

Genesis 12:1-4

(Lectionary Year A, Lent 2)

By Beth Barnett

Dramatic scripted presentation of God calling Abram and Sarai into a new land	
You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Presenters, all with Bibles• Abram• Sarai
Time required:	7 minutes

Be encouraged to find 5 people to do this, even if your community is small. Working together in teams and letting the bible speak to us through multiple voices are healthy practices to nurture.

*The actual Bible passage is marked in **Bold**.*

Liberties may be taken with the other lines, but the integrity of the Biblical text should be preserved.

Faith: Launching out on adventure with God

A: We're going to read a story from the Bible.

B: From early on in the Bible.

A: Not a lot has happened yet, but let me sketch in the story so far – the world has begun – God's in it up to his elbows, having a ripper of a time, maxing out on creativity.

B: Mind you, a couple of things have gone wrong – humans have chosen to look into the dark side – there's been murder, selfish power-mongering and empire building, greed and violence. There's been a flood of wickedness and a flood to clean it up.

A: So that pretty much sums up the first 11 chapters of the Bible, and in some ways it sounds a lot like the 6 o'clock news this week.

B: Anyway. This story features a man called Abraham.

A: He's actually quite famous now in three of the big world religions for being a man of faith.

C: Faith... what exactly is that?

B: Faith is when you launch out on adventure with God
(B shoots out his/her right hand from a clap against the left, which is drawn backwards to look like an 'action' pose)
and you have no idea where it's going to take you
(hands out to the side and shrug shoulders)
but you do it anyway
(point forward with both fingers)
because God is trustworthy.
(double thumbs up)

A: Let's all give that a go:
Faith is when you launch out on adventure with God
(all shoot out his/her right hand from a clap against the left, which is drawn backwards to look like an 'action' pose)
and you have no idea where it's going to take you
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C: So... faith is pretty much being sure that you're unsure about everything except being sure about God

A: Sure!

B: Let's get the Bible open... quick before this goes any further.

A: Great idea – and let's get Abraham out front and centre, seeing as this is his story.

B: And his lovely wife Sarai. This is her story too.

A: Let's get into it.
“The LORD God said to Abram:”

Sarai: (Turning to Abram, struggling to get the words out) What? – Who? – God? – How? – God has been talking to you? I don't see any god?

Abram: (about to speak) Y-

Sarai: (cutting in) Well, which god is this? Everyone I know who has a god can see their god. They put them in the corner and make offerings to them... but they don't just have a bit of a chat!

Abram: I don't know, I'm just getting to know the Lord God... it's kind of – an adventure! I'm not too sure, but it's faith.

Faith is when you launch out on adventure with God

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Sarai: Right... so this God speaks to you? Well what does this god say?

B: It says here

“The LORD God said to Abram: Leave your country, your family and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you”

(Abram stands attentively as though he is listening to God, then picks up his bag and starts walking)

Sarai: (Following) Abraham, where are we going?

Abram: Um, Ur... no, no! That's the land we're leaving. Um – to the land that we'll know where it is when we get there...

Sarai: Oh, for crying out loud! *(Doubles back to B)* Let me see that Bible.

(Sarai grabs the Bible from B and reads again out loud)

Leave your country, your family and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you .”

It really is very vague... are you sure about this?

Abram: No I didn't say I was sure, but I have faith.

Sarai: Faith!?!?

Abram: *(Signalling to everyone to join in)*

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Sarai: *(rolls her eyes)* An adventure with God? Well where is that going to take us?

A: *(Moves up closer to Sarai to show her in the Bible)*

And then the LORD said to Abram “I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation”

B: That sounds good...

Abram: I'm not sure...

Sarai: It sounds pretty unlikely. We don't have any children – so no descendants.

B: Well if you don't have any children, but God is talking about lots of descendants, that sounds like it's going to take a bit of faith.

Abram: Faith – that's it!

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Sarai: Oh, brother! So God invites us to go to 'who knows where?' and then promises us great descendants when we don't have any kids. What will be next?

C: *(Looking into the Bible)* Are you sure you want to hear this?

A&B: I sure do!

C:

You will become famous and be a blessing to others. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you

Sarai: Famous!?!? Famous!?!? We are wandering off into the desert, where no one knows us! How can we possibly be famous?

B: Well, I hate to say it, but just at a guess it might be something that is going to take... faith?

A: Faith – would you care to comment Abram?



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Abram: Faith – well, I have to say I'm not sure... a land we don't know the location of, kids we don't have, famous with people who haven't ever heard of us...

C: It sounds like faith. (*encouraging participation*)

Faith – it's when you launch out on adventure with God

(*all shoot out his/her right hand from a clap against the left, which is drawn backwards to look like an 'action' pose*)

and you have no idea where it's going to take you

(*hands out to the side and shrug shoulders*)

but you do it anyway

(*point forward with both fingers*)

because God is trustworthy.

(*double thumbs up*)

Abram: Well, if we are going to have this adventure, we should really be moving along. Catch you later.

A,B & C: Sure!

Sarai: (*Sarai babbles away as they exit*) What is with this faith? This could all go terribly wrong. What's with this God you can't see... and this land you don't know where it is, and these children we don't have...

A: (*watching them leave*) I wonder how their adventure turns out?

B: (*turning back to the Bible*) Let's see.

Abram was seventy-five years old when the LORD told him to leave the city of Haran. He obeyed and left with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions and slaves they had gotten while in Haran. When they came to the land of Canaan, the Canaanites were still living in the land at that time, but the LORD appeared to Abram and promised "I will give this land to your family forever."

Abram: (*wandering back in*) and there it is again – God promises to give us this land, but it already belongs to someone else?

C: So how does that go for you Abram?

Abram: I can tell you how it works out (*grabs Bible from B*) – look here: **"Abram built an altar and worshiped the LORD."**

C: Sounds like –

All: Faith!

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C: *(Flicking through the pages of the Bible)* Um – it just goes on and on like this – they move on, the crops fail, they go to Egypt. They get in trouble with Pharaoh, but Pharaoh ends up giving them heaps of gold and animals, they move back...

A: Nothing seems sure

B: Except God – always with them and –

C: They do settle in that land, they have kids who turn into a huge family, and Abram get's very famous.

A: But it all happens by –

All: Faith!

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Sarai: Are you sure everything's going to be alright?

(They begin to exit)

Abram: No. I'm not sure. I'm only sure that I'm unsure about everything except being sure about God.



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