

## God Calls Abram

**Bible Story:** God Calls Abram • *Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-7*

**Bottom Line:** God wants you to know Him.

**Memory Verse:** "God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life." *2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)*

### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

## 1. Bible Story Review/Discussion

**What You Need:** Bibles, masking tape, cookie sheets, Matchbox cars

### **What You Do:**

- **Pair up** and give partners a cookie sheet, a roll of masking tape, and a car.
- **Ask** them to use the tape to make the letters "T" and "F" anywhere on the cookie sheet. The letters should be about four inches tall.
- **Tell** them to place the car at one end of the cookie sheet. Instruct each partner to hold opposite sides to keep it level.
- **Explain** that you will read a statement about today's Large Group.
  - If they agree that the statement is true, they should work together to tilt the cookie sheet just enough to move the car onto the "T" and then stop.
  - If the statement is not true, they should roll it onto the "F" and stop.
- **Review today's story by asking the questions listed below or others you'd like to add.**
- **Pause** after each answer to let students share what they remember. Then tell students to place the car back at one end of the cookie sheet before asking the next question.
  - In the beginning, God created everything. (T)
  - Adam and Eve had a close relationship with God until they broke His rules. (T)
  - Abram lived in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. (F)
  - Abram was a young man when God told him to go to another land. (F)
  - Abram and his wife, Sarai, refused to move to the land where God told them to go. (F)
  - Isaac was Adam and Eve's first son. (F)
  - God promised that Abram's family would have so many children that he wouldn't be able to count them all. (T)
  - Jesus was a direct descendant of Abram. (T)
- **Set** the cookie sheets aside for the moment.

- **Hand out** a Bible to each kid.
- **Invite** one partner to look up Jeremiah 29:13 and the other to look up Proverbs 8:17.
- **Allow** students to share their interpretation of the verses by putting them into their own words.
- **Dig deeper** through discussion.
  - How do we go about seeking God “diligently” or with “all our heart?”
  - If we “half-heartedly” seek God, will we find Him? Explain what you mean.
- **Place** the cookie sheets on the floor with partners sitting at each end.
- **Invite** one partner to name a way kids can get to know God and then let the other partner respond by tilting the cookie sheet to roll the car onto the “T” if it’s a way he or she gets to know God or “F” if they don’t agree or it’s not a way that works for them to get to know God.
- **Switch and repeat** several times while encouraging them to come up with unique and creative ways to read the Bible, pray, and live out their faith.

## Discussion Questions

### Ask:

- Why do you think some people don’t care whether they have a relationship with God or not?
- What are some results or consequences of not knowing God?
- What are some results or benefits of being in a relationship with God?
- If someone asked you how they could know God, what would you tell them?
- How does it make you feel to know that God wants a relationship with you?

## Wrap Up and Say:

“God is amazing, powerful, compassionate, patient, kind, and AWESOME in every way. That’s no lie! What’s even more amazing is that He wants a relationship with US. He made a way for us to know Him, and that’s one of the reasons we’re here at Power Up: to get to know God better. Even though we won’t ever know EVERYTHING about Him, we want to keep learning what’s true and grow closer to Him every day.”

**SNACK TIME****DO “VERSE to take with you” DURING SNACK****2. Verse to Take with You**

**What You Need:** Bibles, water bottles

**What You Do:**

- **Give** each student a water bottle and a Bible
- **Ask** them to look up **Psalms 63:1**.
- **Tell** them to indicate that they have found and read the verse by taking a drink from the water bottle, putting the lid back on, and setting it down in front of them.
- **Discuss** what they think it means to “thirst” for God.
  - What does it look like in the life of a kid your age to be “thirsty” for God?
  - In what way is being thirsty for water the same or different from thirsting for God?
  - How do we seek God?
- **Return** to the Bible and ask them to look up 2 Peter 1:3a.
- **As before**, tell them to indicate that they have found and read the verse by taking a drink from the water bottle, putting the lid back on, and setting it down in front of them.
- **Compare** 2 Peter 1:3a with Psalms 63:1. (Allow them to look up Psalms 63:1 if they don’t remember what it says.)
- **Ask:**
  - What does God do to help us have a relationship with Him?
  - What does God do to help us live in a way that pleases Him?
  - If someone doesn’t seek God, will God keep seeking him or her? Explain.
  - Would you say that you are seeking God? Why or why not?

**Wrap Up and Say:**

“God put inside of us an awareness that He exists, and He gives us a desire to seek Him. If God didn’t help us in that way, we would never find Him. Thankfully, God wants us to know and follow Him. He promises that anyone who seeks Him will find Him.”

### 3. Make It Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** “Power Up Prayer Cards” (Activity Page), paper, pens

**What You Do:**

- **Give** students the “Power Up Prayer Cards.”
- **Invite** them to choose one of the prayer options that the group will use today. If students can't decide on one option, let them form groups based on their choices.  
*NOTE: The “Power Up Prayer” options listed below will be repeated each day.*
  - **Download:** Kneel and pray silently at the same time with one or more friends.
  - **Upload:** Pray standing with hands raised in the air.
  - **Live Chat:** Choose one student or adult to lead in prayer while pausing to let others echo the same words.
  - **One-Up:** Pop up and pray one-sentence prayers with a friend or in a group.
  - **Offline:** Write a short prayer for someone else to pray.
  - **Online:** Write out a prayer and include the words HELP, THANKS, and LOVE.
  - **Triple Play:** Three kids, three minutes, three prayer requests.
  - **Blitz:** Write out a prayer request, wad up the paper, sit in a circle, and volley the paper wads to one another for ten seconds. Then grab a paper wad and pray silently for whatever is written on it.
- **Direct** them to focus their prayers around this statement: **“God wants you to know Him.”**

**Wrap Up and Say:**

“Dear God, thank You for creating a way for anyone who seeks You by faith to have a close relationship with You. How amazing it is that WE can know YOU. Help us get to know You better this week at Power Up.”

### 4. Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- How do you get to know someone?
- How did you get to know your best friend?
- In what way is getting to know God the same or different from getting to know a friend?