

The Great Adventure

Saddle Up

Focal Passage: Genesis 12:1-5

Teaching Objectives:

Intro: **Youth will examine their personal spiritual journey**

(Approximate teaching time: 5 minutes)

I. **Youth will discover God calls everyone to follow Him in faith!**

(Approximate teaching time: 10 minutes)

II. **Youth will discover God wants obedience through faith.**

(Approximately teaching time: 10 minutes)

III. **Youth will discover following God requires sacrifice.**

(Approximate teaching time: 10 Minutes)

IV. **Youth will discover God rewards obedience.**

(Approximate teaching time: 5 minutes)

V. **Youth will discover it is never too late to step out in faith.**

(Approximate teaching time: 2 minutes)

Wrap-up/ personal Application

Teaching Suggestions for this Lesson

1. *This lesson is designed to be the first lesson, but it could also be referenced in the conclusion of Bibles studies as a call for decision.*
2. *Make sure that youth think about some of the things God might be calling them to do in the next part of their spiritual journey. This will give them a point of reference for the week! You might tell them that you don't know what God's call is for them it. It could be to accept Christ, to commit to a quiet time, rededication, to witness to a friend etc.*

Personal Notes:

Student Page

Student Page

Student Page

Student Page

Student Page

Student Page

Student Page

Student Page

The Great Adventure

Saddle Up

In order to begin the "Great Adventure" we must "Saddle Up" our faith. We must pack our bags and prepare for the journey. We put a blanket on it, cinch the saddle straps, step in the stirrups to mount it, then spur it forward. Only God knows where our faith will then take us! Abram, before he was called Abraham, began a similar adventure.

Focal Passage: Genesis 12:1-5

In the space below, draw a map of your spiritual journey. Mark your starting point and where you are now. Label any mountaintops, valleys, swamps, detours, obstacles, and important places on your journey. Who were some of your guides? How have you found your way so far? Which would be hardest for you?

Teacher's Note: Give youth the chance to be creative. On a sheet of paper you might want to illustrate your own spiritual journey as an example. Ask volunteers to explain their journey. This is a great time to discern the spiritual maturity of youth in your Bible study. Watch for clues to a false salvation experience. Though there may be a true salvation experience, be careful about works based journeys, catechism, baptism, etc. Look for "I accepted Christ here" etc. Also look for clues concerning struggles they have had in their Christian walk. Ask them where their journey seems to be leading. As a point of application, ask them what they think God is calling them to do on the next step of their spiritual journey.

- a) Leaving your country never to return
- b) Never leaving your hometown?

Why?

The Great Adventure

Saddle Up

In order to begin the "Great Adventure" we must "Saddle Up" our faith. We must pack our bags and prepare for the journey. We put a blanket on it, cinch the saddle straps, step in the stirrups to mount it, then spur it forward. Only God knows where our faith will then take us! Abram, before he was called Abraham, began a similar adventure.

Focal Passage: Genesis 12:1-5

In the space below, draw a map of your spiritual journey. Mark your starting point and where you are now. Label any mountaintops, valleys, swamps, detours, obstacles, and important places on your journey. Who were some of your guides? How have you found your way so far? Which would be hardest for you?

- a) Leaving your country never to return
- b) Never leaving your hometown?

Why?

This question is meant to be a dilemma to get youth in a mood for discussion. It also implies that we may have to give up some things for heaven, but it would be worse to not make it to heaven

I. God Calls us to follow Him on a "Great Adventure!"

A. We need to learn to recognize God's voice, so that when He calls us we hear His voice above all the other voices around us.

1) What are some of the voices that get our attention?

Family, friends, movies, music, boyfriends/girlfriends, popularity, school, work, materialism, and many other things get our attention. These things are not bad in themselves, but when they become the focus of our attention we are no longer able to hear God's voice clearly. The easiest way to discover what gets most of our attention is to see how we spend most of our free time.

2) How can we learn to recognize God's voice?

It is amazing how a mother can recognize her baby's cry among many other babies. Drop a coin and people all around recognize the sound of money and look. In the same way we must learn to recognize God's voice. We do this by spending time in scripture and prayer each day. Quiet times keep us attuned to the voice of God. We can then clearly hear God's voice as Abram did!

B. What is the Christian frontier/ destination?

Answers may vary considerably for this question. The main answers are that we are to be saved, become Christlike, and will live with Christ in heaven. (Romans 8:29-30; II Peter 3:9) An extra question for discussion might be "What are some non-Christian frontiers, destinations?"

C. Is the Christian journey one of the heart or another kind of journey? Explain. What is the Christian's spiritual journey?

The Christian journey is predominantly a journey of the heart. God does not look at the outside or where we have been, but who we are and how our Christian character is maturing. Many other aspects of our lives are also part of this journey, but it is the heart that determines our actions.

D. To what spiritual journey is God calling you? To what place, people, priority is God calling you?

Make sure each youth writes something here. Get them thinking of the spiritual decisions they need to make. This also gives them something concrete to relate other questions to later, and provides a definite point of application for the end of the lesson.

E. When God calls you to do something are you more likely to complain, put up a fuss, reject it, or just do it? Why?

Encourage youth to listen to and heed Gods call to them.

I. _____

A. We need to learn to recognize God's voice, so that when He calls us we hear His voice above all the other voices around us.

1) What are some of the voices that get our attention?

2) How can we learn to recognize God's voice?

B. What is the Christian frontier/ destination?

C. Is the Christian journey one of the heart or another kind of journey? Explain. What is the Christian's spiritual journey?

D. To what spiritual journey is God calling you? To what place, people, priority is God calling you?

E. When God calls you to do something are you more likely to complain, put up a fuss, reject it, or just do it? Why?

II. **God doesn't always give us the details of where he wants us to go. he just asks us to obey... to begin, to saddle up and take a step of faith.**

- A. How do you think Abram felt when God told him to move?
- B. Did the fact that Abram did not know where he was going make a difference? Why or why not?
- C. What fears do you think Abram had?
- D. Someone once said, "Courage isn't the absence of fear, but doing the very thing we fear." What do you think they meant?

Fear of the unknown and fear of change are part of human nature. Abram surely had the same fears. His faith in God was able to overcome his fear. God knows what is best and sees the overall picture. God knows the results of actions. Even so we must trust God. This does not mean the fear is gone, but that we do not allow the fear to stop us. We obey in spite of the fear.

- E. The safest place to be is the center of God's will, or where God wants you to be.
 - 1) What fears do people have about the Christian adventure?
 - 2) What fears do you have about the adventure to which God has called you?

Fear of change, fear of the unknown, and the idea of sacrifice are all common fears. Allow youth to express their fears. Through expression they are able to understand them, see that they are not alone, and finally step out in spite of fear.

- F. In what ways is a Christian's spiritual journey like Abram's journey?

The answer to this question is actually each one of the major points in this Bible study.

III. **There are things we have to leave behind when we follow Christ.**

- A. Have you ever had to move to a new school? New home? New city? How did you feel?
- B. If you had to move and you couldn't take anything with you, what would be hardest to leave behind? Why?
- C. How would you feel if, like Abram, God called you to leave your country, your household, and your old way of life? Which would be hardest to leave? Why?

These questions explore the priorities and things holding youth back from following God's call. They also help them identify with the fears and changes associated with such decisions.

II. _____

- A. How do you think Abram felt when God told him to move?
- B. Did the fact that Abram did not know where he was going make a difference? Why or why not?
- C. What fears do you think Abram had?
- D. Someone once said, "Courage isn't the absence of fear, but doing the very thing we fear." What do you think they meant?
- E. The safest place to be is the center of God's will, or where God wants you to be.
 - 1) What fears do people have about the Christian adventure?
 - 2) What fears do you have about the adventure to which God has called you?
- F. In what ways is a Christian's spiritual journey like Abram's journey?

III. _____

- A. Have you ever had to move to a new school? New home? New city? How did you feel?
- B. If you had to move and you couldn't take anything with you, what would be hardest to leave behind? Why?
- C. How would you feel if, like Abram, God called you to leave your country, your household, and your old way of life? Which would be hardest to leave? Why?

D. Jim Eliot, a great missionary who gave his life on the mission field said: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that he cannot lose." What do you think he meant?

The things we give up are temporary and we would lose them anyway. The things we gain such as eternal life, peace, joy are things that no one can take away.

E. Steven Curtis Chapman in his song "The Great Adventure" says we need to leave "long faced religion" behind? What do you think he means by this?

True Christianity isn't a life of depravity. We don't have to give up the fun and good things in life, only the sinful. God intends us to enjoy life as Christians (John 10:10)

F. Is there anything you have had to leave behind in your spiritual journey? How did you react? Why?

IV. **When we follow Christ He blesses us with greater things than what we gave up!**

A. God promised Abram blessings, fame, and that he would be a blessing to others. What does God promise us in our "Great Adventure?"

God promises us the same. Blessings, eternal life, to be called children of God, to be blessings to others, etc. The Bible is full of promises!

B. In what ways is a Christian blessed? How is a Christian a blessing to others?

C. Would you rather be blessed or be a blessing? Why?

V. **It's never too late to begin the Spiritual adventure God has for you!**

Abram was 75 years old when God called him. As long as you are alive it is never too late to respond to God's call. The question is whether one will live long enough to do so.. Life is uncertain. Make decisions now!

The hardest part for me in my spiritual journey is:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Taking the first step | 7. I'm Lost! |
| 2. I don't know where I am going | 8. Leaving friends behind. |
| 3. Trusting God to guide me | 9. Leaving my old life behind |
| 4. I take too many detours | 10. I don't hear God's call to go |
| 5. I am going in circles & need direction | 11. Family is holding me back |
| 6. I want to take everything with me. | 12. Fear |
| Other? _____ | |

D. Jim Eliot, a great missionary who gave his life on the mission field said: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that he cannot lose." What do you think he meant?

E. Steven Curtis Chapman in his song "The Great Adventure" says we need to leave "long faced religion" behind? What do you think he means by this?

F. Is there anything you have had to leave behind in your spiritual journey? How did you react? Why?

IV. _____

A. God promised Abram blessings, fame, and that he would be a blessing to others. What does God promise us in our "Great Adventure?"

B. In what ways is a Christian blessed? How is a Christian a blessing to others?

C. Would you rather be blessed or be a blessing? Why?

V. _____

The hardest part for me in my spiritual journey is:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Taking the first step | 7. I'm Lost! |
| 2. I don't know where I am going | 8. Leaving friends behind. |
| 3. Trusting God to guide me | 9. Leaving my old life behind |
| 4. I take too many detours | 10. I don't hear God's call to go |
| 5. I am going in circles & need direction | 11. Family is holding me back |
| 6. I want to take everything with me. | 12. Fear |
| Other? _____ | |