

Discover America Course 21

Ellis Island



Instructional Goals:

- Teach the importance of trusting God's guidance and stepping out in faith when faced with new opportunities or transitions.
- Guide students to understand the value of welcoming and supporting newcomers in our communities, reflecting God's love and compassion for all people.
- Assure students that God is always with us, guiding us through times of change and uncertainty, and leading us into His plans and purposes for our lives.



Memory Verse



Exodus 13:21:

By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.

Relevant Scripture

Genesis 12:1-9

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

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Embracing New Horizons - A Mini-Lesson

Objective: The objective of this lesson is to help children understand the importance of trusting God's guidance when faced with new opportunities or transitions. Additionally, the lesson aims to teach students to understand that God is always with us, guiding us through times of change and uncertainty, and leading us into His plans and purposes for our lives.

Introduction: Begin by gathering students and opening with a prayer, asking for guidance and wisdom as you explore the lesson together. Introduce the theme of the lesson: opportunity and moving to a new home. Explain that just as people in the Bible faced new beginnings and opportunities, so do we in our lives today.

Lesson:

1. Story of Abraham: Share the story of Abraham from the Bible (Genesis 12:1-9). Explain how God called Abraham to leave his homeland and go to a new land. Emphasize how Abraham trusted God's guidance, embracing the opportunity for a new beginning.

2. Journey of the Israelites: Discuss the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land (Exodus 13-14). Highlight how God led them out of slavery and provided for them during their journey, even when they faced challenges and uncertainty. Emphasize the importance of trusting God's plan and following His guidance, even in times of transition.

3. Ellis Island and Immigration: Connect the biblical stories to real-life examples of immigrants seeking new opportunities and relocating to new homes. Explain the significance of Ellis Island as a gateway for immigrants coming to America in search of a better life. Discuss the courage and resilience of immigrants who embraced the opportunity for a fresh start in a new country.

4. Reflection and Discussion: Ask questions such as:

- Have you ever faced a new beginning or opportunity in your life?
- How did you feel about it? Were you excited, nervous, or both?
- What can we learn from the stories of Abraham and the Israelites about trusting God during times of change?
- How can we support and welcome newcomers in our communities, like the immigrants who came through Ellis Island?

Application: Encourage students to reflect on their own experiences of new beginnings and opportunities. Provide them with an opportunity to share their thoughts, feelings, and any questions they may have. Emphasize the importance of trusting God's plan, seeking His guidance, and embracing new opportunities with faith and courage.

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Student Reflections:

Conclusion: Close the lesson with a prayer, thanking God for His guidance and provision in times of transition and change. Encourage students to remember the stories of Abraham, the Israelites, and the immigrants who came through Ellis Island as examples of

trusting God and embracing new beginnings. Remind them that God is always with us, leading us forward into His plans and purposes for our lives.