



SERVICE ORDER

WEEK 2: What's in a Name?

NOTES: Print out Series Summary and hand a copy to each SG leader. Meet with SG leaders before the service and go over the big themes of the series, how to discipline, tickets/candy, offering.

GAME TIME:

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Human Foosball": See game for supply list

TUNE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

REMIND TIME:

- **(A/V)** Play Remind Time video
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over TRUST – I can count on God to be there for me.

TEACH TIME:

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about the importance in the meaning of names
- **Teach Them:** Talking about God's Covenant with Abram and the changing of his name
- **Challenge Them:** Trusting God to deliver on His promises, no matter how long it takes

GIVE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal Powerpoint on screen

CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents com

EXIT: Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

TEACH them

2nd Segment: (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.

BIBLE text

Genesis 15-18: God's Covenant with Abram

PROPS n things

- The Bible
- A roll of masking tape

BEGIN speaking

TAKE A BIG LEAP:

(Call two kids up.) I need two volunteers to come up. *(Put a 3' piece of tape on the floor.)* Kids...see this tape? I want you to line up behind it and leap as far as you can! *(Have them leap one at a time, and put a piece of tape where they landed.)* Wow! That was a big leap! Give them a big hand. *(Dismiss the two kids.)*

REVIEW LAST WEEK:

Last week, we talked about Abram and how he took a big leap of faith. At the age of 60, he was visited by God, who called him out of the city of Ur. Clench your teeth and say it with me "Ur!" Good job! Abram left Ur and God told him to go to a land that He would show him. God literally plucked him out of a gazillion people and said, "Hey you....Abram....leave your city, leave your household, leave everything and go to a land that I will show you." Now...we don't really know how God told him this, but whatever way God talked to Abram, it worked; Abram obeyed. He left his home. He left his people. He left his land and took his wife and went on a journey with his servants to a totally unknown place.

(Walk over to the tape and take a leap.) That was a big leap of faith! Abram started on a journey of trusting God, and God started the process of calling Abram to Himself

and establishing a promise with Abram that would change not only his life, but all of our lives too.

GET YOUR BIBLES:

How many of you brought your Bibles this morning? Hold them high in the air! Awesome! You know kids...it's not enough to just bring our Bibles to church. We must learn how to find stuff, how to understand what is in there, and apply it to our everyday lives. I'm so excited for all of you that brought your Bibles this morning. Let's turn to the very first book in the Bible, which is what? Genesis! That's right! Genesis means "beginning," and we are certainly learning about the beginning of God's amazing relationship with His people. Let's find chapter 15 together in the book of Genesis. **(Encourage small group leaders of younger groups to help the kids find Genesis 15. Give enough time.)**

Let's read, starting in verse 1: (NIRV)

Some time later, Abram had a vision. The Lord said to him, "Abram, do not be afraid. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great reward."

But Abram said, "Lord and King, what can you give me? I still don't have any children. My servant Eliezer comes from Damascus. When I die, he will get everything I own." ³ Abram continued, "You haven't given me any children. So a servant in my house will get everything I own."

Kids...what's happening here is that God is trying to calm Abram's fears about where He is leading him. He's saying to Abram, "Trust me; I've got you covered." But Abram just doesn't get it because Abram knows he is an old man, his wife is getting up there in years, and still they have no children. He's wondering if God knows what He's doing.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM:

And this is where God gets very specific. *(Walk up to a child and grab their face and look into their eyes.)* It's almost as if God grabbed Abram by the face and looked straight into his eyes to make sure Abram knew that God was about to say something very important.

Here's what the Bible says in verse 4:

Then a message came to Abram from the Lord. He said, "This man will not get what belongs to you. A son will come from your own body. He will get everything you own."

The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then he said to him, "That is how many children you will have."

Have you ever gone outside on a totally clear night and lay down on the grass and just stared up into the sky? As a kid, I remember trying to count the stars, but after just a few minutes, I would get bored and stop counting. Why? Because there were just so many stars. There was no way I could do it!

Show Slide ("God's Promise to Abram - Stars")

God tells Abram to look up in the sky and count the stars; "if you can" He said. God's point to Abram is there is no way he could count all the stars. It's impossible. He wanted Abram to be overwhelmed by what God was saying, because God then establishes the "promise" that would change his life forever. He told Abram in verse 5, "(You see all those stars?) That is how many children you will have." Everyone look up in the sky....then back at me, then look back up in the sky, then back at me and say with me, "Whoa!" That's a lot of children!

God told him that He would bless the world through him. He would bless the world through Abram and through Abram's child. But here's the deal....**he had no child!** He was the father of absolutely no one, no child, only a promise. Here is a man operating in faith, heading to a country he has never seen, and being told he's going to be the father of many when in fact he's the father of no one; but he keeps moving and he keeps believing. He is looking for God to make good on His promise. He's waiting for the land. He's waiting for the child, and it's all by faith. He's living on hope. He's living on trust. He's living on a promise.

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL:

Because Abram had no children and his name meant "father of many," he must have been desperate, wanting so badly to have a child. So Sarai deciding to help things along ahead of God's plan, made the suggestion that Abram go to Hagar, the servant girl, and try to have a baby with her.

Abram was so desperate about having the promise of God come true that he took matters into his own hands. He thought he would just help God along with His promise, and so he agreed to Sarai's request. The child was born and his name was Ishmael. Abram was finally the father of somebody. He felt like a man at the age of 86. Abram even cried to the Lord, Genesis 17:18, "*Abraham said to God, "I wish Ishmael could receive your blessing!"*"

He had a son, but this son was born of natural powers...born from only human strength and ability. And when asked his name, he could say, "I am Abram and I have one son." But this wasn't the promise that God ultimately had for Abram. God continues to speak his promise to Abram in chapter 17, verse 19:

Then God said, "I will bless Ishmael. But your wife Sarah will have a son by you. And you will name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him. It will be a covenant that lasts forever. It will be for Isaac and for his family after him."

"As for Ishmael, I have heard you. You can be sure that I will bless him. I will give him children. I will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of 12 rulers. And I will make him into a great nation."

BIRTH OF ISAAC:

The promise at least initially began to become true when he had Ishmael, but it still was a stretch to view him as the father of many. Thirteen years after Ishmael was born, when Abram was nearly 100 years old, God gave him another son. His name was Isaac, and he was the real son God had promised Abram. Can everyone say with me "Isaac"? ***(Have the kids repeat the name "Isaac")***

The meaning of Abram meant "father of many," but that wasn't enough for what God had in mind. It was time for God to give Abram a new name. He changed his name by adding a "ha" in the middle, Abraham, that means father of multitudes. It was as if God was saying, "Ha! Didn't think I was going to follow through with my promise, did ya? Ha! I will add "ha" to your name and call you Abraham." The name Abraham meant "father of many nations." The meaning of his new name better fit the humungus size and bigness of God's promise!

Ishmael was a blessing to Abraham, but Isaac was a miracle from heaven – God had to be a part of making this happen because Abraham and Sarah were so old and way past the age of having children. Abraham had Ishmael in the power of human strength. Abram had Isaac in the power of God. When we trust in our own human strength, we only get human results. But when we trust in the supernatural strength of God, we get supernatural results.

EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)

CHALLENGE them

3rd Segment: (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

*The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.*

BEGIN speaking

It's easy to look at our names and just think, "No big deal." We don't really think about it that much. But when it came to God changing Abram's name to Abraham, it meant a whole lot. Abraham was no longer the "father of many", but now "father of many nations," father of so many children that it would be like trying to count the stars, or trying to count the grains of sand on the beach.

For Abraham, it was definitely a journey of trust. He didn't exactly know whether God was going to come through. From the time that God promised Abraham a child, twenty-four years passed. Would you be willing to wait on the promises of God for twenty-four years? Or would you be impatient, like Abram was when he had a child with Hagar? God is always about doing the impossible; doing what is not expected; doing the unbelievable. But ...God calls each and every one of us to believe in the unbelievable.

Kids...God is unbelievable. He is unbelievable in His love and concern for us. Are you willing to believe in the unbelievable? Are you willing to trust in something you cannot see? Abraham had to. He had to trust in God to deliver a land he had never seen, deliver a child he would never be able to produce in his own strength and ability, and he had to trust in God to deliver nations of children that he would never meet.

He is a God worth trusting. Just because He doesn't deliver His promise in the timing that we want or expect, doesn't meet He doesn't deliver. All He asks of us is to not run ahead and trust in our own strength. Be patient. Trust in His strength. Trust in His power. Trust in His goodness for your life, and just like Abraham, He will bless your life beyond what you could ever believe or imagine.

Let's go over our Take-Away Point for today.

Show Slide ("Take-Away Point")

Let's say today's Take-Away Point together: **"Abram became Abraham, father of many nations."**

Just like in Abraham and Sarah's life, God's promises are not always delivered in our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait. Sometimes, we have to wait a long, long time. Sometimes, we don't live long enough to see God's promises fully come true. But God's timing is always the *right* timing!

OUR SPOTLIGHT VERSE:

Show Slide ("Spotlight Verse")

Maybe in your small group time, you can challenge each other to see who has already memorized this month's Spotlight Verse. Let's read it together:

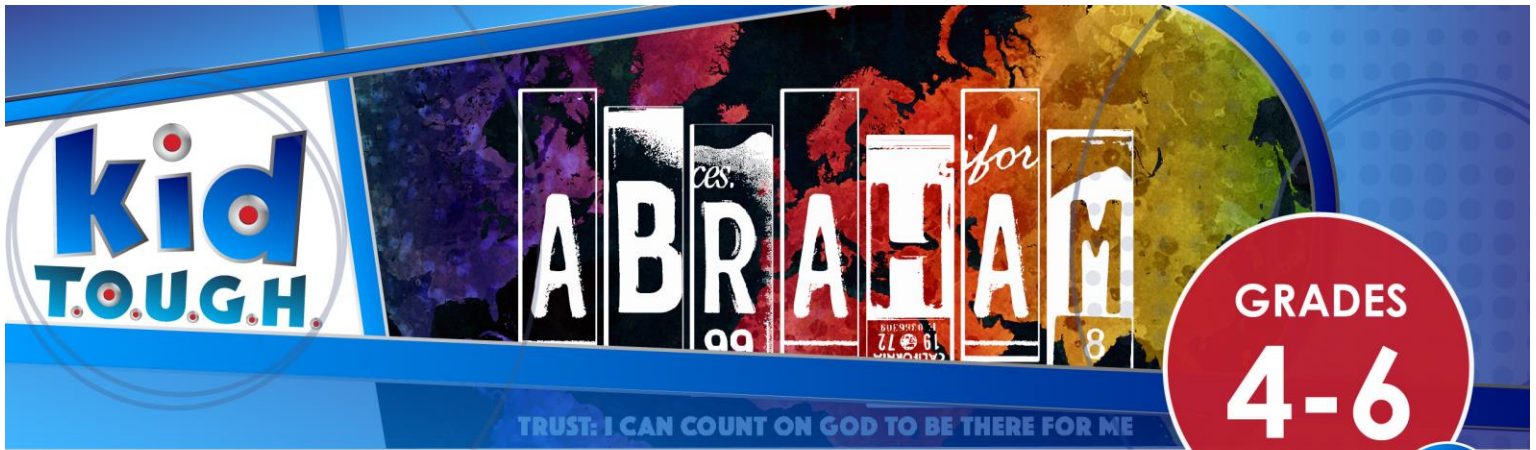
"But I will bless any man who trusts in me. I will show my favor to the one who depends on me." ~Jeremiah 17:7 (NirV)

Let's Pray: "Dear God, we see in today's story how you work miracles to accomplish Your purposes. Abraham did not live long enough to really see how many children's filled the earth, and we may not live to see all of the promises, and all of the good, and all of the blessings You may do through us. God, helps us to see that we are a seed; a seed in which much fruit will flourish, even after we leave this earth. Our job is to trust and obey You; Your job is to do great things through those who trust and obey. Thank You for what you have done, what You are doing, and what You will yet to do in our lives! Amen."

This week, ask your parents if you can do a family exercise of looking up the meaning to each of the names of your family. See you next week!

ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



WEEK 2: What's in a Name?

EXPLORE – their opinion

Names have meanings. Do any of you know the meaning of your name?

Let's look at some Bible name meanings. Does anyone know the Biblical meaning of the name "Adam?" (**earth or red earth**)

- What about "John?" (**God is gracious**)
- How about "Joshua?" (**God is salvation**)
- What about "Abigail?" (**the Father's joy**)
- What about "Matthew?" (**Gift of God**)
- How about "Paul?" (**"Small" or "little"**)
- "Sarah?" (**"princess" or "princess of the multitudes"**)

Does anyone remember what the meaning of Abram's name was? (**"Father of many"**)



EVALUATE – their understanding

Why was it strange that Abram's name meant "father of many?" (**Because he had no children**)

What did God tell Abram to do to help him understand just how many children he would have?

- A. Look in the refrigerator
- B. Look in his sock drawer
- C. Look up at the stars**

About how old was Abram when his son Ishmael was born?

- A. 27
- B. 62
- C. 86**
- D. 100

Who was the mother of Ishmael? (**Hagar**)

At age 90, long after she was able to give birth, Sarah had a son named:

- A. Ishi
- B. Ichabod
- C. I-Rod
- D. Isaac**

Digging Deeper:

Abraham waited 24 years before God's promise to give him a son came true. That must have taken a lot of patience and trust. Can you remember a time when your parents promised you something, and you had to wait a long, long time to get it?

GRADES
4-6

EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their walk



I CAN COUNT ON GOD TO BE THERE FOR ME

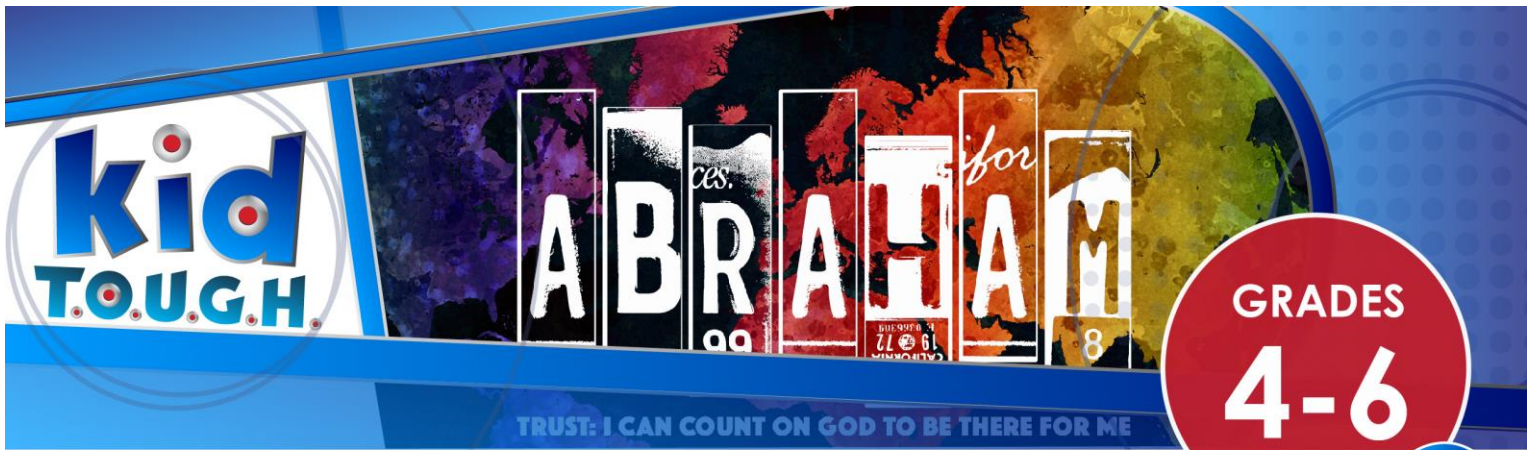


Stop at the Stop Sign, and wait for further instruction before moving to next segment.

Don't rush it! Remember, the goal is not to just get through it, but to **get it through.**

Your 2 goals: **relate** with them, **reinforce** the lesson.





GRADES
4-6

EXPLORE
their opinion
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I CAN COUNT
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Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse**.

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.

ENCOURAGE – their walk

Whenever we see God rename someone in the Bible, it usually meant that He had a great plan for their life, but not always fun. Like Saul, God named him Paul (*meaning "small"*) to help him understand that he would suffer greatly for following God. If you follow God, it doesn't mean life will always go well for you. But it will mean that God will be there with you, every step of the way. Let's pray: **"Dear God, we know that following You requires us to not get caught up in what the world has to offer, but to catch what You have to offer. Help us to trust You more and more each day. In Jesus' name. Amen."**



Who has started working on your KidTOUGH Action Card at home? Remember, we don't have to do it – you get to do it! What a privilege it is to help others and make them feel good.

MEMORIZE – God's Word



SPOTLIGHT VERSE:
"But I will bless any man who trusts in me. I will show my favor to the one who depends on me." Jeremiah 17:7 (NirV)

Let's go around the circle and see who has this verse memorized. **(Call on kids who volunteer. Then have the group say it one more time.**

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

It's time to get your offering ready for Give Time.

I want to read you a verse from the Bible in Hebrews 6:10: **"God is fair. He will not forget what you have done. He will remember the love you have shown him. You showed it when you helped his people. And you show it when you keep on helping them."**

When you give, God remembers. He loves it when we help others through the giving of our money, our time and our gifts. Let's all look for opportunities to help others around us this week!