

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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SCRIPTURE PASSAGE/ LECTORY WEEK:

Genesis 12: 1-4a (Common English Bible)

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES/
BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS REFERENCES:

¶163 Basic Rights and Freedoms, G; Book of Resolutions #4273 “Global Migration and the Quest for Justice”

OBJECTIVE:

Immigrants and sojourners are children of God.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

map of ancient Israel, Common English Bible and at least one other Bible translation, copies of article “Abraham and Sarah in America” by Bishop Sally Dyck (<https://www.bu.edu/sth/abraham-and-sarah-in-america/>) , 2020/2024 Social Principles booklet (https://www.cokesbury.com/Social-Principles-of-The-United-Methodist-Church-2025-2028-2?srsltid=AfmB0ooOcJUh9Vtdrwv13L_hU9QC-gsBqq_LNaxghCq--maYP_0hJlw3M)

LESSON PLAN STRUCTURE (1 HOUR)

CENTERING MOMENT (5 MINUTES)

Say: Let's take a moment to get comfortable. Put both feet on the floor if you can, relax your shoulders, and rest your hands in your lap. You don't have to close your eyes, but you can if it helps you focus.

Say: We're going to take three deep breaths together. Breathe in slowly... and out.

Again, inhale deeply... and exhale.

One more time... breathe in peace...

And breathe out distraction.

Say: As we begin our time together today, remember:

NOTES

- If the space allows place the chairs in a circle to represent inclusiveness and invite participation. The idea is to not have a backrow and for everyone to be seen.
- Hang a map of ancient Israel on the blackboard or wall.
- If participants do not know each other, have nametags available.
- If possible, play soothing instrumental music to create a peaceful ambiance.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT CONT'D

You are not alone. Your story matters. Your journey matters. And God walks with you, through every move, every transition, every moment of learning, and every step towards justice and compassion.

Take one more deep breath in.. and out.

When you are ready, gently bring your attention back to the room.

SCRIPTURE STUDY (25 MIN.)

Say: Today we are exploring how identity, diversity, justice, and action show up in our faith. Let's start by talking about something many people experience- a move.

Say: In small groups or with a partner, talk about a time when you had to move unexpectedly.

Discussion Questions:

- What was the move like?
- Were you alone or with family?
- How did you feel during the experience?
- What did you take with you?
- Did you know where you were going?
- Did the move feel like a blessing- for you or for others?
- How did the move shape your identity?

Say: Let's come back together. Would anyone like to share something meaningful or surprising from your story?

(Pause for 1 or 2 students to share.)

Say: We're going to connect your stories to a story from the Bible. In Genesis 12, God says to Abram: 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.' Abram is asked to move without knowing where he's going.

NOTES (CONT'D)

- Decorate the room with a colorful tablecloth on a center table or at the front of the room. If possible, find a tablecloth made with a handmade fabric with a pattern representing another culture (i.e. handwoven from Guatemala, batik from Southeast Asia, etc.)
- Light a candle and place on the tablecloth on center table.
- Create a welcoming space of hospitality.
- Greet participants by name as they arrive.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT CONT'D

Read: Genesis 12: 1-4a

Discussion Questions:

- Would you move to a place you've never seen before?
- Would you take your family?
- What do you think Abram felt?

Say: Abram's entire identity, his future, family, and faith, was shaped by this call to trust God. Move can shape our identities too.

Ask: How has a move shaped your family's faith or identity?

(Pause for reflection.)

Say: Moves also expose us to people who are different from us. That can be challenging, exciting, and transformative.

Ask: How did your move expose you or your family to diversity? New neighborhoods, regions, cultures, classmates, or traditions?

(Pause for discussion.)

GROUP ACTIVITY (25 MIN.)

Say: We're going to read an article called '*Abraham and Sarah in America*.' This article connects biblical stories with modern experiences of moving, migration and belonging.

(Choose one reader or divide paragraphs among several readers.)

Ask: What were your general impressions of the article? What stood out to you? What surprised or challenged you?

(Pause for reflections.)

Say: The article mentions use of different words in translation, like the Common English Bible using 'immigrants' instead of 'sojourners.' Words matter because they shape how we imagine people and their experiences.

NOTES

*Distribute copies of article "*Abraham and Sarah in America*" by Bishop Sally Dyck

*Have the Common English Bible and another Bible translation to compare Gen. 12: 1-4

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Discussion Questions:

- What's the difference between 'sojourner' and 'immigrant'?
- How do these words make you feel?
- What might the Bible be telling us if we choose one term over the other?

Say: The Bible often helps us see justice issues around us. This article includes stories that touch on real injustices faced by immigrants today.

Ask: What justice issues or injustices did you notice in the article?

(Examples: Family separation, lack of safety or protection, harsh immigration laws, economic exploitation, racial or cultural discrimination.)

Say: Our faith is more than our relationship with God. It also calls us to act with compassion and courage for others.

Ask: What specific responses can people of faith take to support immigrants and refugees?

Encourage youth to name possible actions such as:

- Prayer
- Marching or witnessing, like Bishop Sally Dyck
- Attending a protest
- Writing a letter to Congress
- Supporting a refugee family
- Accompanying an immigrant to a court hearing
- Raising awareness at school or church

(Pause for discussion)

Say: Faith is both trust and action. Like Abram, we're invited to trust God in the journey- and to act with love and justice toward others who are on difficult journeys.

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CLOSING MOMENT (5 MIN.)

Say: I'd like to invite everyone to come together in a circle. Let's join hands as a sign of support and unity. As we stand together, I invite you to speak aloud the names of immigrants or refugees in our community who may be facing danger or uncertainty.

(Pause for names)

Say: We lift their names in prayer, asking God to surround them with protection, strength, and hope. Amen.