

Liberating Faith Studies

Lesson 7

October 14, 2018

God Is Always Working

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 9–12

Focus Scripture: Genesis 10:1; 11:10, 27, 31-32; 12:1-4

Key Verses: “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. 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.”
Genesis 12:2-3

Lesson Goals – By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Examine the history and generations of the past to see their relevance in God's work today.
2. Recognize that God's divine plan has been working and continues to evolve through history.
3. Grow daily in trusting God's purpose in each person's daily life.

Key Terms

The Negeb	The semi-desert land south of Judah.
Babel	The Hebrew form of the name “Babylon”; the Babylonians interpreted their name for the city, <i>Bab-ili</i> , as “gate of god.” The Hebrew word <i>balal</i> , “be confused,” has a similar sound.
Eber	Ancestor of the Hebrews; he is the one to whom they traced their name.

Nation	A large aggregate of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory.
Bless	Pronounce words in a religious rite, to confer or invoke divine favor upon; ask God to look favorably on.
Curse	A solemn utterance intended to invoke a supernatural power to inflict harm or punishment on someone or something.

Questions and Lesson Tips

- What is an important factor we can learn from Abram about the purpose of God's favor upon an individual or their family? **Have participants share examples of how one person's blessing is used by God to benefit an entire family and/or community. Use examples of great achievements, inventions, major rise of status or position, leadership, medical advancements, etc.**
- What does this lesson teach us to remember when we don't see evidence of progress occurring in our personal lives? **Open up discussions on unwavering faith. Discuss how the African American experience is an example of exemplary faith that has realized the promise in our lifetime and in future generations. Encourage personal testimonies of first generation college graduates, doctors, business owners. Discuss the difference in opportunities to young people today compared to African Americans in the early 20th century. Discuss why faith for the future must remain strong.**

- In the Gospel of John (13:15-17, 25-26; 14:16-18) Jesus encourages the disciples to believe and not be discouraged by what they may face ahead. Jesus knew the disciples would suffer so he promised them the Holy Spirit, who would give them power and understanding. Were there times you trusted that God was working, even when you didn't see evidence of it? Share with the group. **Allow class to break into small groups of 2-3 persons and share personal stories.**
- What does the story of Abram's relationship with God tell us about our faith in Jesus Christ, as he calls us to be his disciples? **When possible, select someone in advance to share a personal testimony of their calling by God. Consider people in the local community who are working in a spiritual capacity to build the kingdom of God.**

Resources: AMEC Hymnal, Holy Bible – New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), Bible commentary, computer with projector (if large group) and access to Internet

Intermediate

Lesson 7

October 14, 2018

God Is Always Working

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 9–12

Focus Scripture: Genesis 10:1; 11:10, 27, 31-32; 12:1-4

Key Verses: "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. 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.”

Genesis 12:2-3

Lesson Goals – By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Consider the ways that Noah's family worked together to participate in God's continuing creation.
2. Value the many ways one's own family works together and supports each other.
3. Examine ways one contributes to cooperation in one's own family.

Vocabulary

- **Abound** – To be present in large numbers.
- **Babel** – An ancient city in which the building of a tower (Tower of Babel) intended to reach heaven was begun and the confusion of the language of the people took place. Gen. 11:4-9.
- **Afflicted** – Affected by pain and suffering.
- **Chronicle** – To make a record of an event.

Teaching Strategies

1. Play YouTube music from YouTube video: The Blessing of Abraham, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Weik03H5zX4>
2. Have students use paper and pencil to write prayers to God as they wait for class to start.
3. Answer and discuss the questions from Life Application.
4. Activity: *Sight Leading the Blind*: Cover the eyes of one person and lead them through the building using only your voice.

5. Discuss how that made you feel totally to have to trust the words of another.
6. Provide puzzle answer: Blessed to be a blessing.
7. Recite the Closing Devotion poem together.

“Lord, Let Me Be a Blessing”

Lord, mold my life so you can use it to bless someone this day,
For you, dear Lord, are the potter and I am but the clay.

Open my eyes to the needs of others, looking on with a heart
of love.

Cause my ears to be willing listeners both to others and you
above.

Help my mouth to become an instrument for sowing words of
peace.

Use my hands to do your service. Let your guidance never
cease.

Lord, fill this yielded vessel with power you alone can send.

Grant me strength and courage and wisdom so I can do as
you intend.

Lord, let me be the means by which you touch someone this
day.

Let my life reflect all that you are in each and every way.

Poem by

Sherry Brady

God Is Always Working

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Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com.

Resources:

YouTube Video: The Blessing of Abraham. <https://www.youtube.com>

com/watch?v=Weik03H5zX4

Pencils, pens, markers, poster board, projector/screen, laptop to show video

Junior

Lesson 7

October 14, 2018

Noah's Family Works with God

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 9–12

Focus Scripture: Genesis 10:1; 11:10, 27, 31-32; 12:1-4

Key Verse: Abram went, as the Lord had told him. Genesis 12:4a

Lesson Goals – By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of family history.
2. Stress the truth that God will always be present.
3. Encourage the importance of listening to God.

Word Power!!!

- **Kindred** – A person's relative, family member.
- **Descendants** – Family members that come after (grandparents ->parents->children).
- **Genealogy** – The study of family history.

Teaching Strategies

1. Create and share a family tree with the class. Be sensitive to students who find this activity difficult to participate in

2. Play the game “Simon Says” to encourage the importance of listening to the leader.
3. Have students share a time when they felt lost, but someone found them.

Answer Key for Questions

1. Name one way that God has blessed your family.
2. What is one way that you can help a new student feel more welcomed at church or at school?
3. Who was on the ark with Noah? **All of Noah's family and animals.**

Resources: Sample drawing of a family tree, paper/crayons/pencils