

Youth Sunday School Resource

By Joe McKechnie

Pack your bags

Our Response to God's Call



5 minutes



Read Genesis 12:1-4 (below) and underline or highlight any passage that speaks to you.

Genesis 12:1-4

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

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

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15 minutes

ON THE FLY...

Have three people stand in the center of the room. One will be Abram and another will be Abram's wife, Sarai. The third person will be one of Abram's children.

Have them (on the fly) act out the following scenario:

Abraham comes home and tells his wife and children about his encounter with the Lord. Furthermore, the Lord has called them to move!

How would they respond? How could Abram convince them that this was really God's plan for them?

Have several teens play these different roles.

Strange But True

Sagen was worried about poor school children. She knew that many elementary school children in Warner Robins, Georgia received free school lunches during the school year. But what did they do during the summer months, Sagen wondered?

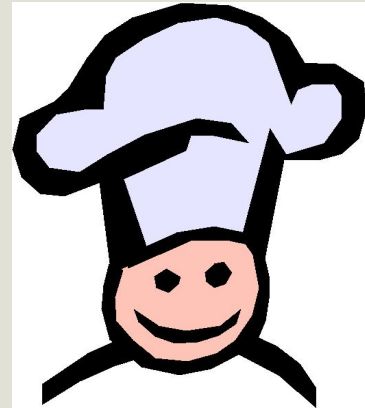
She began thinking of ways to feed the poor people in her area. She was able to speak to various churches and civic groups, sharing her passion about helping those less fortunate.

In the summer of 1998, Sagen organized 10 churches to help out with the "Kids' Kitchen." She recruited hundreds of volunteers, whom she motivated and directed. On a typical weekday, Sagen's group packed over 600 lunches, which were then distributed to kids who would not otherwise have lunch.

"If you want it bad enough," Sagen says, "you can change your world by helping someone else." After only two summers, Sagen had 130 volunteers and had served 3,600 meals.

It's hard work to organize such a venture, but there is something else that you should know about Sagen. When she started this, she was only 8 years old!

All of us are called to be used by God. It has been said that God does not call the equipped, but God does equip the called. You may not think that you have any talents or abilities that God can use. But God can give you the skills needed. God does not look for your ability as much as your availability. The Lord has equipped, enabled, and empowered you for ministry. If God can use an 8-year-old to feed thousands of children, imagine what amazing things God has in store for you!



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This passage marks the call of Abram (his name was later changed to Abraham, which means “Father of the Multitudes.”) God promises to make his descendants into a great nation, and the rest of the world would be blessed through them. Abraham’s descendants would go on to start Judaism, and through the Jewish faith came Jesus, who would bless the whole world. Verse 4 is simple yet powerful: “So Abram left, as the Lord had told him.” He followed God’s direction and while it would not be easy or quick, God’s promises to Abram did come true. Abram showed a great deal of faith to leave everything that was familiar to him. He lived in Ur, which was one of the wealthiest and most advanced cities of his day. The people there had a high standard of living and life was good. But Abram was called to leave this stability and luxury for something unknown. Abraham had to abandon all that was meaningful to him and fully trust in God.

Do you think Abram was afraid? Why or why not?

What sorts of doubts or fears do you think he had?

How do you think God spoke to Abram?

We have no indication that Abram questioned who God was, and he did not seem to confuse the voice of the Lord with the false gods and idols of his people. Why is this?

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10 minutes

My Life

When you think of “God’s call,” what comes to mind?

We read about Abram’s encounter with the Lord. Have you ever felt God’s “call?”

When the Lord calls Abram, God doesn't even tell Abram where to go. Rather, he essentially tells Abram to “get packing.” God often reveals His plan in stages or along the way

When you think of some being “called into ministry,” what comes to mind?

All Christians are called into ministry, and God has given us the ability, opportunity, and sphere of influence to be in ministry, but some are called to lives of “vocational ministry.” What do you think this means?

The Lord is at work in your life, and God does have a plan for you! How might God be calling you to step away from your “comfort zone?”

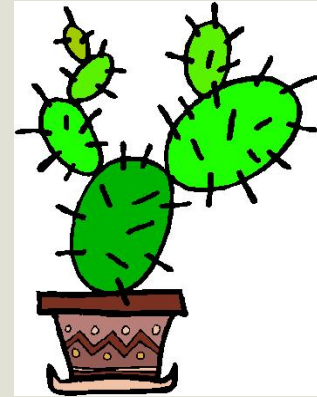
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10 minutes

Strange But True

The six-year-old girl in suburban Atlanta was in great pain. After all, she fell on a potted cactus (or is it a cacti - I forget,) and more than 600 of those prickly spines were stuck in her arm. Her parents rushed her to the hospital. Usually, when someone has something like that stuck in his or her arm, the doctors or nurses use tweezers to pull out each individual cactus needle. But with so many stuck in the little girl's arm, doctors knew that such a procedure would be painful and time consuming.



The doctor decided to try something that seemed a bit strange. He asked one of the nurses to bring him a bottle of Elmer's glue. He then coated the girl's arm with the sticky stuff. He had the girl sit under a heat lamp as the glue dried. Forty-five minutes later, the glue had dried into a gray-colored coating. "As we peeled it, we could see the spines in the glue" said Dr. Mark Stagelman. The doctor had access to the most advanced medical equipment, and yet he got the job done with an ordinary bottle of glue.

Jesus, the Great Physician, used ordinary bread and wine to symbolize something sacred. He used seeds and plants and sheep and fishing to describe Christian living. With Jesus, ordinary things become extraordinary. You and I are no exception. With God, we can do amazing things! It has been said that "God is not looking for ability, but your availability." Are you available to be an instrument of God?

To what is God calling you? We read about Sagen and how this young girl affected so many lives. What abilities and opportunities do you have to serve God?

How are you taking time to listen for God? Spend time in prayer and quiet reflection, listening for the movement of God's Holy Spirit.

Not everyone is called to vocational ministry, but those who do are often hesitant. Why do you think some people may run from God's call?

There could be someone in this room who will go on to become an ordained minister. Others will be hard-working and faithful lay people. But pray that you can discern the direction God wants you to take.