

BIG TOP, BIG GOD, BIG FAITH

Randall Ringmaster's Leap of Faith

LARGE GROUP

Teacher: Hey everybody! I hope you've been having a good time during your first day here at the Camp Naz Under the Big Top! On the count of three, shout out your favorite thing so far! One, two, three! **(Kids shout)** Wow! It sounds like you have a lot of favorites!

Wow! It sounds like you guys had a lot of favorites! Right now, it's time to do one of my favorite things and that's worship! So, let's stand up and worship together right now!

(Kids stand up)

WORSHIP

1. Song
2. Song

That was awesome! You did a great job! You can have a seat! Before we jump into today's Bible story, I have a question... have any of you ever been faced with a big challenge? Or even a little challenge? I mean, any challenge no matter how big or small can make us feel frustrated, sad, mad, afraid, unsure?

Right now, I have a story from the Bible about a man who was faced with a pretty big challenge. He didn't lose a ringmaster or a trapeze artist, but he was about to lose a lot.

For this story, I'm going to need some help.

(For this Bible story, call a boy (reading age) up to portray Abraham. Have him put the robe on. Prior to the lesson, prepare 10 index cards and number them #1 - 10. On each card, write one of Abraham's lines. Give the cards to volunteer and explain that when you point to him, he will read the line on each card (making sure to remind him to keep them in order from #1-10).

Supplies Needed:

- Robe
- Index cards

Teacher: So, tonight, we're learning one of my favorite Bible stories about one of my favorite Bible story characters. Talk about someone with BIG faith, this guy had BIG faith.

Tonight, you are going to hear the story of Abraham. ***(Point to volunteer)***

Abram: **Card #1:** Hi, I'm Abraham!

Teacher: Abraham had a very comfortable life in the land of Ur—where he was born. The land of Ur was full of people who worshipped idols. And, at the time, Abraham—whose name was Abram—didn't know that God was the one, true God. *(Point to volunteer)*

Abram: **Card #2:** I didn't understand that God was the one, true God.

Teacher: And Abram definitely didn't know that the Savior of the world would one day be born into his family. So, imagine what Abram was thinking when God spoke to him and said *(read from the Bible)* "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

God was telling Abram to leave Ur and go to a land that God would "show him." *(Point to volunteer)*

Abram: **Card #3:** Wait. What? Go from my country?

Teacher: Talk about a big challenge! God was asking Abram to leave Ur—the place he'd lived since he was born—and go to a land that God would show him? Wow!

But why would God choose Abram? Someone who didn't even know God. Well, the passage tells us that one reason is that God was going to make Abram—and Abram's family—into a great nation. *(Point to volunteer)*

Abram: **Card #4:** A great nation?

Teacher: Yes. A great nation. That great nation would be the nation of Israel. But at that very moment, Abram had no way of knowing everything that would happen. All he knew was that God was asking him to leave everything behind and go to a land that God would show him.

Abram: **Card #5:** Leaving everything behind isn't going to be easy.

Teacher: It wouldn't be easy. In fact, it would have been really, really hard. But Genesis 12:4 says Abram did this... *(Point to volunteer)*

Abram: **Card #6:** Locked himself in his room?

Teacher: That's not what it says. When God put this big challenge in front of Abram, Abram... *(point to volunteer)*

Abram: **Card #7:** Told God it was too scary to leave everything behind and go to a new land?

Teacher: That's not what Abram did either. When God spoke to Abram and told him to go to a new land that God would show him, Abram... *(point to volunteer)*

Abram: **Card #8:** Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Teacher: That's what Abram did! God put Abram's faith to the test and Abram passed with flying colors! Abram went. He obeyed God and he went. The Bible tells us that Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out on this adventure.

Abram showed he had BIG FAITH by simply obeying God and leaving everything behind. And he didn't even know where he was going.

Abram: **Card #9:** Nope. I had no idea where I was supposed to go.

Teacher: I'm sure Abram was feeling unsure and even afraid about what he was about to do. But he put his faith in God, and he trusted that God would be with him. Isn't that right, Abram?

Abram: **Card #10:** That's right! I trusted and believed that God would be with me every step of the way.

Teacher: And God was with Abram. God led Abram to the land of Canaan. Several years later, God changes Abram's name to Abraham which means, "Father of multitudes." Because as God promised, Abraham was going to be the father of a great nation—a nation made up of many generations of people.

(Thank volunteer for his help, take the robe and index cards and ask volunteer to have a seat).

Earlier I asked you if you've ever faced a big challenge—or even a little challenge. No matter what kind of challenge you may have faced—or you may be facing—I want you to remember the story of Abraham. And, just like Abraham, if you put your trust in God and rely on His strength to get you through, He'll help you every step of the way. When you have even a little bit of faith and you put it into action, that faith will grow and grow.

Most likely, God isn't going to challenge you to give up everything and move to a new land, but God might ask you to do something that seems very challenging to you. He might put situations in your life that are scary, hard, or really difficult. But if you are willing to obey Him and follow what He is asking you to do—you're putting your faith into action. And just like he did with Abraham—God will bless you in ways you can't imagine.

Well, it looks like it's just about time for us to dismiss. I'm so glad you joined us for our first night of Camp Naz Under the Big Top. I hope you'll come back tomorrow evening so you can hear another story about someone who had BIG faith in a BIG God!

Teacher Prays

