God’s Big Story: Into the Unknown

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| scripture focus |
| Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6 |

big picture

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve’s choice not to trust and obey God led to their expulsion from the garden, into a world that was cursed because of their actions. In this story, there’s a radical new beginning. Abram and Sarai, a barren couple, are called to journey into the unknown: to trust and obey and be led into a new land that God will show them. God promises that all of the families of the world will be blessed through them and their children to come. God chose this new couple to be a key part of God’s rescue plan to transform creation. Their trust and faith in God’s promise and call – their willingness to follow God into the unknown – are central to the narrative. Jesus will be Abraham’s descendent.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* p.56-61\* (“Son of Laughter”)*Psalms for Young Children:*Psalms 18, 23, 91, 125 (psalms of trust) | Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-6; 18:1-15; 21:1-7Hebrews 11:8-16Psalm 23, 91, 125 (trust psalms) |
| discuss/ ask | What do you think it was like for Abram and Sarai to leave everything that was familiar to them and journey out into a land that God would show them? What did they have to leave behind?What did God promise to Abram and Sarai? How did God keep those promises?How do you think God is going to use Abram and Sarai and their family to bless all of the families of the earth?Can you remember a time when you journeyed somewhere you had never been before, or did something you had never done before? What happened? How did you feel? What did you learn? How did it change you?Have you ever had to leave something behind or give something up in order to enter into a new experience? Tell the story of that.Are there any new (and maybe scary) things that you are called to do? Which promises from God can you hold on to when you are called into the unknown? |
| do together | See if you can find something completely new to do as a family – go “into the unknown” together. This is challenging during a pandemic – but perhaps you could try a new food from a different country or explore a new local trail or park. Maybe your kids can help you think of something “unknown” you can do together right now. Talk about how it feels to go someplace new or do something you’ve never done before. |

\*This story doesn’t mention Abraham’s call to leave what he knew and follow God into the unknown, so you may want to preface it with a paraphrase of Gen. 12:1-4.