

Introduction to the series:

Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School



Many Bible stories are “not rated for family viewing.” That is because God never attempts to cover up the realities of the human condition. On the contrary, He makes a point of focusing on them. The Bible isn’t just a history book; every word preserved in its pages is meant to teach us something. And as the saying goes, “mistakes are often the best teachers.”

There are many aspects of the Bible that are not supposed to be a feel-good bedtime story. It’s supposed to make us question who we are and what choices we are making. It should cause us to ask: How could they have handled this better? What might I do in a similar position? What darker aspects of human nature this is asking me to face, and what should I do about that?

We can’t fight evil unless we are willing to stare it in the face, and the first place we need to look for it is in the mirror.

Pastor Stephen

Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School

WEEK 1

Calvary Baptist Church
Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School
4G Series 2021
www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.



How To Use The 4G Guide

Each week is divided into four sections:

Gathering Time



God calls us to corporate worship. On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God’s message, and be challenged to apply His word. This booklet includes weekly sermon guides.

God Time



Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we have written five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once the devotional time is finished, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day.

Group Time



We learn from one another! Each week, either on Sundays or at various other times, 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet features weekly lesson outlines in a “three-thirds” discipleship format. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page. *

Family Time



Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple, once-a-week devotionals just for families. In addition to the weekly outline, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page* to help get the conversations flowing.

* 4G Groups, video links, resources, and 4G Guides are posted weekly on our 4G web page: www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html.



The 4G Group Time 3-Step Encouragement Process

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Participants partner-up to ask five short and simple questions. Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK but need to work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	“Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?”	These are “Yes” or “No” questions.
	“Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week? – not just for meals”	Any hesitations or “Well...” responses are circled “No.”
	“Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the Gospel with, or disciplined. • If not, leave the line blank.
	“Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?”	
	“Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?” (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other. No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!



Gathering Time (Sermon Notes)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Stories They Don't Teach
In Sunday School

Timeless _____ Stories

_____ and _____

Genesis 12:10-20

The _____ Mother's Day _____

- How Can I Better _____ For You?
Ephesians 5:25

- How Can I Better _____ You?

WEEK 1 - ABRAM PRETENDS SARAI IS HIS SISTER

God Time: Day 1 – A Classic Love Story...



The Bible is full of many great stories that teach us about who God is, who we are in Him, and stories that point us to Christ and the truth of the Gospel. But some of those stories aren't the kind you'll hear about in Sunday school – like the classic love story of Abram and Sarai.



Read Genesis 12:10-13

¹⁰Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."

Prior to this passage, God had called Abram (later known as Abraham) to follow Him with his family to a new land where Abram would be the start of a new nation blessed by God. They hadn't been there very long when something happened.

What was it? (Look in verse 10)



Circle what Abram was concerned about regarding his wife Sarai (later known as Sarah). (Look in verses 11 and 12.)



Reread verse 13. Paraphrase Abram's plan.

Abram was being clever and "only kind of" fibbed, because Sarai was his half-sister. But there's more to the story – what we don't see. We don't see Abram asking the Lord to save them, help them, or protect them. We see Abram trusting his cleverness, not God.

As we'll see tomorrow – spoiler alert – when we trust ourselves more than God, we make a BIG mess!



What do you need to trust God about right now?



Pray, thanking God for His trustworthiness when ours fails.

God Time: Day 2 – ... With a Bad Twist



Read Genesis 12:14-15

¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.



The classic love story has a bad twist. Sarai goes along with Abram's plan. What happens in this passage? What does "taken into Pharaoh's house" mean? (Hint – they don't teach this in Sunday School.)

Sarai was so beautiful that Pharaoh took her for his own. That's a bad twist to the story! The Bible later tells us that Pharaoh treated Abram well because of her – almost like he purchased her. How could this mess of a story ever have a happy ending?



Though we don't always get the "happy ending" we'd like, God is always working things together for our eternal good. Is/was there a mess of a situation in your life that God used for good?

If so, share it with someone today.

God Time: Day 3 - The Result of Abram's Distrust



Read Genesis 12:17, 20

¹⁷But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him [Abram], and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

To set things right again, the Lord had some work to do.



Circle what God did in verse 17.

Underline what Pharaoh did in verse 20.

The result of Abram's distrust was that his wife was taken and then God had to set things right again. To do this, He had to make everyone very unpleasant!

Spend some time making sure that you have things right with God. What will you do to be obedient before things get unpleasant?

WEEK 1 - ABRAM PRETENDS SARAI IS HIS SISTER

God Time: Day 4 - How Can I Provide for You?



So many things about Abram and Sarai’s story just weren't good. But, in the long run, Abraham was mentioned in the Book of Hebrews as being a man of great faith. There’s a good reminder here: God uses imperfect people. That should give us all hope!



Abram’s story has implications for us. One is that husbands can ask their wives, “How can I better provide for you?”



Read Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Earthly marriages are a picture of how Christ loves the church (this means all Christians).



Circle the command to husbands in verse 25.

Now, look through the whole passage and underline the things Christ did for the church.

We are all called to be Christlike. Loving others and living a sacrificial life of humility is something we all should do. Husbands, however, have a specific role in the marriage relationship. By loving his wife and sacrificing for her, a husband provides for her and will deepen his relationship with God.



Husbands, spend time talking to and listening to your wife. Ask her, “How can I better provide for you?” Then determine, what first steps will you take toward being a better provider? Share your plans with your wife.



Wives and singles, spend time praying for Christian marriages. Ask God to protect marriages and to be glorified in them.

God Time: Day 5 - Protect What You Value

Think about this statement: what we value, we fight to protect.



Read 1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Circle the action words in this verse.

What is the person who doesn’t provide “worse than?”

A person who doesn’t provide for his household has denied the practice of his faith. If someone is not practicing their faith, but is claiming to do so with words, he is being double-minded and worse than an unbeliever. (An unbeliever doesn’t practice, but doesn’t claim to either.)

When we think in terms of what we value, we might think of investments or financial security. The following words of Jesus will help us remember that eternal investments are what matter most.



Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Protecting the purity of marriage, the unity of the family, and our future relationships shows God our character and heart. It furthers our relationship with Him and with others – Believers and unbelievers. These are eternal investments!

What do you need to do today in order to protect what you value?

Who will you thank today because they have invested in protecting a relationship with you?



Group Time

Leaders win when everyone participates.

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1

Y / N
 Y / N

LOOK BACK:

Point: We are called to make a lasting difference. Our prayers must reflect our purpose.

- Review last week’s lesson. Which prayer (search me, break me, send me) challenged you most? What has been your response?

Question: We’ve all heard the statement, “The ends justify the means.” Usually, we are told this is not the right way to go about things. But is it ever the right justification?

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s Group Guide video on our 4G web page.

Recap: Before they were Abraham and Sarah, they were Abram and Sarai. God later added the “ah” to their names which, in translation, changed them from “exalted father” to “exalted father of many” and “princess” to “princess of many.”

While Abram is obedient to God to “Go”, we soon see that His trust in God is questionable at best. Abram plays a game hoping that the ends will justify the means, and in actuality, it works out – for Abram. But then Jesus comes and raises the bar. The apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:25 how a true man provides for and protects his family.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- Reread Genesis 12:10-20.
 - Do a cost-benefit analysis. Compare and contrast verses 15 and 19 to verses 16 and 20. From a purely secular viewpoint, did the ends justify the means?
- Now compare the story in Genesis 12 to Ephesians 5:25.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: We protect what we value – how well are we protecting our spouse, our family, our relationship with God?

Singles:

- How can you better provide for and protect your relationship with God (and if you’re looking, a relationship with a future spouse)?
- _____
- _____

Husbands:

- BUILD:** Honestly assess your ability to provide for your family:
 - Physically: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 - Emotionally: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 - Spiritually: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Based upon Ephesians 5:25, how well do you represent Jesus to your family? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- EQUIP:** Ask your wife these two questions and record her response:

1. How can I better provide for you and our family?

2. How can I better protect you and our marriage?

LEAD: Develop a plan to “be better.” If needed, ask for the help of other trusted godly men (Email: men@cbcfamily.net).

Wives:

- How will you honor your husband’s desire to “be better?”



Family Time

Main Idea: Mom does so much for you, how can you demonstrate your love for her this week?



Key Verses:

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

Deuteronomy 5:16a *Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord God commanded you.*

Set it Up:

It's Mother's Day week! Have you been celebrating your wife or your mom this week? What are some of the ways you show her love? What are some ways she demonstrates her love for you? Check out this video for some hilarious answers to questions about mom.



Watch: Week 1 Video

This week's video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



Ask:

Ask each other some of the questions on the video and have a good chuckle at the answers!

- What are some things that make mom happy?
- What is mom's favorite thing to do?
- What is something that mom always says to you?
- What are some ways that mom shows she loves you?



Encourage:

Your wife and mother has taken on a special and life-changing role when she began the journey of being a mom. Take time to really think about your mom or your wife. Think about the things she has sacrificed for you, what she has put aside for you to be happy or comfortable, and how many times she has chosen to put you first. No wonder we celebrate her this week!



Challenge:

As you celebrate mom, turn these questions around to ask yourself:

- How can I do something to make mom happy this week?
- Is there a way I can make time for mom to get away and do her favorite thing?
- What is something I can say to mom to make her feel loved?



Family Activity:

Set up a mom jar for one week and each day, each person writes a short note to mom. At the end of the week, let mom open it and read each message. She will cherish those notes and Mother's "Day" will turn into Mother's "Year" as she reads them over and over whenever she needs encouragement.