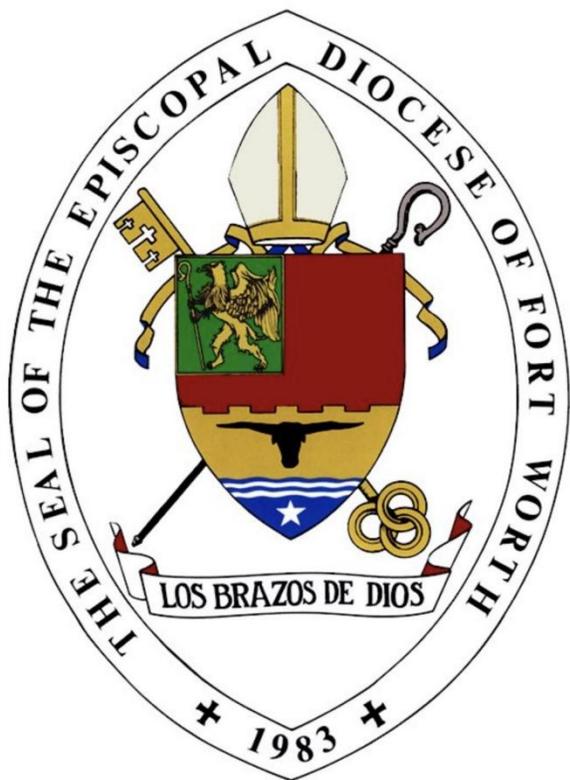


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**SECOND
SUNDAY
IN LENT,
YEAR A**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for the Second Sunday In Lent, Year A

Lectionary Texts:

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalm 33:12-21

Romans 4:1-5 (6-12) 13-17

John 3:1-16

Genesis 12:1-9

God Chooses Abram

¹² The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country and your people. Leave your father's family. Go to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation.

I will bless you.

I will make your name great.

You will be a blessing to others.

³ I will bless those who bless you.

I will put a curse on anyone who calls down a curse on you.

All nations on earth

will be blessed because of you."

⁴ So Abram left, just as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. They took all of the things they had gotten in Haran. They also took the workers they had gotten there. They set out for the land of Canaan. And they arrived there. ⁶ Abram traveled through the land. He went as far as the large tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the people of Canaan were living in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram at Shechem. He said, "I will give this land to your children after you." So Abram built an altar there to honor the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there, Abram went on toward the hills east of Bethel. He set up his tent there. Bethel was to the west, and Ai was to the east. Abram built an altar there and worshiped the LORD. ⁹ Then Abram left and continued south toward the Negev Desert.

Psalm 33:12-21

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.

Blessed are the people he chose to be his own.

¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down
and sees everyone.

- ¹⁴ From his throne he watches
all those who live on the earth.
- ¹⁵ He creates the hearts of all people.
He is aware of everything they do.
- ¹⁶ A king isn't saved just because his army is big.
A soldier doesn't escape just because he is very strong.
- ¹⁷ People can't trust a horse to save them either.
Though it is very strong, it can't save them.
- ¹⁸ But the LORD looks with favor on those who respect him.
He watches over those who put their hope in his faithful love.
- ¹⁹ He watches over them to save them from death.
He wants to keep them alive when there is no food in the land.
- ²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD.
He helps us. He is like a shield that keeps us safe.
- ²¹ Our hearts are full of joy because of him.
We trust in him, because he is holy.

Romans 4:1-17

Abraham's Faith Made Him Right With God

⁴ What should we say about those things? What did our father Abraham discover about being right with God? ² Did he become right with God because of something he did? If so, he could brag about it. But he couldn't brag to God. ³ What do we find in Scripture? It says, "Abraham believed God. God accepted Abraham's faith, and so his faith made him right with God."

⁴ When a man works, his pay is not considered a gift. It is owed to him. ⁵ But things are different with God. He makes evil people right with himself. If people trust in him, their faith is accepted even though they do not work. Their faith makes them right with God.

(⁶ King David says the same thing. He tells us how blessed some people are. God makes those people right with himself. But they don't have to do anything in return. David says,

- ⁷ "Blessed are those
whose lawless acts are forgiven.
Blessed are those
whose sins are taken away.
- ⁸ Blessed is the man
whose sin the Lord never counts against him."

⁹ Is that blessing only for those who are circumcised? Or is it also for those who are not circumcised? We have been saying that God accepted Abraham's faith, and so his faith made him right with God. ¹⁰ When did it happen? Was it after Abraham was circumcised, or before? It was before he was circumcised, not after! ¹¹ He was

circumcised as a sign of the covenant God had made with him. It showed that his faith had made him right with God before he was circumcised.

So Abraham is the father of all believers who have not been circumcised. God accepts their faith. So their faith makes them right with him. ¹² Abraham is also the father of the circumcised who believe. So just being circumcised is not enough. Those who are circumcised must also follow the steps of our father Abraham. He had faith before he was circumcised.)

¹³ Abraham and his family received a promise. God promised that Abraham would receive the world. It would not come to him because he obeyed the law. It would come because of his faith, which made him right with God.

¹⁴ Do those who obey the law receive the promise? If they do, faith would have no value. God's promise would be worthless. ¹⁵ The law brings God's anger. Where there is no law, the law can't be broken.

¹⁶ The promise is based on God's grace. The promise comes by faith. All of Abraham's children will certainly receive the promise. And it is not only for those who are ruled by the law. Those who have the same faith that Abraham had are also included. He is the father of us all.

¹⁷ It is written, "I have made you a father of many nations." God considers Abraham to be our father. The God that Abraham believed in gives life to the dead. Abraham's God also speaks of things that do not exist as if they do exist.

John 3:1-16

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

³ There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was one of the Jewish rulers. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren't, you couldn't do the miraculous signs you are doing."

³ Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom without being born again."

⁴ "How can I be born when I am old?" Nicodemus asked. "I can't go back inside my mother! I can't be born a second time!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit. ⁶ People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must all be born again.'

⁸ “The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born through the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus. “Don’t you understand these things?”

¹¹ “What I’m about to tell you is true. We speak about what we know. We give witness to what we have seen. But still you people do not accept our witness. ¹² I have spoken to you about earthly things, and you do not believe. So how will you believe if I speak about heavenly things?”

¹³ “No one has ever gone into heaven except the One who came from heaven. He is the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. The Son of Man must be lifted up also. ¹⁵ Then everyone who believes in him can live with God forever.

¹⁶ “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

Overview of the Texts:

Today’s lessons talk about Justification, how God reaches into our lives with His grace to save us.

The lesson in Genesis begins the story of God reaching out to Abram and Abram’s faithful response. God asks Abram to leave everything he knows and with which he is comfortable. Abram has to trust that God will bless and protect him. Abram acts in faith. He travels until God tells him to stop. God promises that this land of Canaan will be Abram’s and his descendants after him. Abram again acts in faith and thanks God for what he hasn’t yet received. His faith is all that God requires. God will provide the rest.

In the Epistle, we also read about Abraham. God has given him a new name as a sign of his new life in covenant with God. Paul repeats what we see in Genesis, that Abram’s faith is all that God required for him to receive the promises of God and be reborn as Abraham. Paul says because of this, we can understand that our faith is all that God requires for us to receive his promises. God will provide the rest.

Finally, in John’s gospel we see how God will provide for those who are willing to act in faith. If anyone believes in Jesus, through Him they can be in covenant with God and receive the inheritance of everlasting life.

Pre-K/Kindergarten Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Pinwheel (or something easily blown with breath), construction paper, stapler, tape, streamers, yarn or string. To make your own pinwheel, you will need to print the pattern below, a wooden stick (chopstick, dowel, etc.), and a pushpin.

Preparation: Depending on how much time you have, cut your construction paper into kite shapes.

Discussion:

- Ask your students if they can see the wind.
- Discuss that even though we can't see the wind, we know that it is blowing.
- Ask what sorts of things show us that the wind is blowing. *Trees swaying, grass blowing, we can feel it, etc.*
- In really bad storms the wind can even pick up cars and destroy houses.
- Take turns blowing on the pinwheel as an illustration.
- Read vss. 1-8 of the Gospel reading for the day.
- Explain that Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit is like the wind. We can't actually see him, but we can feel him moving in our heart and all around us.
- Like the wind, what kinds of things show us that the Holy Spirit is moving? *People becoming Christians, churches and other Christians doing things to help others, feeling the love of God, following God's will, etc.*

Craft:

Using craft supplies let each student make a paper kite. While they are making them, talk about how our lives can be like the kite, and as the wind moves kites we can let the Holy Spirit move our lives as God has planned.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan

Opening Prayers: Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Paper and colored pencils or markers.

Preparation: None

Discussion:

- Ask your students if they have ever heard of someone being “born again.”
 - If yes, see if any of them know what it means, if they don’t, explain that it refers to having a fresh start and a new life in Christ.
- Read or have the students take turns reading the Gospel lesson.
- Look at the first 4 verses and ask if what Nicodemus says makes sense. *Of course, people can’t be physically born again.*
- Look at verses 5-7 and discuss that it is our spirits that need to be reborn.
- When Jesus talks about being born of water and the Spirit, what does that sound like? *This is what we experience in baptism.*
- Read verse 8 of the Gospel lesson.
 - Explain how baptism is a sacrament, which is a way in which we can experience what we cannot see.
 - Since the Spirit is like the wind that we can only feel and not see, we are given the substance of water to be a physical sign (the thing that we can feel) of our new life in baptism.
- Read verse 16 of the Gospel lesson.
 - Explain that this is possibly the most well known verse in all of scripture and it summarizes the Good News of God in Jesus Christ.
 - Talk about how our belief in Christ allows us to have eternal life.

Craft:

Using the supplies, have the students write out the entire verse of John 3:16. If they aren’t familiar with biblical citation, explain how it works and have them write the citation along with the verse. Then allow them time to decorate their verse and make it something they can hang on their wall at home.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Junior & Senior High Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayers: Lord’s Prayer, Apostles’ Creed, Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Poster board and markers

Preparation: Either write the verses needed for the craft on a chalkboard or other wall surface, or print the sheet below to give the students a guide.

Discussion:

- Ask your students what they think about when they hear the term “born-again Christian.” *This term is sometimes applied to people who are very zealous about their faith, bible-thumpers, etc.*
- Read the Gospel lesson. Include the additional verse 17: *17 God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him.*
- According to the lesson, what is a born-again Christian? *Jesus says every Christian must be born again. We are all born-again Christians and our lives should reflect that. We should be different from the other non-Christians around us.*
- What is Jesus talking about when he mentions water and the Spirit? *Baptism is when we are born again of water and the Spirit.*
- Re-read verses 16 & 17.
- Discuss with the class which of these two verses they prefer as a means to convey the message of the Gospel.
 - Talk about what you like about each of the different verses.
 - *16 – Well-known, emphasizes eternal life.*
 - *17 – Helps to explain that the world was already condemned and Jesus came to change that.*

Craft:

Using the supplies, have the students write out the entire verse of either John 3:16 or 3:17, complete with citation. Have them decorate it nicely so that it can be displayed in the classroom or somewhere else in the parish.

Closing Prayer: Collect of the Day

Windmill

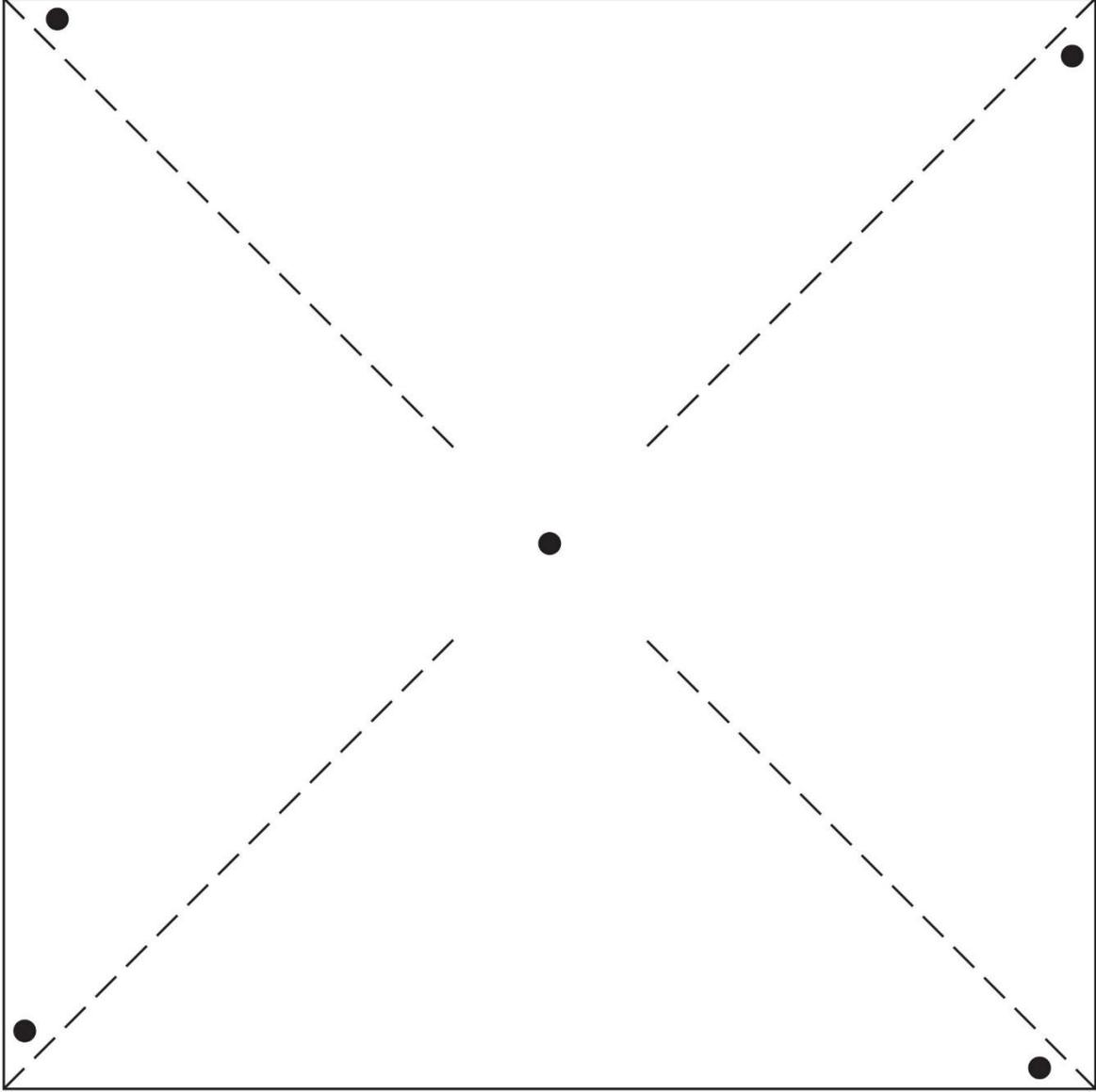


For help and advice on using this template, pay a visit to

<http://rubberstamping.about.com/od/projects/ss/Pinwheel.htm>

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16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.