
INDUCTIVE STUDY CURRICULUM
STUDENT GUIDE

OLD TESTAMENT/*Character Study*

ABRAHAM
A Journey of Faith

Abraham
INDUCTIVE STUDY CURRICULUM

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1. Inductive Bible Study - _____

2. There are _____ of Inductive Bible Study:

a. _____ - _____ ?

b. _____ - _____ ?

c. _____ - _____ ?

3. Tools of Observation

a. The _____ questions

b. Mark _____ and _____

c. Make _____

4. Tools of Interpretation

a. _____

_____ ! It rules interpretation.

b. _____

c. _____

5. Application

a.

- resulting in

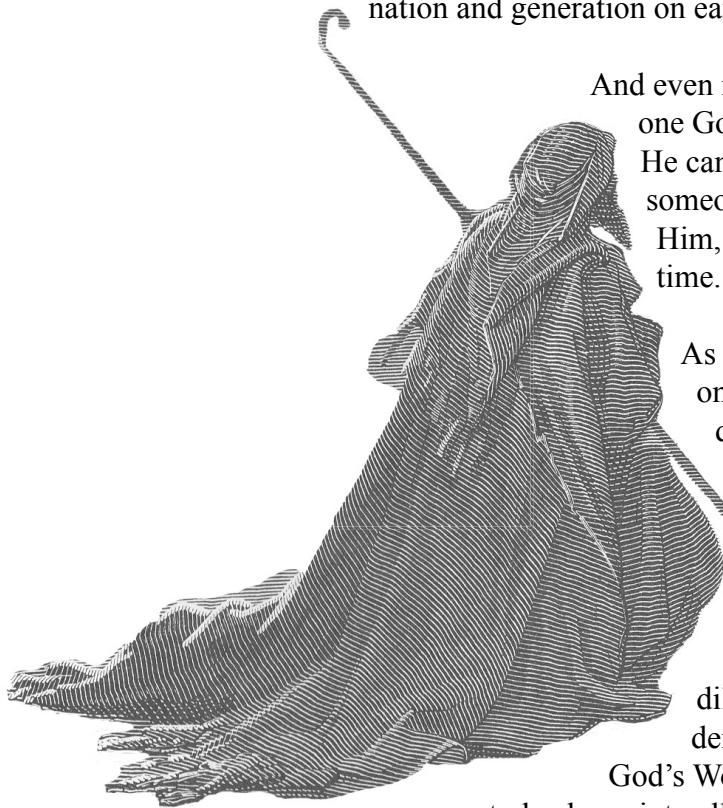
First Step of Faith

Do you look at other people and wonder why they are so unique and you are so... **ordinary**? They are talented, beautiful, smart, and funny and you... well, you're just awkward, insecure, and unremarkable. Guess what? Everybody feels ordinary sometimes! The truth is that someone *will* always be more talented, more beautiful, smarter, or funnier than you. This can sound depressing but not if you know God and the story of His friend Abraham.

You will discover how one small step of faith can become a gigantic leap when you follow God.

Abraham was ordinary, but through God's promise, his life became **extraordinary**. God used Abraham's faith in Him to impact every nation and generation on earth – including YOU!

And even more amazing... Abraham isn't the only one God can take from ordinary to extraordinary! He can do it with you too! All He's looking for is someone who listens to what He says, believes Him, and then moves forward, one step at a time.



As you work through this study, you will go on a journey – a journey of faith. You will discover how one small step of faith can become gigantic leaps when you follow God. Like Abraham, you can be “a friend of God” – a friend of the Creator of heaven and earth! It will take work and time to discover these things, but **IT WILL BE WORTH IT!** Be diligent in your study. Put down some of the demands on your time and carefully examine God's Word. Most importantly, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth. You'll be awed at what you learn and the difference it will make in your life.

Don't let truth go in one ear and out the other! Practice what you learn and you too can be a man or woman of faith who changes the world for God's glory!

Begin this journey by asking God to guide you. The prayer below is an example for you to get started.

Father, I ask for Your help because You are God and nothing is impossible for You. You know my schedule, the pressures and pulls of my life. You know that it is sometimes difficult for me to set aside time to study and learn about You and Your ways.

Father, I need Your wisdom, encouragement, strength, and direction. I need confidence to face life with all its twists, turns, and difficulties. I know all this comes only from You as a gift of grace. Please create in me the desire to know Your Word and help me take time to study effectively. Meet with me in personal and intimate ways – ways that equip and sustain me for all the future holds, ways that rebuke me or restrain me if I am going the wrong way, believing something untrue. Let my heart's desire, dear Lord, please You in every way. If I am off that path, I trust You will turn me about through Your Word and by Your Spirit given to me through the New Covenant.

I pledge to You my faithfulness to give this study all that I can, and ask You to change me as I choose the thing I need most— a real and intimate relationship with You.

In faith, I thank You for what You are going to do as I do my part. I pray this in the name of the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ.

ONE ON ONE: PRAYER

Now, take a moment to write out a prayer of your own. Express to God anything specific you hope to discover about Him or yourself as you study Abraham's life. At the end of the study, look back at this prayer and record how God answered.



LESSON ONE

Abraham

U-1, Lesson 1, Chapter 11

Before you study a book or passage in the Bible, it's important to establish context to help you to understand it. This will ensure you don't misinterpret or misunderstand events or messages God recorded. So you will begin your study of Abraham by looking at the context, which is Genesis – the book that contains his story.

Context is the setting in which something is found. Look at what comes before and after a Scripture to determine how it fits into the chapter, book, and whole Bible.

Identifying key repeated words or phrases will also help you understand how his story fits in Genesis. Your first assignment is to identify and examine a key repeated phrase in Genesis.

The key repeated phrase used throughout the book of Genesis is "These are the records of the generations of _____." The phrase is first used in Genesis 2:4, but it's difficult to recognize in the New American Standard Bible – the translation used in Inductive Study Curriculum courses. The marginal reference in the NASB is explained in the pull-out box.

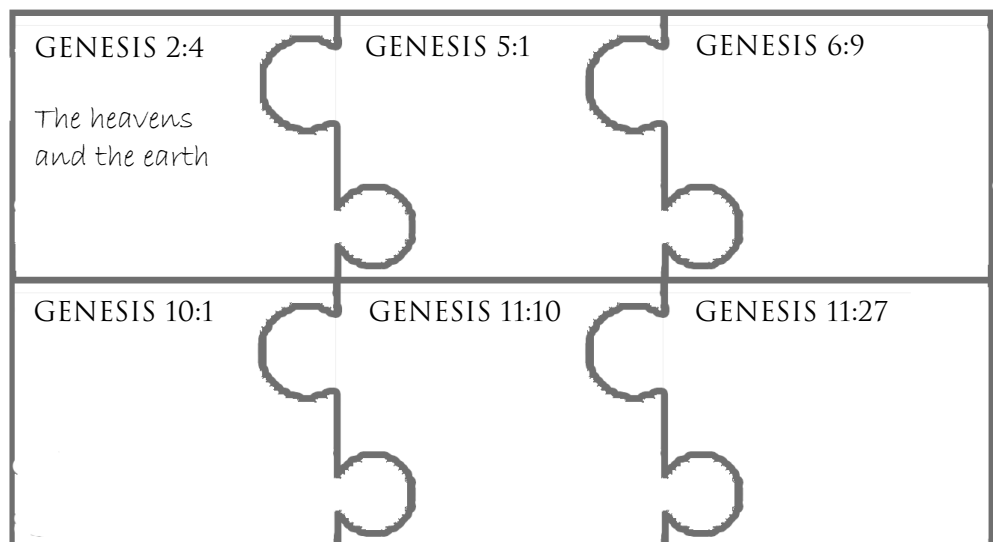
Genesis 2:4 – This is *the account of the heavens and the earth* when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven.

The phrase is then repeated in Genesis 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; and 11:27.

It can be translated: *These are the generations of the heavens and the earth* when they were created, in the day the Lord God made earth and heaven.

1. Look at Genesis 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; and 11:27. Underline the phrase, "These are the generations of _____," in a distinctive way in your Bible. Then write whose generations are recorded in these verses in each of the puzzle pieces below.

Now, look at your Observation Worksheet for Genesis 11:24-32. Underline the same phrase in verse 27 and fill in the last puzzle piece.



You've just determined where Abraham fits into the book of Genesis. Now you know who his **ancestors** are and what events took place before he was born. You know more from this simple exercise than many people who have been in church for decades. All it takes for anyone to understand the Bible is a little time and effort! Good job!

2. Now observe Genesis 11:24-32 by reading it and marking every occurrence of *Abram* with a blue box. (By the way, Abram's name will be changed to Abraham later.)



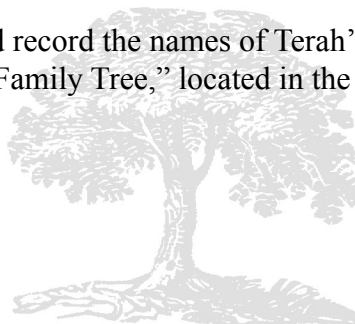
3. Using a 3x5 notecard, create a bookmark of key words and symbols you have used already. You will add to the card any new key words you discover in the course of the study.

EXAMPLE:

| |
|-------|
| Abram |
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Observation is looking at what the text says. First, read it. Then use observation tools like marking main people in the text to help you slow down and focus on what the text says about them.

4. Now re-read Genesis 11:24-32 and record the names of Terah's children and their spouses and children on the chart "Abraham's Family Tree," located in the Appendix.



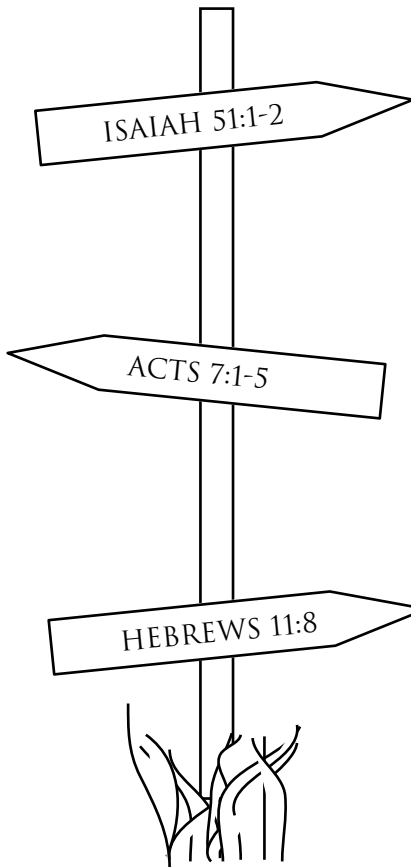
LESSON TWO

Abraham

U-1, Lesson 2, Chapter 11

1. You know *what* Abram did in Genesis 11, now it's time to find out *why* he did it. Look at the following cross-references for insight into why Abram moved from Ur of the Chaldeans. (Sometimes God doesn't give all the facts at once; instead He reveals certain specifics in other books of the Bible – this is called progressive revelation.)

Cross-references are other places in Scripture that give more information about the passage you are observing. Looking at what the whole counsel of God's Word has to say on a topic helps you interpret the passage more accurately.



- a. God is speaking to the nation of Israel in this passage. Record what He says about Abram's status when He called him.
- b. Record what you learn from reading these verses.
- c. Note what you learn about Abram and his journey.

2. Look at the two maps located in the Appendix. The first map is a large-scale map of the countries and cities mentioned in Genesis 11 and 12. The second map is a smaller-scale map that gives a closer view of Canaan. Starting at Ur, trace Abram's journey based on your chapter 11 observations. Jot down the major events that occurred next to each location.



3. Now, think about what you learned from the cross-references. What did you learn about Abraham that you didn't know from observing Genesis 11?

4. Think about Abraham's example.

a. What is your first response to God's commands? How can you learn from Abraham's example?

b. What do you learn about *faith* from Abraham? How can you follow his example?

c. List below some things God says to do in His Word that you don't fully understand.

d. Now if you are going to be like Abraham, what should your response be to these things?

e. Take a moment alone with God. Ask, "God, do I walk in obedience? Do I walk in faith? Are there things in my life You have called me to, but I haven't started doing them?" Wait for His answer and record your thoughts below.



Abram didn't know where he was going...but by faith he obeyed.

You don't know where God will lead you today, tomorrow or 10 years from now...but you can decide now that you want to follow Him.

LESSON THREE

Abraham

U-1, Lesson 3, Chapters 11-12

1. Read Genesis 11:27-12:9 using your Observation Worksheets.

- a. In this study you will focus on what you learn about Abram and the Lord. Marking these names will help you observe exactly what God tells you about Abraham and Himself in Genesis. Mark *Abram* the way you did on your bookmark. Add the *Lord* to it and mark these references with a purple triangle colored in yellow since God is Light. (If you have The New Inductive Study Bible, you might want to transfer your markings to it after you have worked through your Observation Worksheets.)



- b. While you won't always mark every reference to Abram in the study, you will find it helpful to mark them in this passage because it will train your eye to observe details about him. When you finish, list below anything you learn about the Lord and Abram that answers the 5 Ws and H: who, what, when, where, why, and how.



The goal of Bible study is to KNOW GOD! Always look at what the scriptures teach about Him.

For example, start your list by recording Terah as Abram's father since that helps describe who Abram is. Then note the chapter and verse that give you that information.

| THE LORD | ABRAM |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p>Where?</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Why?</p> | <p>What?</p> <p>WHEN?</p> <p>HOW?</p> |

2. Read Genesis 12:1-3 again and summarize exactly what God promised Abram. List the main points of God's promise. This will help you remember exactly what God told Abram.



Take a few minutes to reflect on the Lord. What did you notice the Lord doing and what does this tell you about Him? When you watch what God does and says, you learn much about Him. While the Bible is progressive revelation, its roots of truth are found in Genesis – the book of beginnings. Genesis shows us how God first revealed Himself to those He created for His will and pleasure (Revelation 4:11).

3. Throughout your study of Abraham, you'll learn so much about God that it's a good idea to start a "Journal on God." In fact, it's good to continue this journal throughout your study of God's Word. You'll find pages for this journal in the Appendix.



Record at least three things you learned about God from this passage in your journal and how they apply to your life.

Application is simply asking "So what?" After you've seen what the text says and understood what it means, it's time to ask yourself "so what?" What difference will the truths you've learned make in your beliefs and behavior? If they make no difference, then you should ask why. If learning about God's character and His plan and purpose for your life doesn't impact you, then you are missing the point as well as the power and blessing of Bible study.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE LORD:

When LORD is printed in all capital letters in the New American Standard text, it is indicating the most holy name for God, YHWH. God's special or proper name, YHWH, will always be indicated as LORD in the text unless you see Lord God. In that case, Adonai is printed Lord and YHWH is printed God. You see this in Genesis 15:2.

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

LESSON FOUR

Abraham

U-1, Lesson 4, Chapters 11-12



Today you will read Genesis 11:27-12:9 again, identifying and marking repeated key words. Review what you learned about God and Abram.

1. Mark the following key words in this passage:
 - a. *bless* (*blessing, blessed*) with a blue cloud ☁
 - b. *land* with a double underline in green
 - c. *altar* with a purple circle.

Continue to mark these three words throughout your study and add them to your key word bookmark.

- d. Also mark every reference to *Lot* since he will become a key figure in later chapters.

Key Words – These important words, if removed, would leave the text **void** of meaning. They are often repeated.

God repeated words for emphasis. Since the Bible was an **oral** book until the invention of the printing press in the 15th Century, this repetition aided in memorization.

Now, did you see any references to time? Paying attention to time is very important because it answers questions like “When?” “How long?” “How old?” etc. God has a purpose when He tells you the age of someone. References to Abram’s age will help you understand when various things happened in his life and how long he waited for God’s promise to come to pass.

2. Read through Genesis 11:27–12:9 and mark references to time. You might mark them with a green clock like this: ⌚. This makes it easy to see.
3. Pay attention also to geographical locations since they answer the question, “Where?” Read through Genesis 11:27-12:9 and double underline in green every reference to geographical locations – places where things happened and where people went.



4. Now look at the maps located in the Appendix. Continue tracing Abram’s journey through Genesis 12:9 and list below the main events (if there are any) that took place at each location.

Think of what has happened in Abram's life so far. God tells him to move, leave his home and family, all that is familiar, and go...basically, start walking. Meanwhile, he loses his father and brother, assumes responsibility for his nephew, and still has no child – not to mention he's still on a long, physically-demanding journey. In spite of these difficulties, does he get overwhelmed? Does he give up or ask God how He can expect obedience in the midst of hurting and hard times?

No! Abram obeys. Moreover, he worships! When hardship comes, he doesn't turn around and go home. Why not? What kept Abram going? Promises!

Your journey of faith may be similar! You may encounter deep valleys of sorrow and loss, and giant mountains of impossibilities and doubt. Do you have promises to cling to when the going gets tough? You do! Do you know them? You need to! If you know and believe them, you too can obey and worship regardless of your circumstances. God's promises are in His Word. Study and live by them!

LESSON FIVE

Abraham

U-1, Lesson 5, Chapter 12



1. Read Genesis 12:10-20. Mark key words from your bookmark along with references to time and geographical locations. Also mark references to the *Lord*.

2. List main events from Genesis 12:10-20 below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheets.



3. Do you think Abram found good solutions to the problems in verses 10 and 12? Note the problem, Abram's solution, and what you think about it. (*Hint: Think about what God told him in 12:1-3.*)

PROBLEM IN VERSE 10:

SOLUTION:

GOOD OR BAD? WHY?

PROBLEM IN VERSE 12:

SOLUTION:


GOOD OR BAD? WHY?

4. What has Abram's experience taught you? Think through the questions below.

a. When you encounter problems, how do you solve them?

b. Have your solutions ever backfired on you?

c. What did you learn from Abram's example that you can apply to your life? How will you imitate him? How will you learn from his mistakes?



5. What did you learn about God from this passage? Record it in your "Journal on God."

6. Does this help you in any way? Don't just answer yes or no; explain your answer.

LESSON SIX

Abraham

U-1, Lesson 6, Chapter 13

1. Today read Genesis 13 and mark key words from your bookmark, time phrases, and geographical locations. Check these locations on your map to know exactly where Abram and Lot go and what occurs in these places.



Also, continue marking *Lot* and look carefully at references to the *land* God promised to Abram.

2. Go back to each place you marked *altar* and record its location. Note why it was built and what event happened there.



3. Now, list what you learn from marking references to *Lot* on the “Profile of Lot” chart in the Appendix.

4. Did you notice what God tells Abram *after* Lot separates from him? Record it below.

5. Think about Genesis 12:1 and Acts 7:2-5. Do you see any possible correlation in the timing of God’s promise to Abram regarding the land and Lot’s departure?

6. Now think about each man's land.

a. What do you learn about the land that Lot chose and the people that lived there?

b. Where did Abram settle?

c. Where did Abram move his tent in verse 18 and what did he do there?



Conflict and strife - it's frustrating, hurtful and even the "bigger" person can come out the loser. At first glance, Abram seems shortchanged in this conflict. However, when you look at what God tells him after he and Lot separated, do you see it differently? It seems God really can cause "all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

LESSON SEVEN

Abraham

U-1, Lesson 7, Chapter 14



1. Read Genesis 14 and mark key words from your bookmark, references to time, geographical locations, and references to *Lot* and *Melchizedek*.
2. Record main events from chapter 14 below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheets. You have an example below to get you started.
 - v. 1-3 - Four kings vs. five kings
 - v. 4-5 - Five kings served Chedorlaomer 12 years - rebelled in 13th year
 - v. 5-7 - In 14th year, Chedorlaomer and the three kings with him came against them
3. Now read Genesis 14:17-24 again. Melchizedek isn't mentioned much in the Bible, but he is a very significant character as you will see. Record everything you learn about him from this passage on the chart at the end of this lesson.
4. Read Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:5-6; and 6:19-7:22. Record what you learn about Melchizedek on the chart at the end of this lesson.
5. Did you notice how the Lord is referred to in Genesis 14:17-24? God Most High is El Elyon in Hebrew, and this is the first time God is referred to in this way. El Elyon is the name connected with the sovereignty of God and is found prominently in the book of Daniel. In your "Journal on God," note what you learn about the Lord from this.



6. Since God is the possessor of heaven and earth, what does this mean to you? How should you view the world or live your life in light of this truth?



7. Record the main event of each chapter in the appropriate place on the “Genesis 1-25 At A Glance” chart, located in the Appendix. As we continue our study of Abraham, you will add to this chart. At the end it will serve as a “table of contents” for these chapters.



8. You have just met Abram and watched him begin his walk with God. Take a few minutes to reflect on what you’ve seen about Abram and God. What have you learned that you can cling to or practice? Write your thoughts in the “My Journal” in the Appendix.

MELCHIZEDEK

INSIGHTS FROM
GENESIS



INSIGHTS FROM
PSALMS & HEBREWS



ENRICHMENT WORDS:

Ancestor – one from whom a person is descended and usually more remote than a grandparent.

El Elyon – God Most High.

Extraordinary – exceptional.

Oral – related to the mouth or speaking.

Void – containing nothing or nothing significant.

Promise Me

When you think about a **promise**, what comes to mind? What kinds of promises do people make? How often are they kept?

Sadly, society today doesn't place a lot of value on kept promises. Many "until death do us part"s are broken. Politicians rarely follow through on their promises to the public. And every day promises like "that was the last time... I promise" or "I'll never do that... I promise" or even, "I'll always love you... I promise" are broken over and over again.

If promises are unreliable, why make them? Why accept them? Is there anyone you can trust to stand by what he said? Yes! There is! The Bible says God cannot lie; He is incapable of falsehood (Titus 1:2). Don't you want to know the promises made to you by a God who cannot lie?

In this unit you will be introduced to one of the most exciting and clarifying truths in all the Word of God – **Covenant!** You will find out what God has promised and how His promises can change your life!

PRAYER

ONE ON ONE:

Begin this unit by asking God to show you His promises and ask Him to give you the faith to believe them. Write out your prayer below.



