

General Church Education



**Family Lesson: Genesis 11 – 12**  
**The Call**  
**of Abram**

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Family Lesson 1 – G

*The Call of Abram*  
*Genesis 11 & 12*

**Family Talk:**  
**THE CALL OF ABRAM**

Rev. Donald Rose

We think of the true story of Abram, who had from the Lord a call and a promise. “Go from where you are now to another place that I will show you, and this will lead to good and blessed things.” (*Genesis 12:1-3*)

This is not only a true story about Abram; it is a true story about every single person there is. No matter how young or how old we are, we are ever being called to new things; and because the Lord is the one leading us, there is a promise of good things ahead.

The Lord called the place to which Abram was called, “a land that I will show you.” It was not a land Abram knew about, but the Lord knew about it, and He would show him. Think for awhile about a baby. Think of the things you could say about the life of that baby, what the baby can do, what makes the baby laugh, what the baby understands. Among those things you must list is the fact that the baby is on its way to new things. The baby is being called from the state where it is to new things not as yet known. The baby is being called to worlds of new awareness, learning what numbers are, learning how to read, learning about peoples of the earth, learning about the Lord's creation, and the baby is destined to find a life of usefulness.

Think about a person who is engaged in an important work, like the mayor of a city. Did that person know during childhood that this is what life held in store? In a way there was during childhood a calling — a calling to different interests which led to a calling to other things, until gradually it became clear what that person wanted to do.

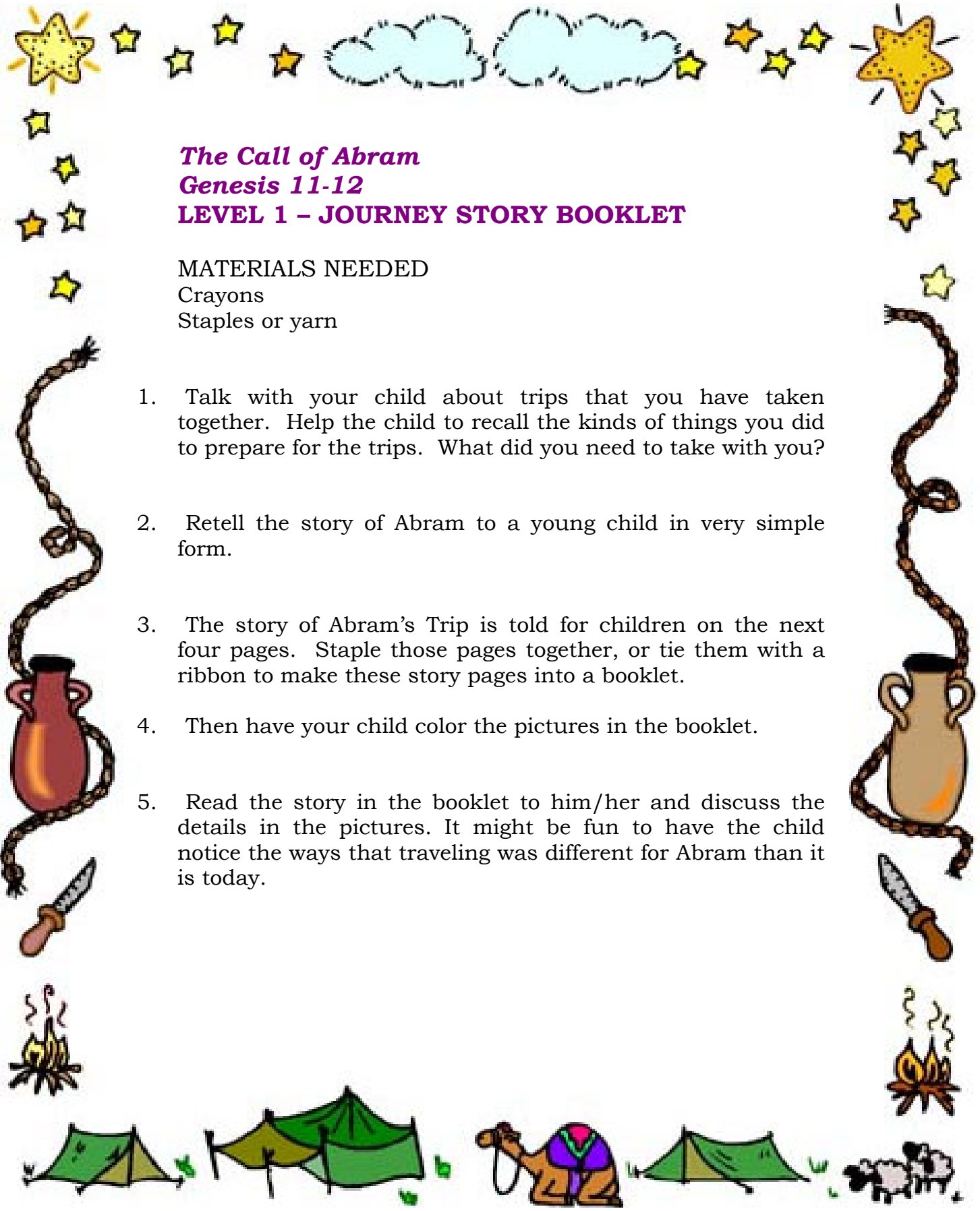
Some people know when they are fairly young what they want to do in this world. Their calling is clear to them. Most people take a fairly long time in the course of their education to find the use that best suits them. And when they do find that use, is that the end of the story? No, because we only spend some years in this world.

We know we have a destiny after we leave this world, and that knowledge is in us like a voice calling us to come at last to a land we have never seen. It is the land of heaven which the Lord knows very well and which He will show us one day. And there we will find other things to do that we will greatly love and which will be genuinely useful to others around us.

Touching the lives of those around us in a helpful and useful way — that is the wonderful thing to which the Lord calls each one of us. And it does not have to wait until the life of heaven. We begin affecting other people more than we know very early in life. Our behavior and attitudes when we are children affects other people far more than we at first realize. Remember that Abram was not only told that he would be blessed, but that in him *other* people would be blessed. “You shall be a blessing” (*Genesis 12:2*). What a promise that is!

Do you want your life to be a blessing to others? That is a very real thing to wish for. In fact, that is the thing to which the Lord is calling you. As you do your best in each stage of your life, the Lord works more than you realize to bless others through you. Through you He wills to touch their lives, to help them and encourage them. Whenever you faintly realize how true this is, then you are like Abram hearing a call from the Lord.





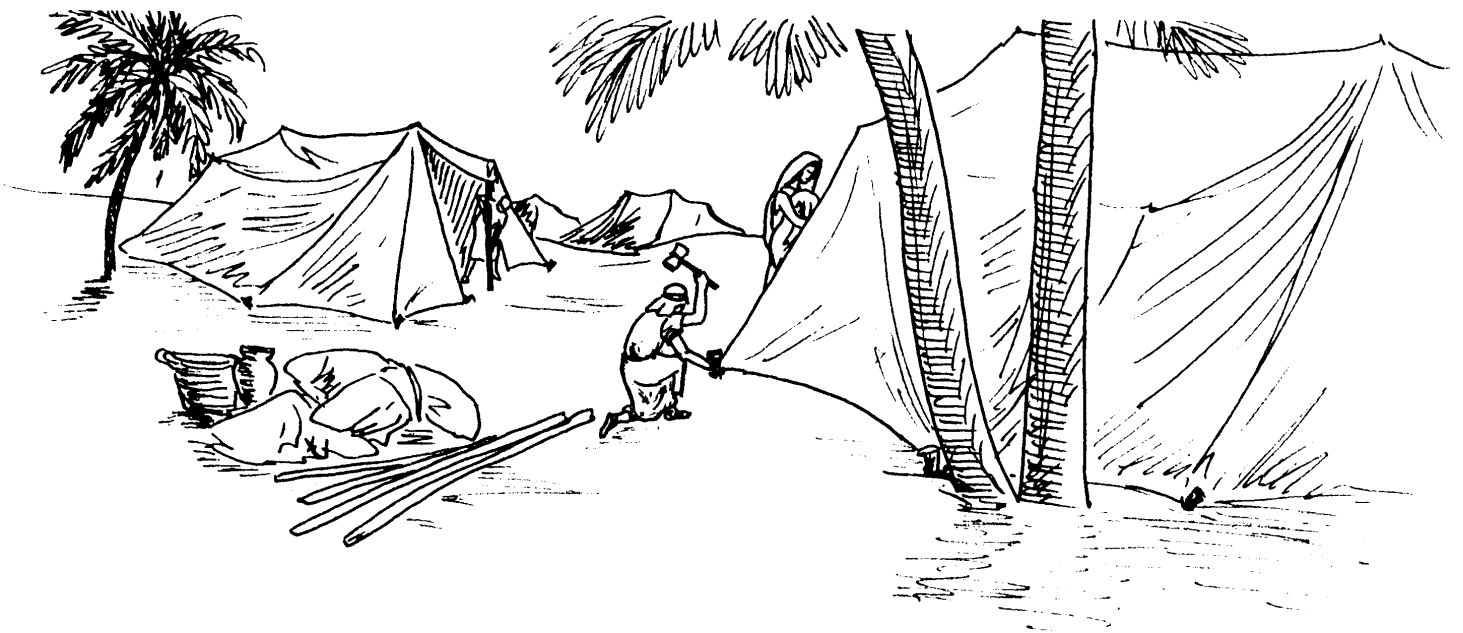
***The Call of Abram***  
***Genesis 11-12***  
**LEVEL 1 – JOURNEY STORY BOOKLET**

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

Crayons  
Staples or yarn

1. Talk with your child about trips that you have taken together. Help the child to recall the kinds of things you did to prepare for the trips. What did you need to take with you?
2. Retell the story of Abram to a young child in very simple form.
3. The story of Abram's Trip is told for children on the next four pages. Staple those pages together, or tie them with a ribbon to make these story pages into a booklet.
4. Then have your child color the pictures in the booklet.
5. Read the story in the booklet to him/her and discuss the details in the pictures. It might be fun to have the child notice the ways that traveling was different for Abram than it is today.

# Abram's Trip



Pictures by Elisabeth Buss

Here is a picture of Abram. He is listening to the Lord. The Lord asked Abram to go on a long trip, and promised to make him special.

What would you do if the Lord asked you to do something?



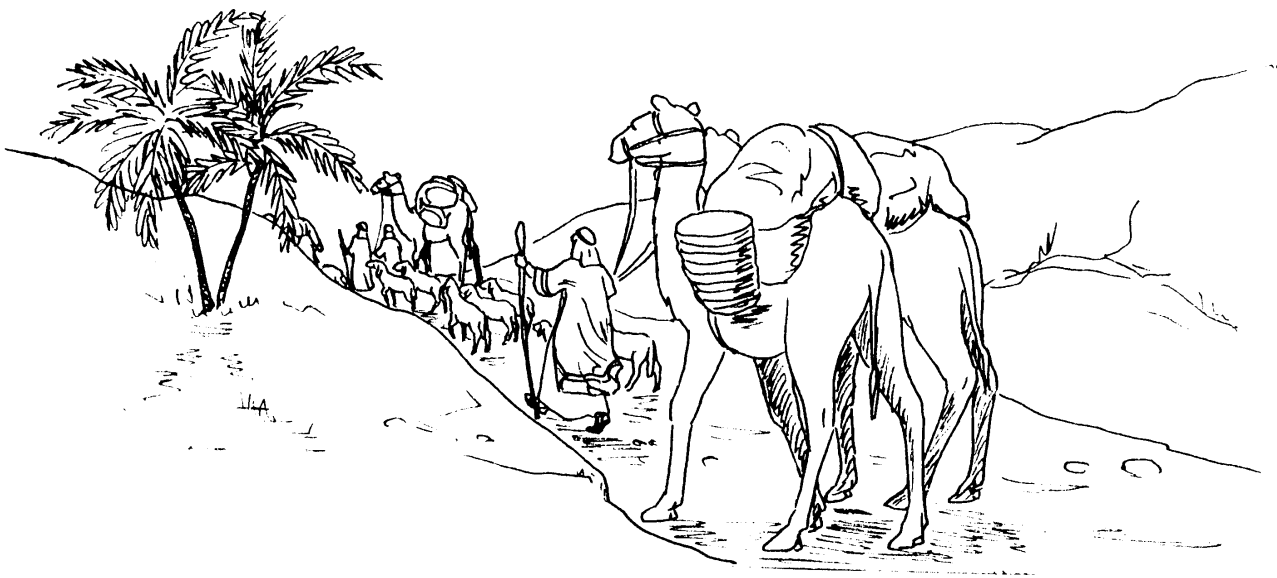
Abram is getting ready to obey the Lord. He will go on a long trip.

Pretend you are Abram. Get a bag and put in it some of the things you would need to go on a trip. Will you need some food? Something to drink? Something to wear?



Abram is going on his trip. He went with all his family. Take the things you gathered and pretend you are going to obey the Lord. You can go with someone in your family for a short trip. Walk around your house. Stop and have a picnic. Then walk some more. Abram went a long way.

Some day the Lord will ask you to do something special. It might not be going on a trip like Abram; but whatever the Lord asks you, you will do it, just as Abram did what the Lord asked him.





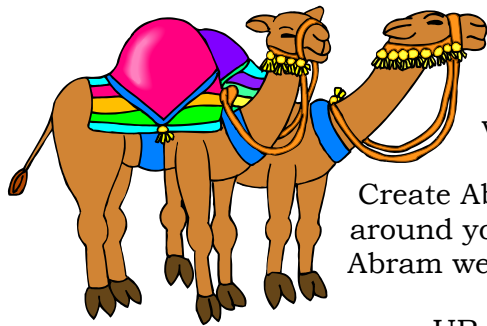
**The Call of Abram**  
**Genesis 11-12**  
**LEVEL 2 – ABRAM’S JOURNEY**

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

Crayons, Glue, Paper  
Rocks and Food

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Color the map on the next page. You may want to color the desert brown and the areas near the rivers green. Cut the map apart on the dotted lines. Each piece of the map will have one of the places that Abram stopped at or passed through on his journey written in capital letters. The journey is shown by arrows.



Abram went on this journey to Canaan because the Lord told him to go. The Lord promised Abram that his children and grandchildren would live there.

Create Abram's journey by placing the pieces of map around your house or yard to mark the different places Abram went. In order these places are:

UR (where Abram started)

THE EUPHRATES RIVER

HARAN

SHECHEM (make an altar with a pile of small rocks)

BETHEL (make an altar with a pile of small rocks)

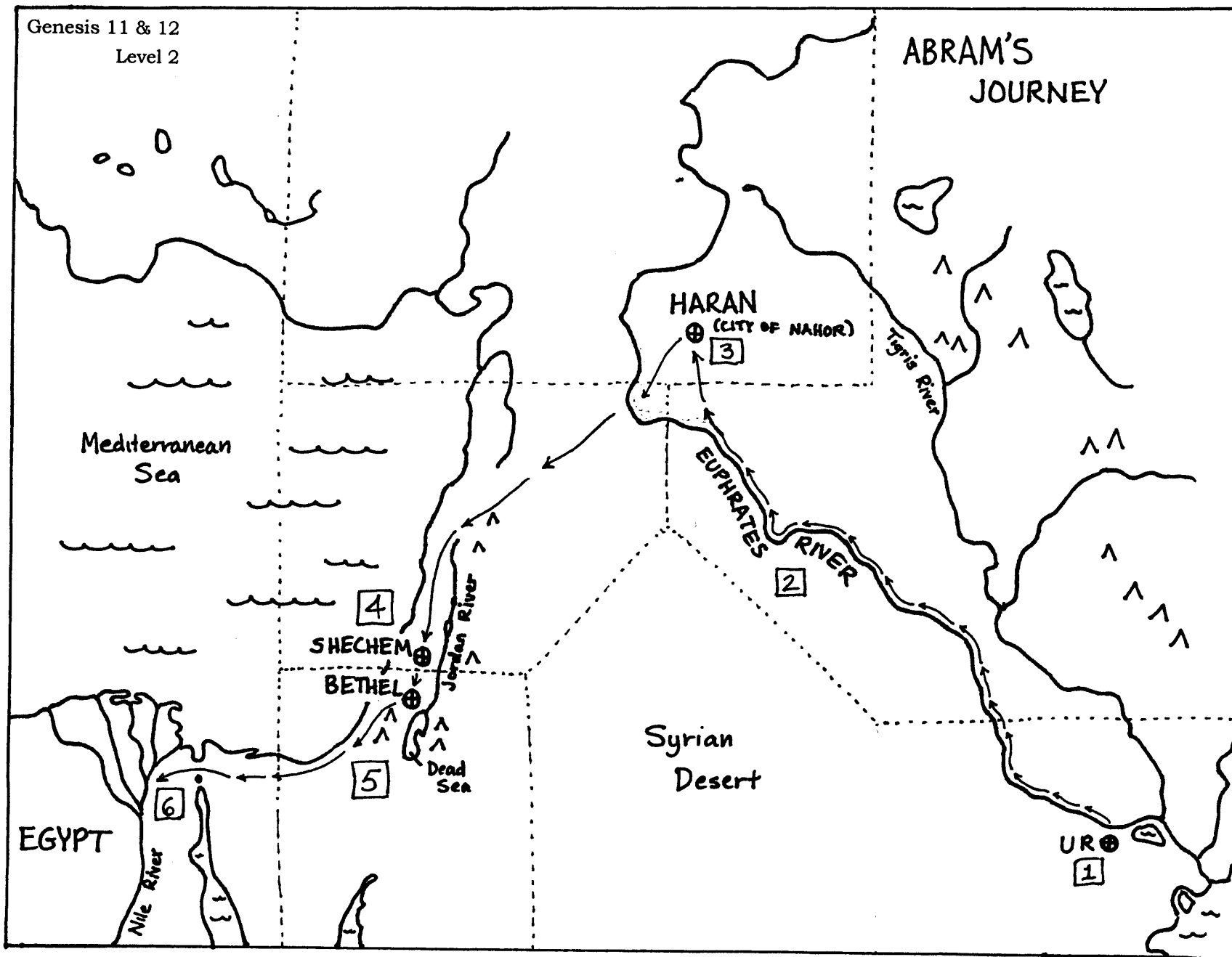
EGYPT

**Now start your journey:**

As you arrive at each spot on the journey, collect the piece of map. When you stop at Shechem and Bethel, build altars to the Lord out of rocks you have collected.

If you have younger brothers and sisters, take them with you. (Abram traveled with his family.) They will bring food for the trip. Each time you stop, eat some of the food. Finish the food when you get to Bethel. Now go on to Egypt—Abram went there next when there was a famine in Canaan.

**WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT “EGYPT” YOU WILL HAVE ALL THE PIECES OF THE MAP.  
FIT THE MAP TOGETHER AGAIN, AND MOUNT IT ON CONSTRUCTION PAPER WITH GLUE OR TAPE.**



**The Call of Abram**  
**Genesis 12**  
**LEVEL 3 – ABRAM GOES DOWN INTO EGYPT**



You will need to use your copy of the Word for the activities in this lesson.

- 1. Read the story of Abram’s journey** in Genesis 12:1-10.  
On the map on page 4, follow the steps of this journey. Mark the route, and the places Abram stopped, in color.
- 2. Every day you learn many things.**  
These things that you learn are stored up in your memory. You go to school and learn about many different subjects, but you also learn at home, and from shows you watch, from travel, from discussions with others — you are learning all the time.  
  
This stage in our lives is described in the Word as “going down into Egypt.”
- 3. But the Lord doesn’t want you to just stay in this world of facts.**  
All these facts are useful to you in your life in this world. But you are not supposed to stay just in the world of facts — the Lord wants you to move to a higher level — to “come up out of Egypt.”
- 4. The Lord leads us on our journey**  
All the things you learn help your mind to grow and mature. You gradually develop the ability to reason, and to understand deeper ideas. Then you can progress from understanding things about this world, to understanding things about heaven and your life there forever.

Read what the Lord teaches us in the book of the Writings called the *Apocalypse Explained* (number 654:<sup>15</sup>)

“...unless a person learns by means of...various experiences from worldly things...he cannot become rational, and if he does not become rational he cannot become spiritual.”

This is how the Lord leads to from earth to heaven.

Remember, the Lord is always leading us from earth to heaven.

**Application**

Abram “went down into Egypt” and later “came up out of Egypt.”

There are many places in the Word where we are told that someone “went down into Egypt,” or “came up out of Egypt.”

Look up the following verses in the Word.

In the first chart fill in WHO went down into Egypt, and WHY.

In the second chart fill in WHO came up out of Egypt, and WHY.

Verses from the WORD	WHO was commanded to “go down into Egypt”	WHY
Genesis 12:10		
Genesis 37:28 Genesis 39:1		
Genesis 41:57		
Genesis 42:1-3		
Genesis 46: 3,6,7		
Exodus 3:10		
Exodus 4:20		
2 Kings 25:26		
Jeremiah 26:22		
Matthew 2:13-14		

Verses from the WORD	WHO was commanded to <b>“come up out of Egypt”</b>	WHY
Genesis 45:25		
Genesis 13:9		
Matthew 2:19-21		

In *Genesis 26:1,2* who is commanded NOT to go down into Egypt?

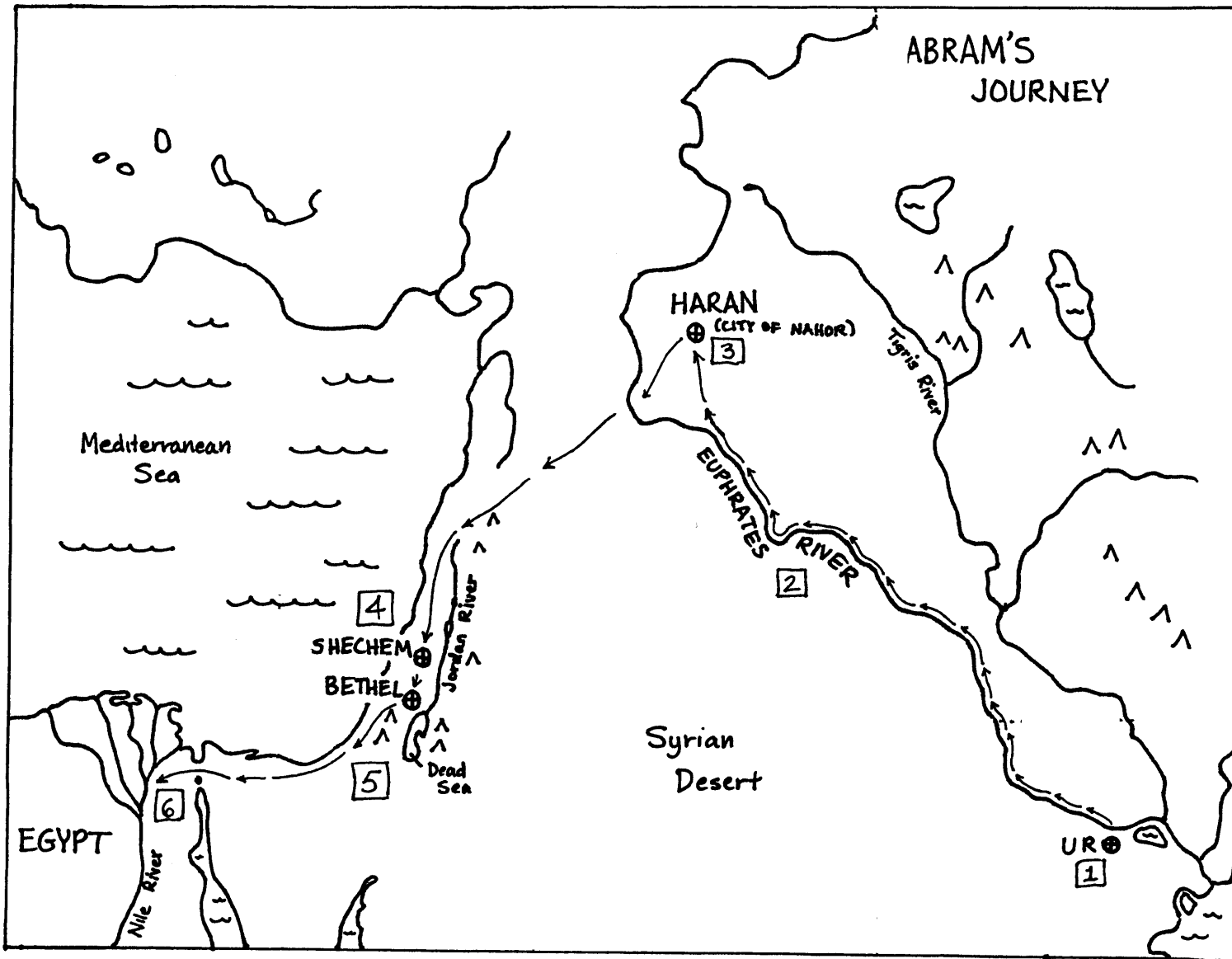
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In *Genesis 42:1-3* who are we told did NOT go down into Egypt?

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In *Hosea 12:1* WHAT are we told was carried to Egypt?

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**The Call of Abram**  
**Genesis 11 & 12**  
**LEVEL 4 – THE LORD’S CALL**

In the story you read from the Word today, the Lord called Abram and asked him to go on a journey. If he went to Canaan, the Lord promised, he would become the father of a nation. Abram responded to the Lord's call, and went on the long trip to Canaan. It must have taken many months of travel on foot with all his family. Some of the family even left or dropped out halfway, and lived the rest of their lives in Haran.

Imagine how you would respond if the Lord asked you to do something. Surely you would say yes, but would you really take the trouble to *do* it, and to go all the way to the completion of your task? Remember the parable the Lord tells in the New Testament:

“A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to Him, ‘The first.’” (*Matthew 21:28-31*)

The Lord's message to us is clear.  
He will ask something special of each of us.  
How will you respond? Will you do it, or will you just say you will do it.

What types of things will we be asked to do?

The Lord has asked all of us to “Follow Him.” “Of course,” we say. Do we **do** it? Most things in our lives are not big, dramatic, obviously spiritual calls. What we are asked to do is live our own lives according to the Lord's laws.

One law to keep in mind is the Golden Rule:

“Whatever you want people to do to you, do also to them.”  
(*Matthew 7:12*)

Sounds easy - but we must **do** it!

**Assignment**

On the next page are listed some beginnings, like Abram's Call. For each, write what you must **do** to respond to that beginning, and what goal you should be working toward. One is done as a sample. Choose at least four more to fill in. Then think of one more call not on the list and fill it out.

BEGINNINGS	WHAT TO DO	GOAL
Call of Abram	<i>Journey to Canaan</i>	<i>Begin a nation</i>
Join a sports team		
Sign up for music lessons		
Go to college		
Apply for a driver's license		
Get a part in a school play		
Get a Saturday job		



## **The Call of Abram**

### **Genesis 11 & 12**

#### **LEVEL 5 – THE INNER STORY OF ABRAM**



With the story of Abram, we follow a story that is both actual history and also symbolic.

The stories in the Word tell about the lives of people and events in this world. But you know that the stories in the Word all have an inner meaning that tells about spiritual things. They tell you things you need to know about your own life.

#### **Heavenly Secrets**

This inner meaning is opened by the Lord in the Writings, particularly in the **Arcana Coelestia**, which means **Heavenly Secrets**. It is twelve volumes long.

Some of the inner meaning of the story of Abram is explained in these volumes. About forty pages are devoted to the first ten verses of Genesis 12.

Read again the first ten verses of *Genesis 12* about the Lord's call to Abram. As you read, think about what inner meaning it may have for your life.

#### **Application**

*Take each event in these verses, and think about it in relation to your own life.*

*What inner meaning do you think it might have that has to do with your life?*

*What is the Lord calling you to do?*

*What does he want you to leave behind?*

*What are the possessions that you should take with you?*

*What is your land of Canaan?*

*What are the Canaanites (the enemy nations) in your land?*

*What might the famine in your life be?*

*How do **you** build an altar to the Lord?*

*On the next page, write about this journey that the Lord calls you to take, or discuss the ideas with family. Dinner time or family worship are good discussion times.*



