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## Bible Lesson 6 (BTJ)

### 1. **Introduction**

After the global flood waters were gone, Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives lived on the earth again. Everyone else had perished in the global flood. In time the earth was populated again according to God's plan.

This lesson teaches that mankind again failed to serve and honor God as they should have. Many people lived for themselves. They did not honor and worship God. Only a few people served God and worshiped him.

At the time of Nimrod, the people under his leadership, gathered at a plain in Shinar and they decided to build a large city and tower in order to make a name for themselves. God saw how they rebelled against him so he judged them by confusing the language and making many new languages. From there the people grouped together according to their common language and spread out across the earth. This historical event is why there are so many languages today.

After that God called Abram who was a descendent of Seth to leave his homeland and go to the land which he would show him. Why did God do that? God did not want Abram to live among people who worshiped idols lest they wrongly influence him to join their idolatry. Abram's father worshiped idols. Abram, however, did not worship idols because he believed that God was the only true God. God called Abram and promised that he was going to bless all the families of the earth through him. This was God's choice. God did not choose Abram because he was indebted to him in any way.

When Abram left his homeland his nephew Lot went with him. Later the herdsmen of Lot and Abram contended with each other for land to graze their herds and cattle. Abram suggested that Lot should choose where he would like to live and he did. He chose the fertile plains where Sodom and Gomorrah were located.

After that God spoke to Abram again. This time he promised him the land which he and descendants would possess forever. God also reassured Abram that through one of his descendants the Redeemer would come. At that time, Abram did not have any children and his wife Sarai was very old and had not been able to bear children. Abram believed God's promise because he knew that God is faithful all the time. Abram's example of believing God's promise against all odds is the example God wants people to follow. He wants people to simply believe in him.

**2. Review**

**Setting:** The villagers gathered together to listen to Oren and Teacher discuss the Bible stories they were being taught. They wanted to learn more about God and his work in history.

**Teacher:** I am glad you have gathered to discuss the Bible stories again. They teach us how God has worked in history. The Bible's message is a long one. It is important for everyone to know and understand this message.

**Oren:** We are learning many new things. Sometimes it is hard to remember everything so we discuss the teaching with each other again and again. We want to clearly understand God's message to us.

**Teacher:** Tell me some of the things you have learned. How is the teaching changing your thinking?

**Oren:** We learned that God is eternal. He always existed and will always exist. God is good, holy, and righteous. He is superior to everything, even the false gods our ancestors worshiped. God never changes. From story to story, we are learning that he stays the same. That means he is much greater than all the false gods we have believed in because they are not reliable. When God created all things, those creations were perfect. There was no wrong in them. They were totally good.

**Teacher:** If God made everything good, where did evil come from? Why is there evil in the world today?

**Oren:** Evil first happened when Lucifer rebelled against God and became Satan. Then he tempted Eve and Adam to sin in the Garden of Eden and they obeyed his lies. They chose to sin against God and became sinful. Because they became sinful, they gave birth to children with a sin nature. That is where evil comes from. God did not create evil because all of his ways are good.

**Teacher:** Where did Adam and Eve live after they sinned against God? Did God allow them to keep on living in the Garden of Eden?

**Oren:** God expelled Adam and Eve from the beautiful Garden of Eden because they sinned against him. Now they lived outside of the beautiful Garden of Eden and they had to work hard for their livelihood.

**Teacher:** What did the story about Abel offering a lamb which he sacrificed to God teach you? What important principle did you learn from this story?

**Oren:** The story of Abel offering a sacrifice to God taught me that God wants us to believe in him, to trust him for everything. Because Abel believed in God, he came to God in God's way. I believe that God will also help us with our sin problem if we believe the Bible's message and come to him in his way.

**Teacher:** God will show mercy and grace to you if you believe in him. But if you act like Cain, God will not help you with your sin problem. You will die in your sins and go to the place of the never-ending fire. That is an awful place.

**Oren:** When Seth lived, people began to call upon God and worship him. That was good. However, not everyone believed in God and wickedness spread among humanity. Cain and his descendants did not worship God. Just as there were two ways to respond to God in the past, today there are two ways to respond to the message you are teaching us.

**Teacher:** You are right. There are two ways to respond to God. Either a person believes what God says or he doesn't. Either he submits to God and worships him or he doesn't. God wants all of you to submit to him, to believe the message you are hearing. It is God's message for all people. It is a message that we must believe.

**Oren:** After you taught us about Noah we discussed the story again and again. In many ways, before you taught us about God, we acted and lived like the people of Noah's time. We didn't know the truth. Today we believe God's message that you are teaching us. We want to be like Noah even if others laugh at us. We do not want to perish like those who died in the flood waters.

**Teacher:** Why didn't God just destroy everyone since all but Noah and his family lived in wickedness? What was the reason for God sparing Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives?

**Oren:** God did not destroy everyone because he had promised to send a Deliverer to save people from their sins. God made a promise to Adam and Eve and he cannot lie. God always does what he says he will do which is why he spared Noah and his family from destruction. God loves people and wants them to be saved from their sin's penalty. All of us want to hear more of the Story you are teaching us so that we can learn about the Deliverer and be saved.

**Teacher:** You have answered correctly. God cannot lie. He spared Noah and his family because through them the Deliverer would come.

Now I am going to teach you more of the Story. Please keep on listening to the teaching. I am very pleased that you understand so well the Bible stories you have been taught. There is much more for you to learn. It is good that you talk about it to each other and to me. God wants all of you to believe in him and to be saved from the penalty of your sins.

### **3. Tower of Babel**

After Noah and his family left the ark, Noah lived for another 350 years then he died. During that time, his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives had children and the population on the earth increased. The animals and birds which came out of the ark also increased. In many ways, the earth was like it had been before the great flood except that all the wicked people were no longer living. The Garden of Eden which God had made for Adam and Eve was also destroyed. It was gone forever.

As the population of the earth grew again after the great flood, do you think the people thought about God and worshiped him? Did the people continue to tell the story about God's judgment upon the earth? Did they talk about his hatred for sin and wickedness or did they forget about him?

Listen carefully: Some people thought about God and worshiped him. However, many did not think about God. They did not remember his goodness to them in so many ways. They did not thank God for the many kinds of good food that he had created for them. They did not thank God for family and friends. They did not think about God nor did they worship him. Most of the people lived for themselves. Wickedness was spreading over the earth again because people forgot about God and lived for themselves.

At that time, all the people of the earth spoke the language that God had given to Adam and Eve. That meant everyone could understand each other because they spoke the same language. Wherever one went, or whatever one was doing, it was possible to talk to others and be understood clearly. That was so nice. Communication among all the people was simple compared to today because everyone spoke the same language. Ideas could be shared easily. No one had to learn a second language in order to communicate with others. Only one language existed and that was what God had given to Adam and Eve.

God gave language to people so that they would use it among themselves. He also wanted them to use language to worship and praise him. He alone deserves to be praised and worshiped. Remember this: God created all things. He created many good foods for

people to enjoy and to receive nourishment. Therefore, people should praise God for his incredible goodness to them. Sadly, most of the people did not do that. They used their language for many things except for worshiping God. Mostly, they used language for their own benefit.

As time went on, the people migrated to the east. They arrived at a plain in the land of Shinar which was ancient Babylonia and they settled there. Nimrod was the main leader of this movement to the land of Babylon. He was a descendant of Ham who was one of Noah's sons. Nimrod was not a good man. He was a mighty warrior and ruled over people. He believed in his own power and might. He did not believe in God nor did he worship him.

Nimrod was a mighty man in many ways. He influenced many people and he ruled over them. He lived for himself and wanted people to think that he was a great and powerful man. He built several cities and used his power and influence over people so that they would live like he did.

Nimrod got many people together to build a great city with a great tower. At that time the people said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and harden them with fire. Let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world." These people wanted to be famous and greater than all others on the earth. They did not want to be scattered over the earth. They wanted to live together and be greater than others. They lusted for power and fame. Having a great city with a high tower, they thought, was their means to safety, security and fame. How did God see this action?

Listen carefully to the story of God's response to the plans of Nimrod and his followers. God saw the city and the tower the people were building. He knew of their evil plan to be the greatest in the world. He did not approve of it because they were ignoring him and living only for themselves.

God said, "Look! The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other." God did not want all the people in the world to keep on living so wickedly. If he confused their language so that many different languages would be spoken, it would be very hard for the people to communicate with each other.

God knows everything. He knew that this plan to build a great city and a very tall tower was the beginning of much more evil that would happen upon the earth if he did not

intervene. He knew that from here on the people would continue to plan to be great and famous. They would continue to ignore him. They would do whatever was pleasing to themselves.

God knew that if he did not intervene in the affairs of the people, they would not turn to him and worship him. They would not be like Abel or Noah. No, they would live for themselves and think up more evil things to do. So God judged them for their wickedness. He confused their language and they were not able to communicate with each other. As they tried to talk to each other, they could no longer understand each other. Now there was chaos when they tried to talk to each other.

When God confused their language, they had to stop building the city of Babel and its tower. It was no longer possible for everyone to work together.

No longer did people know what their comrades and friends were saying. Chaos made it impossible to continue in their arrogant way. They experienced the judgment of God upon them. From Babel, the people scattered all over the world. The same people who worked on building the city so that they would not be scattered could no longer live together. Much as they tried to talk together and work together, it was impossible to do so because of God's judgment upon them. Now there were many languages and it was impossible to communicate with everyone.

Why did God not want everyone to live together? Why did he judge them in this way? God wanted those people to serve and worship him. They refused to inhabit the whole earth according to his desire. These people wanted to live together all the time and become great rulers of the earth. They thought about themselves and their own ambitions and desires. But God did not want people to live wickedly and forget about him. God demands that all people submit to him and worship him.



Show #12: God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel

**4. Abram a Descendant of Seth**

Many years had passed since Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives departed from the ark and lived on the earth again. One of Noah's sons was named Shem. Many years after Shem lived, a descendant of his was born whose name was Abram. At the time Abram was born, his father Terah lived at Ur of the Chaldea. Nearly everyone at that time worshiped idols. Terah, Abram's father worshiped idols too. This was wrong because God alone is to be worshiped.

Did not Terah and those around him know about God? Did they not know about the great flood? Did they not know that God had confused the one language used by all people at Babel and thereby created many new ones? Even though Terah and the people living in that area of the world knew about God and his judgments upon mankind for wickedness, they did not want to submit to him or serve him. They wanted to live for themselves and they worshiped idols.

What do you think? Is it a good thing to worship an idol? No, it is not a good thing to do. It is unreasonable to worship dead things made by human hands. It is wrong to do so. God wants people to think about him and to worship him. God hates idolatry because it is a sin against him. Idol worshipers are worshiping dead objects which neither hear, see or speak to anyone. They are helpless to do anything. They cannot save their owners. They cannot save themselves from anything. They cannot walk, they must be carried about. God wants people to worship him. He is the creator of everything and the one who gives life to every living thing. He provides sunshine and rain for the earth's crops and produce which people and animals need to sustain life. He alone should be worshiped.

Later, while Terah was still living, God called Abram to depart from Ur and go to a land which God would show him. Why did God call Abram to leave Ur and go to this land which he would show him? God did not want Abram to continue to live among the idol worshipers. God wanted Abram to come away from those people because they did not care about him, had no interest in him, and did not worship him. He did not want them to influence Abram to become an idol worshiper. Remember this. God promised Adam and Eve that he would send a Deliverer to save people from their sins. God was working in history to see that promise fulfilled. That is why God called Abram to leave Ur.

Terah, Abram's father was still living when Abram left Ur. Abram left Ur with his wife Sarai, his father, and his nephew Lot and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. Lot was the son of Abram's brother Haran. Abram and those who went with him moved as far as Haran. At Haran, they set up their tents and lived there. Abram's father Terah lived for 205 years and died while they were still living in Haran.



## **5. God Called Abram**

Abram was living in Haran when God called him again and said, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” God spoke these promises to Abram while he was living in Haran.

Why did God choose Abram?  
Did Abram do something good that influenced God to choose him? Did Abram do something that obligated God to choose him to leave Haran and live in another place?

Listen carefully to this story. God, according to his own will, chose Abram to be the one through whom the Deliverer would come. God wanted the Deliverer to come so that he would save people from their

sins. God was working in history in his time and according to his will. That’s why Abram was chosen. He was chosen to be used in God’s plan of sending the Deliverer. God loves people. He wants them to be saved from their sin. He wants them to worship him. God does not want people to follow Satan’s wicked ways and die in their sins.

When God spoke to Abram, he told him to leave all his relatives and go to the place that he would show him. God knew where he wanted Abram to live and serve him. God wanted Abram to leave his relatives because they thought very little about God. They were idol worshipers. God did not want idol worshipers to be around Abram and his family so he told Abram to leave them and move to another place.

When God called Abram to leave Haran, he promised him many descendants. He said, “I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”



Show #14: Abram heeded God's command and left his home country

What did Abram think when he heard God promise that he would have many, many descendants? Did he believe God? Abram had already been married to his wife Sarai for a number of years. However, they did not have any children because Sarai was not able to become pregnant so they had no children. Abram heard God's promise and thought, "God said that I will have many descendants. I believe him because all that he says is true." Abram believed God's promise even though it didn't seem humanly possible that he and Sarai would have offspring.

God also promised Abram a special blessing. If other people were kind to Abram and helped him, then God would be kind to those people and help them. He promised that he would bless them in a special way. But, if people decided to be unkind to Abram or if they would try to harm him, then God would curse them. That means God would cause hardships for them and they would experience unnecessary physical hardships. If people decided to mistreat Abram, God would cause bad things to happen to them and they would suffer. God made this promise according to his own goodness and righteousness.

God also told Abram, "All the families on earth will be blessed through you." Abram heard God's promise and believed it. Do you think Abram knew exactly what God meant by this promise? Whether Abram fully understood God's promise or not, Abram did the right thing. He believed God spoke the truth and his promise would be fulfilled. God knew that eventually through a descendant of Abram he would send the Deliverer.

Let's think about Abram's faith in God. Did Abram do a good thing by believing God's promise? Yes, he did. God wants all people to believe him just like Abram did. The way Abram responded to God is a good example for us to follow. Are you like Abram or not? Remember, we cannot follow two ways at one time. We cannot believe God and not believe God at the same time. It is important to believe all that God tells us in the Bible. God wants everyone to know him and to believe all that the Bible teaches us.

Abram heard God's command to leave Haran and departed from there as God had told him to do. Sarai, Lot and others who had become part of his household moved along with Abram heading for the land of Canaan. By now Abram and Lot had accumulated considerable wealth, livestock and people who worked for them. To make the move to Canaan would take some time since they had many possessions. By this time, Abram was seventy-five years old.

Abram and all those who traveled with him went as far as Shechem with all of their possessions and set up camp beside the oak at Mamre. Abram owned many head of livestock and sizeable herds of sheep and goats. His herdsmen took care of his many animals. Lot also owned sizable flocks and he too had herdsmen to take care of them. At

that time, the area was inhabited by the Canaanites. The Canaanites did not worship God. They lived for themselves and worshiped their idols. Their ways were not good. They practiced many evil customs and religious beliefs.

At Shechem the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” Again, God promised Abram that he would have descendants. Not only would he have descendants, but his descendants would also inhabit the land of Canaan.

God knew how he would fulfill his promises to Abram. He knew how he would cause Abram’s child to be born. He knew how he would dispossess the Canaanites of their land. Abram heard God’s promise and he believed it. He did not doubt God’s promise. Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Why did he build an altar and dedicate it to the Lord at that time? Abram built the altar because he worshiped God. This altar was not to be used for worshiping idols. It was only to be used for worshiping God. Because Abram believed in God and trusted in the truthfulness of his promises, he built an altar for worshiping God. Abram’s response to God shows us the right way to respond to God. God wants everyone to believe him, to trust him, and to worship him. It is sinful to worship idols, to disbelieve God and to trust in anything other than God.

## **6. Lot and Abram Separate**

Abram was a very rich man. He had a lot of silver and gold and livestock. Wherever Abram moved, his livestock and herdsmen went with him. It was a lot of work to provide enough feed and water for all of his flocks. Everyone who moved with him needed a place for their tents and land to provide feed for all of the animals.

Abram’s nephew Lot continued to follow Abram as he moved from place to place. He also had flocks and herds and herdsmen to look after his animals. Lot’s herdsmen saw that the land where both Abram and Lot lived could not support all of their animals. Abram’s herdsmen made the same observation. As they searched for good drinking water and grazing lands, it became harder to find. Lot’s herdsmen began to argue and contend with Abram’s herdsmen for the land and water. They were loyal to Lot. Abram’s herdsmen were loyal to him. Instead of getting along, they were striving with each other. Animosity prevailed as they contended for the grasslands and water for their livestock.

When Abram saw what was happening, he talked to Lot about it. He said, “Lot, let’s not allow this conflict to come between us and our herdsmen. This is not right. After all, you and I are close relatives! You are my brother’s son. Look, the whole countryside is open

to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want and we will separate. The land you choose will be yours for your cattle and herdsmen. If you want the land to the left, then I'll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I'll go to the left."

Even though Abram was older than Lot, he gave Lot the first choice of land. Lot looked at all the land and thought, "Which will be best for my flocks? I want the best land." Lot liked the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere. It was really good land well situated for raising cattle and flocks of sheep and goats. It had good water sources. "I will take the whole Jordan Valley," said Lot. "It is the place where I want to live with my flocks and servants."

So Lot moved away from his uncle Abram and settled in the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley. He moved his tents to a place near to the city Sodom and the cities of the plain. The people in this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against God. They did not care about God. They worshiped idols. They lived in wickedness and lived only for themselves without any regard for God.

Abram went the other direction and settled in the land of Canaan even though the land was not as good as the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley. Abram was good to his word and allowed Lot to take the best land for his cattle and flocks because he served God and trusted in him.

## **7. God's Promises to Abram**

After Abram and Lot separated, God spoke to Abram again. He said, "Look as far as you can see in every direction. Look to the north and south, to the east and west. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you."

Now that Lot was separated from Abram, God spoke to him again with another promise. God chose a large area of land to be the permanent possession of Abram and his descendants. He wanted Abram to settle in this land. In this land, his descendants would become very many so that they could not be counted. How would this happen? By this time Abram was already an old man without even one descendant. Why did God keep talking about Abram's descendants when he had no offspring? What was the point of God reminding Abram that he would have descendants when as yet he did not have any children?

Do you remember God's earlier promise to Abram? Earlier God had chosen Abram to be the one through whom the Deliverer would come. He had made special promises to Abram about the way he would bless him. God said people who treated Abram well would also be blessed. But, if they acted wrongly toward Abram, God would curse them. God promised that all people of the earth would be blessed because of Abram. Abram heard God's promises and believed all that he said. He believed in God who is always reliable.

Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove at a place called Mamre. There he built another altar to be used for worshiping God. Although Abram moved from place to place, he did not forget about God. No, he knew that God was with him wherever he went and he continued to worship the Lord wherever he lived.

Later God spoke to Abram again. This time he spoke to Abram in a vision and said, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great." God affirmed to Abram that he was going to keep him from harm and greatly reward him. Did Abram do something which obligated God to show him such kindness? No, he did not. God chose Abram to be the one through whom the Deliverer would come. God acted according to his sovereignty and declared that he would show his kindness to Abram in a special way.

Abram heard God's promise and replied. "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir." Abram believed all that God said but was puzzled and said, "How will this happen? My wife, Sarai, and I are old and we have had no children. How will the promise of these blessings be fulfilled?"

Abram reasoned, "I do not have any descendants. When I die, all my earthly possessions will become the property of Eliezer, a servant of my household." If he had already had descendants, then the blessings that God promised to him would have been very special. But, Abram did not have any descendants and he reminded God of this fact.

God heard Abram's reasoning and said to him, "No, your servant Eliezer will not be your heir. You will have a son of your own who will be your heir." Then God took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

Again, God promised Abram that he would have very many descendants though at this time of this promise he had no children. God knew all that he planned to do through

Abram. Indeed, one of his descendants would be the promised Deliverer, the one God promised to send to save people from the guilt and penalty of their sins.

Abram heard God's promise to him concerning him having many descendants and he believed God. Although he had no children, Abram believed God's promise. As he looked and saw the countless stars Abram thought, "It is impossible to count all these stars. I believe God's promise that I will have countless descendants." Abram knew that God could not lie because he always speaks truth. Within himself he thought, "Yes, my descendants will be many. That is true because you, God, have spoken it to me."

God heard Abram's response and counted him as righteous because of his faith. That means God did not see Abram as one who disbelieved him. He saw Abram's faith and declared him not guilty of the penalty for his sins. Why did God do this for Abram? God counted Abram as righteous because Abram believed that he would have many descendants just like God had promised him. Abram believed in God therefore he believed in God's promises.

Let's think about Abram's faith in God's promise. When God promised Abram many descendants, he and Sarai had no children. By this time, both of them were old and Sarai had not been able to have children when they were young. Surely Abram thought about this as he heard God promise him many descendants. Though Abram did not know how this would happen, he believed God because God said so. That was an extraordinary right response by Abram. He believed the promise because God said so.

God wants you to believe his message for you. As you hear the Bible's story and learn about God, he wants you to believe what you are hearing. Sometimes the stories may seem unusual or difficult to believe. Sometimes a story shows how people have believed in other stories which are not true. God wants you to respond like Abram and believe what he says. If you believe God's word as Abram did, God will save you from the penalty of sin. God loves people and he wants them to believe in him. Are you like Abram was? Do you just believe God's message when you hear it? God wants you to believe his message for you like Abram believed God's message for him.

Suppose Abram would have said to God. "I'll think about your promise. I might believe it. I'm not sure if I am ready to believe it or not." Would God have counted him as righteous because of his faith? No, because a response like that would not have been in faith. It would have been one of doubting God. God wants everyone to believe in him because he always tells the truth.

Then God spoke to Abram again and said, “You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth.” God told Abram about future events that would affect his descendants. God said someday his descendants would leave the land of Canaan move to a foreign land where they would be enslaved. They would live in this foreign land for 400 years and endure hardships as slaves. The rulers of this foreign land would oppress them and make life hard for them. The rulers of this foreign land would be very powerful people who did not serve God.

God told Abram that after his descendants lived and suffered in this foreign land for 400 years, he would deliver them. God said he would punish the nation that caused hardships for his descendants and deliver them from their oppressors. God said that Abram’s descendants would leave this nation with great wealth. God said that he would bring them back to the land which he had given to Abram again. As the story of God’s work in history unfolds, you will hear the whole story about this event. You will learn how God worked in history to bring these events to fulfillment just as he had promised to Abram many years earlier.

It is very good that you are listening to the teaching. God wants you to know and understand his message for you. He wants you to believe in him. He wants you to trust him. He wants you to be like Abram and believe what he says without any hesitation. God is totally reliable. All that he says is true, always.

## **8. After the Meeting**

**Patrick:** We need to talk about all the things we are learning. All of us need to know and understand each lesson that we are taught. It is good for us to talk about what we are hearing so that we will learn and believe God’s message for us.

**Grace:** That is true, we need to believe God’s message for us. We must remember it or we will be like the descendants of Noah who forgot about God’s judgment of the great flood. Many of them rebelled against God and worshiped worthless, dead idols. They turned away from following God and lived for themselves.

**Patrick:** When Nimrod lived, he wanted to rule people, build a large tower, and be very famous. Why was that wrong?

**Grace:** Nimrod and the many people he influenced wanted to build a big tower so they would have a great name for themselves. They wanted to live in the city of Babel and not

spread throughout the whole earth. They wanted to be famous. They did not think about God nor did they worship him. They forgot about God.

**Patrick:** God judged the people at Babel by confusing their language. From Adam to this time, everyone spoke the same language. When God confused their language, many people could not understand their friends, family members, or others they knew. They could no longer live together. From there they spread out across the world. That's why we have our language. Teacher has his language and people in other countries speak their languages. The origin of many languages in the world goes back to God's judgment at Babel.

**Grace:** Today we still feel the pain of the judgment of the confusion of languages. When we go to other cities, people don't speak like we do and sometimes it is hard to understand them.

**Patrick:** I have learned that God wants people to worship him. I have decided in my heart to believe in him. Long ago, God judged wicked people because they forgot about him. If we keep on ignoring him, he will also judge us.

**Grace:** We need to think about the way God judges people. When Lucifer rebelled against God, he was cast out of heaven and became Satan. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they became sinful and were cast out of the Garden of Eden. All of the people in Noah's day were shut out of the ark and died in the flood waters. At the time of Nimrod, God confused their language so today we feel the pain of that judgment. God judges sin. We must believe him or he will judge us. We need God to show mercy to us.

**Patrick:** The story of Abram is a good story. He turned away from worshiping idols like his forefathers did. Even though he was raised around idols and idol worshippers, he rejected them and the practice of worshiping them. Have you struggled with rejecting our old beliefs and practices? Have you been afraid of what others might think? As I listen to God's message to us, I am compelled to believe it. This story is so compelling that I know that I must believe it. God's message to us is true because he is true.

**Grace:** That is true. When Teacher teaches us God's message I feel something inside of me that says, "This message is true. You must believe it." I believe this compelling story.

**Patrick:** Did you hear what Abram did when God called him to leave his homeland? Abram obeyed God without any resistance. He just packed up his belongings, gathered his cattle and possessions, and started to move. I said to my family, "We must be like Abram and follow God's talk the first time we hear it because it is true. We cannot delay



or question this story. God wants all of us to believe his message for us.”

**Grace:** Abram was a good man. When his nephew Lot showed disrespect to him by choosing the best land, Abram was not angry with him. He did not get angry because he wasn’t living just for himself. I thought, “We’re just like Lot, aren’t we? He was greedy and wanted everything for himself. We need to be like Abram and trust God.”

**Patrick:** We must follow the ways of Abram and believe God’s message because he said it. We must trust God.

**Grace:** God promised Abram that he would have many descendants and Abram believed him. When I heard that story, I was amazed. Abram, already an old man with a barren wife, just believed God because God said so.

**Patrick:** Abram believed God’s promise about having many descendants. Then what did God do for Abram? God counted it to him for righteousness. That was like God saying to Abram, “I forgive you. You are not guilty of your sins because you believe my promise.” I was excited. I too want to be forgiven and declared righteous by God.

**Grace:** This has been a good discussion. Before we leave, I want to make one more point. God showed mercy and favor to Abram because he decided that one of Abram’s descendants should be the Deliverer. The reason God showed favor and mercy to Abram was so that through him the Deliverer would come to save people from the penalty of their sins. God truly doesn’t want people to die in their sins. God doesn’t want us to die in our sins. We must believe all of God’s messages for us from the Bible.

9. **Review of the Lesson's Themes**

**People have a propensity to sin:** Although the global flood destroyed all of the wicked people, when the earth was repopulated, right away people began to sin and live for themselves. By nature, people do not seek God which is why many people became wicked and followed Nimrod's ways. Of course, Satan has worked against God's purpose in all ages of history and continues to do so today.

**God judges sin. He cannot ignore sin and wickedness:** God judged wicked Nimrod and those who followed him by confusing the one language used by all people. The outcome and pain from this judgment is still experienced. God did not want wickedness to overtake all of humanity. He wanted a godly line saved through whom he would send the Deliverer.

**God's judgment upon mankind by confusing their language was also an act of mercy toward mankind:** How? By making communication difficult, the exchange of ideas to act and live wickedly was thwarted. God wanted a godly remnant to remain through whom he would send the Deliverer. Emphasize that sovereign God exercised his power and supremacy and made many languages by confusing the one existing language.

**God chose Abram and Sarai to be the ones through whom the Deliverer would come:** Emphasize that this was totally God's choice. Abram and Sarai did not make God choose them. God clearly communicated his purpose for choosing Abram through his promises.

**God is faithful, he never changes:** Abram believed God's promises to him because he knew that God was reliable, always. God chose Abram for the greater purpose of being the forefather of the coming Deliverer. God did not forget his promise. He never forgets his promises. He always fulfills them on time, in his time.

**Man must have faith in God in order to please him:** In order for Abram to be accepted by God, he had to believe in God and believe his promises. Emphasize that it is fundamentally important for everyone to believe in God, to trust him. Emphasize that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Emphasize that all who trust God as Abram did will be forgiven of their sins.

**God loves people and wants them saved from the guilt and penalty of their sins:** God showed mercy and grace to mankind in many ways in history. He does not want people to die in their sins. Emphasize that God wants people to know him and to worship him. He wants to save people from the guilt and penalty of their sins.

**10. Students Practice Telling the Stories**

At the end of this lesson, practice telling the story you have just heard to each other. Everyone needs to practice teaching Bible lessons by telling the stories.

Practice telling the stories of this lesson in pairs. One pair should teach one of the stories in the lesson following this lesson's Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents at the beginning of the lesson lists the stories for each lesson. Some of the stories or sections of a story are short so they should be combined with another section to make the exercise of practicing to teach by using stories a profitable exercise.

When you are teaching a lesson by telling the story, use questions and illustrations to keep the story interesting and to make the people think about the lesson's meanings. Be prepared to engage the audience with questions which are crafted to bring out how well they understand the meaning of the story.

Use visual aids or objects used in the lesson when you teach a story. Show the pictures at the right time in the story. When illustrations are used, be sure to bring them to a right and logical conclusion. If you do not make the right conclusions through telling the story, people will likely guess what it means and they could easily come to a wrong conclusion.

After you have practiced telling stories to each other, talk about ways to improve your story-telling ability. Be open to critique and be kind to each other as you work together to help each other become master story-tellers. After all, the goal of teaching God's Word via telling Bible stories is the salvation of spiritually lost people.

## **11. Teaching Tips for Teachers**

**Lesson Point #2:** Emphasize that as the earth was repopulated after the global flood mankind forgot about God. Eventually, most of the people were wicked and did not serve God.

The judgment at the Tower of Babel is the reason why there are so many languages today. The pain of this judgment continues today.

**Lesson Point #3:** God remembered his promise that he would send a Deliverer to save people from the guilt and penalty of their sins. He called Abram to leave his homeland and family of idol worshipers and go to a land he would show him. It is important that people understand that God chose to work through Abram. Abram was not chosen because he did something to make God choose him. God works in history according to his sovereignty and knowledge.

**Lesson Point #4:** God called Abram again while he lived in Haran. God's promise to Abram originated within himself. It was not a response to who Abram was. God intended to use Abram and his lineage to be the ones through whom the Deliverer would come. God remembered his promise to send a Deliverer. He wanted the Deliverer to come and save people from their sin's guilt and penalty. God knew how he would work in history to make the coming of the Deliverer a reality.

**Lesson Point #5:** Emphasize the good character qualities of Abram. Though he was older and could have chosen the best land for himself, he humbled himself and gave Lot first choice. Abram knew that God would take care of him, his household, and possessions because he had already promised to bless him and make his name great. Emphasize that Lot looked for immediate success and for his material wealth to increase when he should have considered his uncle Abram's seniority and trusted God to care for him.

**Lesson Point #6:** God promised Abram that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars at a time when Abram and Sarai had no children. Abram believed God's promise against all odds. God saw his faith and he counted his faith as righteousness.

Emphasize that God requires people to believe in him. This is not optional. It is required by God from everyone.

Emphasize that God wants everyone to follow Abram's example and trust him even when the odds seem impossible.

**12. To the Honorable Teacher**

If any part of this lesson is misunderstood, go over that part again. Play that part of the lesson again. Summarize that part briefly for the students then play that part a second time. Then ask questions to ascertain whether or not this part of the lesson is now understood correctly.

Be prepared to use proper illustrations to clarify a given lesson point. Sometimes it is helpful to use a picture and talk about what is portrayed in the picture as you teach.

Stress to the students that the important themes of this lesson must be understood before proceeding to the next lesson.

Simple drama can be useful to make a point clearer in the people's minds. Before using drama, be sure that it is culturally appropriate to do so. If people are not accustomed to understanding simple drama, it may be best to not use it.