



Abraham

FAITH



FAITH DEFINED

1. Belief grounded in things unseen
2. Assurance of things hoped for
3. Confident belief in the truth
4. Patient endurance



KEY VERSE

So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:9

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LIFE SUMMARY

Abraham was born in the land of Ur, but later in life moved to Haran with his father. When he was 75 years old, the Lord told Abraham to leave his country, his people, and his family, and to go to a land that God would show him. Not knowing his final destination, Abraham obeyed. Even though Abraham and his wife Sarah were childless, God promised to make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky (Genesis 15:5). Trusting God was not easy, but Abraham believed that God would keep his promises.



CHARACTER QUALITY

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is a complete trust or confidence in someone or something that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence. Abraham didn't know exactly where God was leading him or how long he would have to endure. Without a son, it seemed impossible that his descendants could become as numerous as the stars in the sky. Still, Abraham believed that he would see the fulfillment of God's promises. This faith was pleasing to God and was "counted to Abraham as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6).



UNIT OVERVIEW



George Müller

Faith



LIFE SUMMARY

George Müller had an unwavering and fervent faith in Jesus Christ. Though Müller lived as a thief and troublemaker for much of his youth, everything changed when he encountered Christ's saving love. As he began to align his life with God's will, he felt a call to minister to children on the streets. Müller had nothing but his faith when he began establishing orphanages and providing for the needs of thousands of children. Throughout his endeavors he brought every need before the Lord in prayer and, during the many years of his ministry, he was never in debt. Müller firmly believed his remarkable life of faith was simply normal Christianity. He intentionally chose to live by faith and inspired others to do the same. He was a preacher by profession and traveled all over the world, living to the age of 92.



FAITH IN THE LIFE OF GEORGE MÜLLER

Abraham and George Müller were men marked by faith. Just as Abraham obeyed God's call on his life to leave his home, George Müller made the decision to leave his old life behind and follow wherever God would lead. God faithfully provided for these men as they took steps of faith throughout their lives.



UNIT OVERVIEW



NOTABLE QUOTE

"Prayer and faith, the universal remedies against every want and every difficulty helped me over all the difficulties."



SERVED IN

Bristol, England
1805 - 1898



Abraham

Faith



KEY CONCEPT

Faith empowers us to follow God wherever he leads.



SCRIPTURE

- » **Genesis 12:1-9** – God calls Abraham to leave
- » **Hebrews 11:8-10** – By faith, Abraham left his home
- » **Genesis 13:14-18** – God renews his promise to Abraham
- » **Genesis 15:5-6** – Abraham is counted as righteous because of his faith
- » **Galatians 3:7-9** – We can be blessed like Abraham
- » **Romans 4:19-21** – Abraham grew strong in his faith



Background to Today's Lesson

This year we will dig into the lives of many men and women who trusted in God. Abram (later Abraham) is one of the first biblical examples of someone whose faith in God radically altered the course of his life. Abram was living in Haran with his father and brother when he heard God's call to leave his country and his home and go "to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). Not knowing where he was going, Scripture tells us that, "Abram went, as the LORD had told him" (Genesis 12:4).



Today's Lesson

This week we're going to focus on God's call to Abram to leave his homeland and go to a land God would show him. Though he didn't know where he was going, the author of Hebrews tells us that Abram had faith in God's promises (Hebrews 11:8-9). At the age of 75, Abram traveled to the land of Canaan. It was a huge step of faith for Abram to pack up everything he owned, leave his family, and begin traveling without knowing his destination, but he trusted God and did what God was asking him to do. We want the kids to see that God often leads us in the same way if we're willing to trust him.



Programming Notes

The faith that Abram exemplified was both active and transformative. Faith begins in our hearts and is a gift from God, but that is only the beginning! True faith works itself out in tangible ways that lead to actions. Abram had faith and the outward proof of his faith was reflected in his actions. We want the kids to see that faith is more than inward belief or trust in God. If we trust in God and his Word, this should be reflected in the choices we make and the way we live our lives. Abram's example teaches us that our faith in God leads to action that will often require further trust and dependence.

Encourage the younger kids that faith gives us the power to do whatever God asks of us. Abram followed God because he trusted him and believed that what God said was true.



The Call

George Müller was born in the Kingdom of Prussia (present day Germany). He grew up knowing the right things to do. He attended church and eventually entered seminary, but he was not living for God. Müller was a chronic thief and liar. He squandered his money and, on one occasion, was even unable to pay for his hotel room because of his irresponsible choices. Still, God had a purpose for George Müller. A friend and partner in crime surprised Müller by beginning to attend prayer meetings. Eventually George Müller attended the meetings as well, where he was moved by the sincere and genuine prayers. A letter from a missionary was the final stroke that disarmed Müller's rebellion and pushed him to surrender his life to Jesus. He had once followed his own way, but now, drawn by Christ's love, he was willing to change the direction of his entire life for the sake of his Savior.



For the Workers

Müller received God's gift of salvation through prayer meetings and was empowered to live a life of faith. *Robber of the Cruel Streets* tells what Müller's life was like before salvation. Check out John Piper's biography of Müller to learn about the impact of God's power in his life. What stands out to you from his life?



Resources in Action

Money was an area of sin for Müller, but through faith in God he found freedom to make new choices. Use the currency resources to help kids consider Müller's worldly treasures as well as their own. *Robber of the Cruel Streets* is also helpful in depicting Müller's early years. Remind the kids of the transformational power of faith.



George Müller
Faith



KEY CONNECTION

Just as Abraham left his home, George Müller left behind his familiar and sinful ways for a life that would be both challenging and rewarding.



RESOURCES

[English Currency](#)

[World Currencies](#)

[Autobiography of Müller](#)

[Movie Clip \(Through 9:15\)](#)



Abraham

Faith



KEY CONCEPT

God uses periods of waiting to develop our faith in him.



SCRIPTURE

- » **Genesis 18:9-15** – Sarah laughs
- » **Genesis 21:1-7** – Isaac is born
- » **Hebrews 11:11-12** – By faith Sarah received power to conceive
- » **Genesis 16** – Sarah gives Hagar to Abram to have a child
- » **Genesis 17:15-21** – Sarai's name is changed, God promises that she will bear a son



Background to Today's Lesson

Abraham and Sarah eventually reached the land of Canaan where they continued to await God's promise to give them a son. After years of waiting, Sarah began to grow impatient and decided to take matters into her own hands. Sarah gave her Egyptian servant, Hagar, to Abraham and she bore him a son. But this was not the child God had promised them. God came to Abraham again when he was 99 years old and reminded him of his promise, making it clear that he would bring the promised child through Sarah (Genesis 17:16).



Today's Lesson

One day, three men came to Abraham and spoke to him regarding the child God had promised. They told him that God would fulfill his promise in one year. Sarah overheard this conversation and laughed, doubting that it was possible, saying, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" (Genesis 18:12). The Lord heard Sarah and asked, "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14). A year later, Sarah bore a son and Abraham named the child Isaac, meaning 'laughter.' Sarah said, 'God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me'" (Genesis 21:6).



Programming Notes

For today's lesson, we want the kids to see that God often uses periods of waiting to develop our faith in him. God had promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son, but Sarah struggled to see how this was possible and ultimately tried to bring God's plan about through her servant. The text in Genesis 18 reminds us that God is faithful to bring about his plans in our lives, even when we do not understand his timing. Though these times can be difficult and confusing, God is faithful not only to keep his Word, but also to increase our faith in the process. Remarkably, when Sarah is referenced in Hebrews 11, she is remembered for her faith, not her doubting. Clearly God used this time in Sarah's life to increase her faith in him.

For the younger kids, focus on the truth that God always keeps his promises. Even though it may take longer than we expect, we can have faith that God knows what he is doing and trust in his timing.



Early Ministry

In 1829, George Müller moved to England to share the gospel. At that time in England, an increasing number of orphaned children were being forced into workhouses or onto the streets. George Müller realized immediate action was required and stepped out in faith to start an orphanage which he named The Scriptural Knowledge Institute for Home and Abroad. He learned how to wait on God for the funds needed to build the children's home and the supplies needed to sustain it. On one occasion, George waited 1,195 days for the financial means to build a new orphan house. When the funds finally came in, he said he had inexpressible delight in God. At other times, when the orphanage was down to their last scraps of food, the children and staff would gather to pray and the Lord would provide. By faith, Müller never took a salary in the 68 years of his ministry. He trusted God to prompt people to send what he needed. He never took out a loan and the orphans never went hungry.



For the Workers

Set aside some time this week to listen to John Piper's message about George Müller's life. Müller firmly believed that his remarkable life of faith was simply God's call for every Christian. Consider the limits of your faith and trust in God. How has God been growing your faith during this season?



Resources in Action

George Müller found great joy throughout his years of caring for thousands of orphans. This week is a great opportunity to talk about the ways that Grace Church cares for orphans in Myanmar through the ministry of Twelve17 Coffee Roasters. Use the resources and pictures from the Myanmar Mission page. Even today, blessing orphans and following God requires faith and patience.



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KEY CONNECTION

Like Abraham and Sarah, George Müller had to trust God on many occasions and wait on his timing to provide what he needed.



RESOURCES

- [Myanmar Mission Page](#)
- [George Müller Biography](#)
- [Müller's Museum](#)
- [Timeline of Müller's Life](#)
- [George Müller Photos](#)
- [George Müller Veggie Tales](#)



Abraham

Faith



KEY CONCEPT

God blesses those who walk by faith in difficult situations.



SCRIPTURE

- » **Genesis 22:1-14** – Abraham is prepared to offer Isaac
- » **Hebrews 11:17-19** – By faith Abraham offered up Isaac
- » **Genesis 22:15-18** – God blesses Abraham
- » **Philippians 2:5-8** – Jesus was obedient to death
- » **Ephesians 1:19b-20** – God raised Jesus from the dead
- » **Romans 8:28**– God works all things for good for those who trust in him



Background to Today's Lesson

God rewarded Abraham and Sarah's faith by giving them a child in their old age. However, God continued to develop Abraham's faith when, some years later, he commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Once again, Abraham's faith was put to the test. This narrative foreshadows God the Father's sacrifice of his own Son. Jesus obediently submitted to his Father's will, believing that God would raise him up again.



Today's Lesson

God told Abraham to take Isaac and do something unimaginable: sacrifice him as a burnt offering to the Lord. Abraham willingly prepared to do what God asked, but God stopped him and provided a ram for the sacrifice instead. Because Abraham was willing to offer his son to the Lord, God promised to bless him and his descendants (Genesis 22:17-18). Many centuries later, Jesus would lay down his own life. He knew the Father wouldn't spare him as he had Isaac, but he set his face to do the Lord's will. God honored Jesus' faith. After three days, God raised him to life and seated Jesus at his right hand, placing everything under his rule and authority (Ephesians 1:19b-20).



Programming Notes

The lives of Abraham and Jesus make it clear that there will be times in life when acting in faith will be extremely difficult. We see some of Jesus' struggle in Matthew 26, where he is "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (Matthew 26:37). Despite his anguish, Jesus submitted to God's will, saying, "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). God honored the faith of both Abraham and Jesus and blessed them abundantly. Help the kids see that it may be hard to trust God, but he is always working for our good and for his glory. When we trust him and walk by faith, we know that we will be blessed and he will be glorified.

For the younger kids, focus on Christ's example of obedience on the cross and connect this with God's call to Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. The lives of Abraham and Jesus remind us that God blesses those who walk by faith and trust in him.



Challenges to Ministry

God sustained Müller and his ministry to orphans for over 16 years. In 1854, he felt God calling him to something even bigger. Müller sensed that he should build another house that would care for 700 more orphans. Although Müller had seen God provide for the 300 orphans that were already in his care, this new endeavor would require an even greater faith. Financing the building of this residence was only one part of the equation. Müller questioned his own spiritual capacity to lead such a venture, as well as his physical and mental ability. He was aware that such a project could either overwhelm him or cause him to grow prideful. After much prayer, Müller moved forward on the project, trusting that God would provide all the means necessary for the work, including the strength he would need to oversee it.



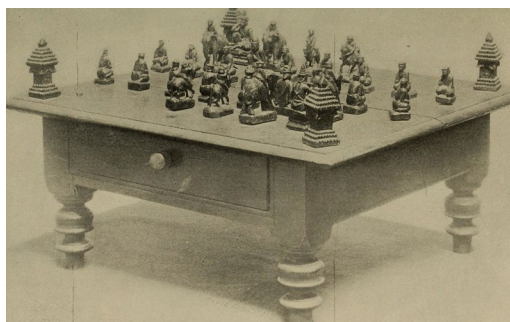
For the Workers

Müller took many small steps of faith before God asked him to consider opening another orphan house. These small choices strengthened his faith and prepared him to follow God in bigger things. To hear more about Müller's life of faith, listen to John Piper's biography.



Resources in Action

Explore the food, culture, and activities from this time period. Use the resources to help kids picture what it would have been like to be an orphan in one of Müller's homes. Look for some creative ways to help them understand how overwhelming it must have been to think about housing and caring for 700 orphans.



George Müller

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KEY CONNECTION

Just as Abraham trusted God with his son Isaac, George Müller had to trust that God would give him what he needed to expand his ministry.



RESOURCES

[Müller Quote](#)

[1800 Games and Activities](#)

[Timeline of Müller's Life](#)

[Müller Biography \(Ch. 21\)](#)

[More of Müller's Life](#)

[George Müller Biography](#)