked their slave to give him a child. (*Let Abram and Hagar go into the tent*) Abram had a son with Hagar and named him

Ishmael. *(Let Abram come out of the tent with Ishmael)* This was wrong in God's eyes. Abram felt bad and chased Hagar and Ishmael away into the desert. *(Now take Ishmael and Hagar and put them far away)* But the Lord still promised to be with Hagar and Ishmael. *(Put a small branch next to them to give them shade)*

**Movement 3** (God gives the circumcision as a sign of the covenant)

God also stayed with Abram. *(Put a branch next to Abram as a symbol of God's refuge)*

He realized that He had to give Abram a visible sign of the covenant that he could always see. God then told Abram that all the men had to be circumcised as a sign of the covenant. After this, baby boys were circumcised when they were 8 days old.

From then on Abram believed that God will be a God to him. God would make a nation of him and bless them.

**Movement 4** (Sodom and Gomorra's fate)

*(Build the nice area that Lot chose in the previous session)*

In Lot's area the people became worse and later they built the cities Sodom and Gomorrah. *(Take the blocks and build them next to a river and trees to represent the cities Sodom and Gomorrah. Put their names next to the blocks.)*

They became worse and worse until God just couldn't take it anymore. God told Abram that he was going to destroy the cities. Abram pleaded with the Lord not to destroy the cities and asked if he would spare them if there were 50 righteous people. God said that he would spare them if there were 50 righteous people. Then Abram pleaded for 45 people and God said that he wouldn't do anything if there were 45 righteous people. Then Abram pleaded for 40, and then 30, and later for 20 people and each time God agreed. Then Abram asked "What about 10 people?" and God said yes, he would spare the cities for 10 good people. But the cities were so bad that there weren't even 10 righteous people there. God then sent two angels to Lot to warn him. They took Lot and his family to the outside of the city and told them to run without looking back even once, otherwise they would die. Lot and his family fled. *(Lot and his wife run away quickly)* God destroyed the cities. *(Wipe the cities away with your hand)* Lot and his family kept running, but his wife stood still. *(Lot keeps running and his wife stays in one place)* Then Lot's wife did a terrible thing. She turned around and looked at the cities. *(Turn the character around)* Immediately she turned into a pillar of salt and died. *(Put the salt pillar over the character)*

The Lord was with Lot even though the place he chose wasn't a good place after all.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder why Abram made his own plan to get a child.
2. I wonder if it would be nice for you to get a sign from God that He loves you.
3. I wonder which signs of love are all around us that we don't see.
4. I wonder why Lot's wife looked around.
5. I wonder why there were so few good people in the cities. Is it like that today as well?



### Working and Playing

- Copy the picture of Lot's wife onto cardboard. Let the children colour it (except where the dots are). Let them put glue on the dots and pour salt onto it.
- Colouring picture
- Make salt clay and let each child act out a part of the story:
  - 2 ½ cups cake flour
  - 1 cup salt (fine)
  - 1 cup water
  - 2 table spoons oil
  - Mix thoroughly

**Closing prayer to end the session**



