

OVERALL THEME: THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD. HE IS THE CREATOR.

SECOND GRADE RELIGION CURRICULUM

**Unit 4: THE LORD AS THE SHEPHERD LEADS ABRAHAM**  
**Genesis 12:1-Genesis 23:20**

Suggested time: 4 weeks

**UNIT THEME: As we learn to obey the Lord, we learn to trust in Him.**

**UNIT OVERVIEW:**

With the story of Abraham, the children are introduced to historic times in the Word. Abraham and his family were real people who actually did the things recorded in the Word. The Lord chose them and directed their lives so that their stories could contain within them deep spiritual lessons for all times.

Abraham and his family were called to leave their native place and go to the land of Canaan. Life is a journey and all who wish to obey the Lord are called to make this journey as well, traveling to the land of Canaan which symbolizes heaven. Second graders like to think they are “going on a journey” and they can be led to see the implications of these stories about Abraham. The Lord promises them that if they let the Lord lead the way and if we obey and trust Him, He will lead them to heaven.

The social studies unit on Hebrew patriarchs and early nomads gives the children a feel of what life was like in these early Bible times where small communities traveled constantly, living in tents and relying on wells for life-giving water. The water unit in science and later the social studies unit on Egypt may also be integrated with this unit.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES:**

The students will:

1. Gain an affection for and knowledge that the Lord was the Shepherd who led Abraham, the first patriarch.
2. Gain a knowledge of the covenantal relationship between God and the Children of Israel which began with Abraham.
3. Understand that obedience to the Lord (and parents and teachers in His stead) is the first step to following Him.
4. Learn that the Hebrew patriarchs lived a semi-nomadic life, dependant on the availability of water and food for their animals and family.

**RECITATION, SONGS AND BULLETIN BOARD CONCEPTS LINKED TO UNIT TEXT:**

(Other related recitations, songs and bulletin board concepts could be substituted.)

- ❖ Recitation: Genesis 12:2-3 “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you...”
- ❖ Songs: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” page 361 from 1995 Liturgy  
“The Lord is My Shepherd” page 363 from 1995 Liturgy  
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” page 346 from 1995 Liturgy
- ❖ Bulletin board concepts: Place a large map of the land of Canaan on the bulletin board. Add names and appropriate pictures to highlight Abraham’s journey as the story progresses. Use yarn or cut-out arrows to show the journey.

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**VOCABULARY TO BE TAUGHT AND USED:**

- Courage:
- Trust:
- Obey/obedience:
- Gratitude:
- Famine: no food.
- Pharaoh: king of Egypt.
- Angel: messenger from the Lord.
- Canaan:
- Altar: worship/gratitude to the Lord.
- Covenant: a two-way promise.
- Heir:
- Nomad: someone who moves around from time to time taking everything that belongs to him, living in different places so that his family and animals will have food and water.
- Tempt:
- Hebrew:
- Patriarch: founders of a nation of descendants.

	<b>CORE LESSONS</b>	<b>CORE KNOWLEDGES</b>
1.	<b>GENESIS 12:1-9</b> Call of Abram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Abram showed courage in trusting the Lord and leaving his homeland even though he was very old.</li><li>▪ The Lord told him he would make a great nation from him that would be the beginning of the Jewish church. (He would be the “patriarch” of that nation.)</li><li>▪ They went to the land of Canaan, but did not stay.</li><li>▪ Abram built an altar to show his gratitude.</li><li>▪ When the Word mentions “Mountains in the east,” the Lord likes us to think of being close to Him.</li></ul>
2.	<b>GENESIS 12:10-20</b> Abram in Egypt and Pharaoh takes Sarai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ There was a famine in the land, so Abram went to Egypt at the Lord’s command.</li><li>▪ He lied about Sarai being his wife because he was afraid and stopped trusting in the Lord.</li><li>▪ Lying is wrong and it hurts other people.</li></ul>
3.	<b>GENESIS 13:1-18</b> Abram separates from Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Lord made Abram prosper in Egypt, and he became very rich.</li><li>▪ Abram was kind to Lot.</li><li>▪ Lot chose the way that seemed easier (the plains and valley) and went to Sodom. We sometimes choose ways that seem easier.</li><li>▪ The Lord again blessed Abram, and he built an altar to show his gratitude.</li><li>▪ Abram’s descendents would be as the dust of the earth—too many to count.</li></ul>
4.	<b>GENESIS 14:1-12</b> War of the kings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Four kings made war against five other kings, and the four kings won.</li><li>▪ The four kings captured Lot and took him with them.</li></ul>

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OPTIONAL WHOLE UNIT PROJECTS:

- ◆ **Hebrew alphabet books:** Children begin a study of the Hebrew language (the language of the patriarchs), by learning one letter at a time and creating a Hebrew alphabet book. The children can put each letter and its meaning on each page. It can be fun for them to learn to say the whole alphabet by heart.
- ◆ **Map of Canaan:** Throughout this unit and others involving the patriarchs, create a movable map on your worship floor. Make signs of people and places on construction paper. Create simple symbols for wells, altars, tents, crowns (for kings), *etc.* Use blue construction paper to create bodies of water. Laminate so that the pieces can be reused. This will allow the children to begin to picture the land of Canaan as the setting for these stories.
- ◆ **Hebrew culture:** Collect words that help the children understand the culture of the Hebrew patriarchs as the stories of Genesis are read. For example, sheep, tent, butler, calf, donkey, milk, goats, wells, camel, bread, *etc.* Refer to these words when the Hebrew patriarchs are studied in social studies. In addition, have a nomad feast focusing on food similar to those Abraham may have eaten in the land of Canaan: almonds, dates, figs, goat’s milk, feta cheese, black olives, pita bread, *etc.*

	OPTIONAL CLASS APPLICATIONS/ACTIVITIES	INTEGRATION	
		RELIGION	OTHER AREAS
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion suggestions: What is the purpose of altars? Compare altars created by the patriarchs and those of today, including what is put on an altar.</li> </ul>	Correspondences	Social studies— Early Nomads
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion suggestions:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water dictates where people will live.</li> <li>▪ Discussion of famine.</li> <li>▪ Lying is wrong.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Correspondences	Social studies— Ancient Egypt
3.			Math—infinity Science— domesticated animals
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion suggestion: Compare and contrast the use of wars and fighting.</li> </ul>		

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	CORE LESSONS	CORE KNOWLEDGES
5.	<b>GENESIS 14:13-24</b> Abram rescues Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Abram went to fight for Lot because he was brave and he trusted the Lord. (Also, Abram was Lot's uncle.)</li> <li>▪ The Lord helped Abram win.</li> <li>▪ Abram took nothing from the four kings because he promised the Lord that he would not.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>GENESIS 15:1-7, 13-16, 18-21</b> Canaan is promised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The covenantal relationship established between the Lord and the children of Israel began with Abram.</li> <li>▪ Canaan was promised to Abram's descendants because Abram obeyed the Lord.</li> <li>▪ His descendants would be as the number of the stars.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>GENESIS 16:1-16</b> Ishmael is born	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sarai gave her handmaid, Hagar, to Abram.</li> <li>▪ Sarai loved Abram, and she wanted him to have a child.</li> <li>▪ Abram and Sarai did not know it was wrong for a man to have more than one wife. It was the custom.</li> <li>▪ Hagar thought she was better than Sarai.</li> <li>▪ Hagar did something wrong and then ran away.</li> </ul>
8.	<b>GENESIS 17:1-9</b> Abram's name is changed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The "h" in Jehovah's name was added to Abram's name by the Lord to show that the Lord was close to Him.</li> <li>▪ A covenant was established with Abram. He and his people would follow the Lord. In return God would make him rich, give him all the land and would make him the father of a great nation.</li> </ul>
9.	<b>GENESIS 17:15-27</b> Sarai's name is changed The Lord promises a son	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An "h" was also added to Sarai's name.</li> <li>▪ Every letter in the Hebrew language is important.</li> <li>▪ The Lord promised Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son, Isaac, and the Lord would establish His covenant with him, not with Ishmael.</li> </ul>
10.	<b>GENESIS 18:1-15</b> Three angels visit Abraham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Abraham recognized the visitors as messengers from the Lord.</li> <li>▪ A son was promised to Abraham and Sarah, but Sarah laughed because she was too old to have children.</li> <li>▪ Disrespect for the Lord; Sarah was afraid and so she lied.</li> <li>▪ The Lord can perform miracles—He would give them a son.</li> </ul>
11.	<b>GENESIS 18:16-33</b> Abraham pleads for Sodom and Gomorrah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sodom and Gomorrah were very evil cities.</li> <li>▪ Abraham begged the Lord not to destroy the cities if there were ten good people living there.</li> </ul>
12.	<b>GENESIS 19:1-29</b> Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Lord sent angels to save Lot and his family.</li> <li>▪ Evil and disorder brings destruction.</li> <li>▪ Lot proved he was a good man; he did not want the visitors to get hurt.</li> <li>▪ Lot was saved, but his wife was not because she disobeyed the Lord.</li> </ul>
13.	<b>GENESIS 20:1-18</b> Abraham moves to Gerar Abimelech takes Sarah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Abraham was afraid, so he lied and hurt King Abimelech.</li> <li>▪ God forgave the king for taking Sarah and rewarded him when he gave Abraham riches and land.</li> </ul>
14.	<b>GENESIS 21:1-8</b> Isaac is born	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, when the Lord gave them a son. This was truly a miracle.</li> <li>▪ Isaac would become Abraham's heir.</li> <li>▪ The name Isaac means "laughter."</li> </ul>

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	OPTIONAL CLASS APPLICATIONS/ACTIVITIES	INTEGRATION	
		RELIGION	OTHER AREAS
5.			
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion suggestions about Abram’s religion and his relationship with the Lord.</li> </ul>		Math—infinity
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion suggestions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Running away from our own wrongdoing makes us weaker.</li> <li>▪ Hagar was wrong to despise Sarai.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
8.			
9.			
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion suggestion: Compare good and bad laughter.</li> </ul>		Social studies— Early Nomads (hospitality)
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion suggestion: Fairness, not wanting good to be punished with the wicked.</li> </ul>		
12.			
13.			Science— domesticated animals
14.			

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	<b>CORE LESSONS</b>	<b>CORE KNOWLEDGES</b>
15.	<b>GENESIS 21:9-21</b> Sarah is jealous of Hagar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ishmael made fun of Isaac.</li><li>▪ Sarah sent Ishmael and his mother away.</li><li>▪ The Lord gives women a tender love for children.</li><li>▪ The Lord provided for Ishmael and Hagar.</li><li>▪ Even though Ishmael was not Abraham's heir, the Lord was still with him.</li></ul>
16.	<b>GENESIS 21:22-34</b> Abraham makes a covenant with Abimelech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The servants fought about whose well it was.</li><li>▪ Abraham dug a new well at Beersheba.</li><li>▪ Abimelech and Abraham made a promise to leave each other alone.</li><li>▪ Going to the Word for truth is like going to the well for water.</li></ul>
17.	<b>GENESIS 22:1-19</b> Near sacrifice of Isaac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Abraham loved the Lord so much that he was willing to give up his only child.</li><li>▪ Abraham obeyed the Lord even though it was very difficult.</li><li>▪ The Lord was pleased with Abraham and blessed him again.</li></ul>
18.	<b>GENESIS 23:1-20</b> Death of Sarah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sarah was very old (127 years) when she died.</li><li>▪ She was buried in the cave of the field of Macpelah near Hebron in Canaan.</li><li>▪ Abraham bought and paid for the land where Sarah was buried.</li></ul>
19.		

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	OPTIONAL CLASS APPLICATIONS/ACTIVITIES	INTEGRATION	
		RELIGION	OTHER AREAS
15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discussion suggestions: Are you ever jealous of your siblings, especially when a new baby is born in your family? Discuss the opening of Hagar’s spiritual eyes.</li></ul>		Science—water
16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Art suggestion: Make a well using the bottom of an old soda bottle, covering it with plaster of Paris and pushing small stones into it. This can actually hold water.</li><li>Discussion suggestion: The importance of wells.</li></ul>		Science—water
17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discussion suggestion: When we are tempted to do wrong things, what do we need to do to protect ourselves?</li></ul>		
18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discussion suggestion: Bartering was part of the nomadic culture, therefore discussing the price of the land was polite and correct.</li></ul>		
19.			

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TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- ❖ *Bible Study Notes* by Anita S. Dole, I, pp. 196-289
- ❖ *Arcana Coelestia* 1401-1402 (Call of Abram, Abram in Egypt); 1535-1539 (Lot goes to Sodom); 1651-1658 (War of the Kings, Abram rescues Lot); 1890-1891 (Ishmael is born); 1985-1986 (Abram's name is changed); 2136-2141 (Angels visit Abraham); 21136-2141 (Abraham pleads for Sodom and Gomorrah); 2312-2316 (Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah); 2496-2497 (Abraham moves to Gerar); 2610-2614 (Isaac is born); 2764-2765 (Near sacrifice of Isaac); 2901-2902 (Death of Sarah)
- ❖ *Genesis Stories: Family Worship for Little Children* by Rt. Rev. Willard D. Pendleton; available from the General Church Book Center for \$2.00
- ❖ Canaan is from the word "kana" which means "trade" or "merchandise." This is an appropriate name since to trade or be a merchant signifies to acquire can communicate the knowledges of good and truth (*Apocalypse Explained* 355). The world received their spiritual merchandise or knowledges of good and truth from this center of the Most Ancient and Ancient Churches (*Arcana Coelestia* 4453). Carl Th. Odhner suggests that the people of the Most Ancient and Ancient Churches were spiritual traders who were "the great missionaries of the ancient times."
- ❖ The land of Canaan used to be a paradise, but it has changed dramatically over the thousands of years since the time of Abraham due to a combination of climatic change, deforestation, and destruction in times of war. When showing pictures of this are today (and when studying desert Bedouins), it is important to be sure students do not think of the land of Canaan as a desert.

TEACHER RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

- ✓ *Religion Resources: The Hebrew Patriarchs*—available from the Office of Education Resource Center
- ✓ *Correspondences* by Carl Th. Odhner; currently out of print, but available for loan from the Office of Education Resource Center

OPTIONAL USE OF TECHNOLOGY:

OPTIONAL ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES:

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**Description of Optional Lesson Activities for Genesis 12:1-Genesis 23:20**

(The *Second Grade Religion Resource* binders have supporting materials for many of these activities.)

**Lesson 1**

- Discussion suggestions:
  - What is the purpose of altars?
  - Compare altars created by the patriarchs and those of today, including what is put on an altar.

**Lesson 2**

- Discussion suggestions:
  - People need water, so they live near rivers or where they can dig wells.
  - Discussion of famine.
  - Water stands for truth.
  - The Nile River in Egypt allowed the Egyptians to grow crops even when there was famine.
  - Lying is wrong. Sometimes we try to make ourselves think it is permissible to lie, like Abram, but it is better not to lie at all.

**Lesson 3**

**Lesson 4**

- Discussion suggestion: Compare and contrast the use of wars and fighting.

**Lesson 5**

**Lesson 6**

- Discussion suggestions about Abram's religion and his relationship with the Lord:
  - What did Abram call the Lord?
  - How did he learn about the Lord?
  - How did he worship the Lord?
  - How did he learn what he should do?

**Lesson 7**

- Discussion suggestions:
  - Running away from our own wrongdoing makes us weaker. Facing them makes us stronger. Our conscience or inner voice tells us when we're wrong.
  - Hagar was wrong to despise Sarai because the Lord gave Hagar a child. Children at this age understand people making fun of each other, *i.e.* "That's so easy for me."

**Lesson 8**

**Lesson 9**

**Lesson 10**

- Discussion suggestion: Compare good and bad laughter.

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**Lesson 11**

- Discussion suggestion: Fairness, not wanting good to be punished with the wicked. This can be a difficult task for parents and teachers to do. Fairness involves bravery, admitting wrong doings, and protecting the innocent.

**Lesson 12**

**Lesson 13**

**Lesson 14**

**Lesson 15**

- Discussion suggestions:
  - Are you ever jealous of your siblings, for example when a new baby is born in your family? (Relate to Ishmael's feelings towards Isaac.)
  - Discuss the opening of Hagar's spiritual eyes.

**Lesson 16**

- Art suggestion: Make a well using the bottom of an old soda bottle, covering it with plaster of Paris and pushing small stones into it. This can actually hold water and can be used in reenacting other worship stories throughout the year that have wells in them.
- Discussion suggestion: The importance of wells. Show students pictures of what wells looked like at this time and how hard they were to dig.

**Lesson 17**

- Discussion suggestion: When we are tempted to do wrong things, what do we need to do to protect ourselves?

**Lesson 18**

- Discussion suggestion: Bartering was part of the nomadic culture, therefore discussing the price of the land was polite and correct. It was right for Abraham to persist in trying to pay for the land and for Ephron to politely refuse several times before accepting money.