

# ABRAHAM

## “Abram Lies About Sarai”

**Series Objective:** Students will learn:

- God chose Abram with whom to establish His covenant
- Abram chose to obey God and so can we.
- Understand the relationship between Abram’s call and his obedience.

**Series Theme Verse:** Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

**Lesson Objective:** Students will discover and understand:

- There are sometimes unintended consequences to our actions
- Bad things sometimes happen to good people
- God honored His covenant with Abram

**Lesson Passage:** Genesis 12:10-20

**Materials Needed:** Bible, lesson plan, small candy treats, white board and 2 markers.

**Lesson Plan:**

Start today's lesson by playing the game, “Two Truths and a Lie”

- Ask all players to arrange themselves in a circle. Instruct each player to think of three statements about themselves. Two must be true statements, and one must be false. For each person, he or she shares the three statements (in any order) to the group. The goal of the icebreaker game is to determine which statement is false. The group votes on which one they feel is a lie, and at the end of each round, the person reveals which one was the lie. Reward the person who has their lie chosen as a truth.
- Today in our lesson, we will be talking about a person who was rewarded after they had lied. We'll also be talking about how sometimes difficult things happen to some people even though they haven't done anything wrong. Despite these bad things, God continues to work good into life's happenings for those who love Him and are called to His purposes.

Read Genesis 12:10-20

**Talking Points:**

- Why did Abram and Sarai travel to Egypt? (famine)
- Why was Abram fearful of the Egyptians? (Sarai was very beautiful; he was afraid they would kill him for her)
- What did Abram tell Sarai to say about him? (that he was her brother)
- How was Sarai received? (welcomed, attracted great attention)
- How did the Egyptians treat Abram? (they treated him well, gave him cattle, donkeys, servants, and camels)
- What happened to Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai? (they were afflicted with serious diseases)

- What did Pharaoh do to Abram and Sarai? Were they punished for lying that she was Abram's wife? (No, they were sent on their way with everything they had accumulated)

### **The Story Retold:**

In [Genesis 12](#), Abram and his wife Sarai (their names were later changed to Abraham and Sarah) traveled to Egypt due to a famine in Canaan. Abram instructed his wife to tell people in Egypt that she was his sister instead of his wife. His reason was to protect himself. Because Sarai was so beautiful, Abram feared someone would kill him and take Sarai as his wife. The plan to pass her off as his sister would ensure that Abram would be well received by those he met.

In Egypt, Sarai's beauty attracted the attention of Pharaoh, the ruler of that country. Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's house, and many gifts were given to Abram ([Genesis 12:16](#)). [Genesis 12:17](#) says, "But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife." This seems puzzling. After all, the king was the victim of Abram and Sarai's deceit.

The result of this punishment reveals the reason for it. When Pharaoh realized Sarai was Abram's wife, he summoned Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go" ([Genesis 12:18-19](#)). If God had not caused the plagues to come upon Pharaoh and his household, he may not have known anything was wrong. The affliction led to the discovery that Sarai was Abram's wife. If Pharaoh had kept Sarai, Abram would not have had a son by Sarai in fulfillment of God's promise to him ([Genesis 12:2](#); [17:19](#)). Abram was wrong to lie, but God graciously intervened in order to keep His covenant with Abram.

In the end, Pharaoh returned Abram's wife and provided protection for him: "Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had" ([Genesis 12:20](#)). Despite Abram's wrongdoing, God worked to fulfill His promise. Abram left Egypt with his wife Sarai, the protection of the king, and added prosperity.

### **The Story and Me:**

This incident is a good example of how God sometimes allows bad things to take place in someone's life as part of a larger situation. God used the affliction of Pharaoh's household to bring about good for Abram. We may not always know why bad things happen, but that does not mean they are without purpose. God has a larger purpose behind everything that takes place in life ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)). As Paul taught in [Romans 8:28](#), "We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Abram unwisely trusted in his own cunning to preserve his life, and he was caught in a lie. God proved His strength is perfect and that He is the only One with the power to save. Further, we see God has a greater purpose in all things, including suffering. His will is sovereign, and His Name will be glorified.

### **Theme Verse Activity:**

#### Word for Word Relay

Form teams for a relay race where each team member has to run up to the whiteboard and write one word of the memory verse (in correct order) until the entire verse is written. If time permits can do multiple rounds with different instructions e.g. Hop/jump to the whiteboard. Can also do with a memory verse jigsaw puzzle.