

## Dive into the Bible!



Abraham & Sarah: Genesis 12:1-9 tells the story of Abraham and Sarah. This is a familiar story where we see them trusting God completely. They set off to a land completely unknown, trusting that God was leading where they needed to be. In this time of uncertainty, it is okay to be filled with fear. It is hard to trust God when everything around us is so different from our normal. Take some time as a family to think about trust in God and what that looks like. Here are some activities for every age! Use what makes most sense for your family.

**Pre-K:** Ask them to copy your words and actions. Give each camper a paper plate and two little graham cracker bears or any other snacks you have. Get creative!

- This is Abraham. Hold him high. (hold up one cracker)
  - This is Sarah. Hold her high. (hold up the other cracker)
  - Sarah and Abraham were married. (hold them both high and touch them together)
  - God told them to take a long trip. Move Sarah and Abraham together around on your plate. Keep moving them until I say stop. (let this continue for about 5 seconds)
  - Stop!
  - Abraham and Sarah rested under a big oak tree. (give each child a pretzel stick for the tree and have Abraham and Sarah rest beside it)
  - Then God told Sarah and Abraham it was time to travel again. Move Sarah and Abraham together around on your plate. Keep moving them until I say stop. (let this continue for about 5 seconds)
  - Stop!
  - At a hilly stop, Abraham and Sarah built an altar to say thank you to God. An altar is like a big table. They used big stones to build the altar. Later they built a second altar made out of wood. Let's help Sarah and Abraham build an altar. (give each child a small handful of mini-marshmallows and admire the altars they build)
  - Then God told Sarah and Abraham to travel again. The End.
- God always goes with us.

**Elementary:** When Abraham and Sarah journeyed into the unknown, they had to depend on each other and on God. Accompany them on a scavenger hunt for unique things around your living space and outside! Create a list of 5-10 objects or places in the house for them to find. If they get stuck, they should ask you for help. Then ask them some questions like, What was it like to look for something? If you asked for help when you needed it, how did that improve your experience—or not? Remind them that God does not leave us and is with us on our journey.

**Junior High:** Using scrap paper (or in notebooks or journals), as a family (individually first or collectively) make two lists. The first list is of tangible blessings that God has given them. These are things that can be touched and seen. The second list is of intangible blessings that God has given them. These cannot be touched or seen, like talents, skills, or habits. Spend some time talking about how we can share our blessings with others, especially now.

**Senior High:** Go on a trust walk inside or outside. One person is blindfolded while the other person leads them gently and safely from one place to another. Talk about what it feels like to trust and to be trusted.

**Adults:** Spend some time journaling after reading the Genesis text above. Use these questions as a guide.

- Do you make distinctions between trust and faith? How can you encourage each other to trust, to have faith in God's promises?
- The theme this week is that God keeps God's promises from generation to generation. Create a sentence, phrase, or group of words (such as a rhyme, acronym, or acrostic) based on today's focus: we can trust God's promises even when the future seems uncertain.
- Pick a situation where trust is hard for you. Write a sentence prayer you can use when facing that situation in the future.
- Who are some of your personal (more recent) ancestors in the faith, people whose lives are (or were) examples of stepping forward in faith in God's promises?
- Who are you mentoring in the faith, or who do you have an opportunity to mentor?

#### Craft: Faith Family Tree

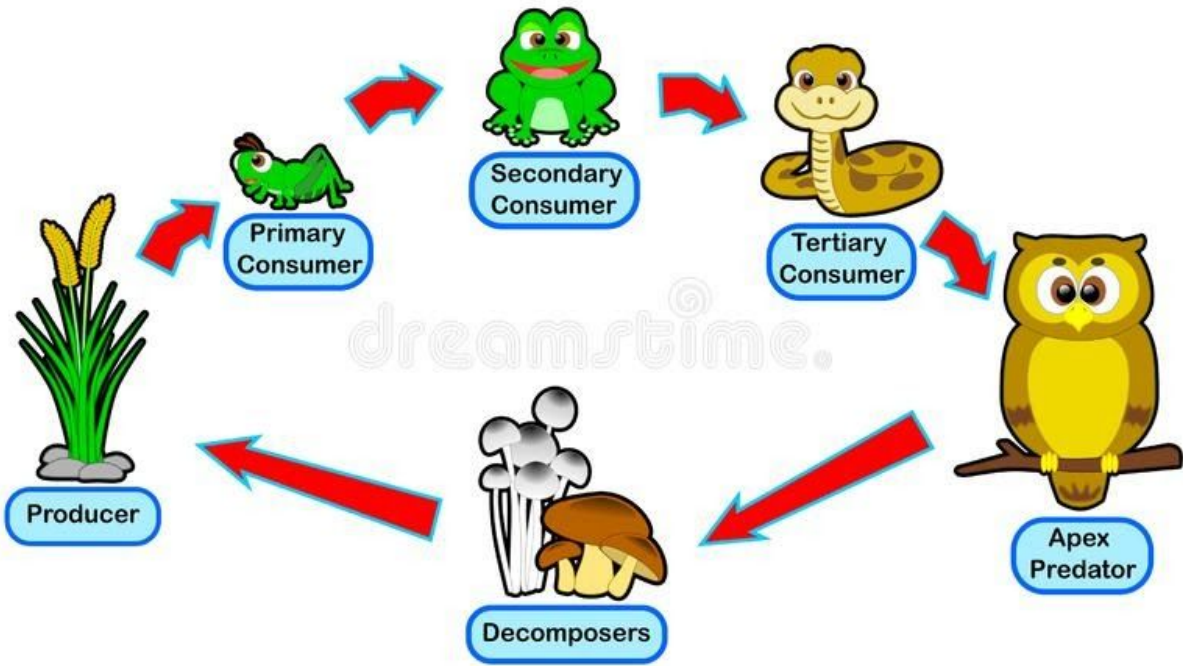
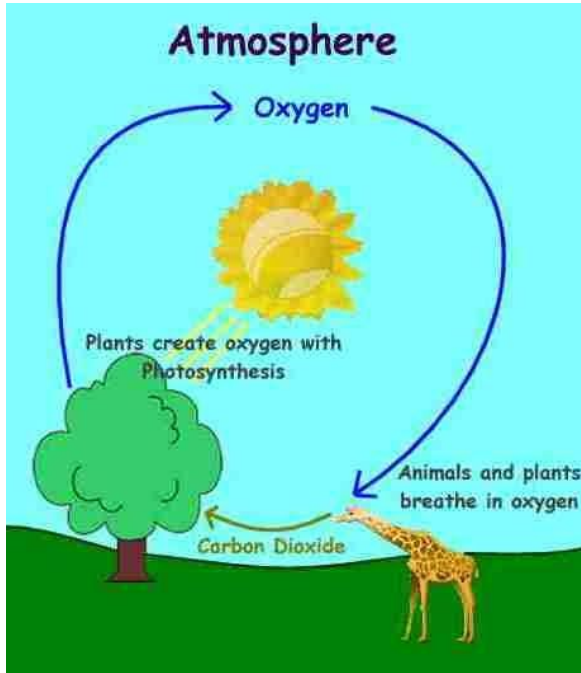
Materials: paper, small sticks and leaves from around outside (if feasible), glue, markers

Directions: Ask campers to write the names of people who have been important to their faith on their leaves, or make a list of them. Give each camper a piece of paper. Campers should arrange their sticks and leaves in the shape of a tree (trunk, branches, leaves) and then glue their items to the paper or draw them on the paper. Allow projects to dry completely. As campers work, remind them of the story of Abraham and Sarah.

#### Environmental Education: Silent Hike

Take a silent walk observing all the things that are around you. Focus on using your five senses to take in the world. pay special attention to the plants on the hike and the differences between them. Explain that while all plants will have some differences, they all get their energy from the sun and take the carbon dioxide in the air to produce oxygen that we breathe. Explain the cycle of energy and how humans can get energy from plants directly or from eating

herbivores, who ate the plant directly, or carnivores, who ate the herbivore. In God's promise to Abraham and Sarah, God promised a place to live. Plants make our world livable and without them we would die. Talk about what campers are doing to take care of plants and the environment to protect the promise that God made to us, keeping the place we live as God's beautiful creation.



Abraham went, as the Lord told him.

Genesis 12:4

