



The

Life in a Nutshell

Video Based Program

3. What can I learn from Abraham's life?

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Directed by the Holy Spirit

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What is this?

This is a tool to train children and adults in Christian spiritual- and life values.

Why would you want to train a child?

If you have experience in evangelism and discipleship, you probably would have noticed that it's easier to reach adults who have a background in Christianity. They also grow faster in their relationship with Christ.

Therefore this program you're about to experience is ideal for providing children, and even adults, with the much needed foundational knowledge of the Bible and its application in their lives.

In John 8:31-32 Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." He said in Mathew 19:14: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

It is generally accepted that children become accountable to God at the age of around twelve. Until that age they are absorbing information and foundations are laid, which will be set for life.

We believe, however, that it goes beyond this age. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it."

What do we offer you?

We tend to focus on children, but in reality anybody from ages six to one hundred can benefit from this program.

We teach Biblical values and principles the fun way in order to make Christ your anchor. This program teaches viewers about the history and lives of the Biblical characters the Lord used to accomplish His purposes. It then draws it through to spiritual principles and life values the viewer can learn from these lives. The Lord's character and nature is also revealed in the process.

Once the participants have learnt to find peace and acceptance with Jesus, they will not search for it with friends. Teaching children from

young to live their lives according to Biblical principles and values will prevent peer-pressure related anti-social behaviour and therefore crime.

The outcome of an active relationship with Jesus Christ is care, love, peace, respect, and discipline. We aim to help participants lay this foundation in their respective lives.

This leads to more productivity and less crime.

Medium

As parents we all know that children these days have the so-called 'square eye syndrome' thanks to the electronic media. In fact most people actually have this. We felt the Lord guided us to use this phenomenon to the benefit of teaching. We therefore have a range of videos compiled in the accompanying DVD. Along with the videos it is essential for the facilitator to be guided by the accompanying questions to build these outcomes, principles and values into the lives of viewers, whether they're adults or children. The entire presentation takes around 15-30 minutes.

This can be used as part of the program at your youth group or Sunday School/Children's Church, during an outreach, or a children's seminar.

You can have outreaches to:

- Schools
- Youth groups
- Play schools
- Children charities
- Children's conferences
- Camps
- Holiday programs

Training

You don't need specialist knowledge to present these videos. Later in this document you'll find a brief training, which is the same as the one in the last chapter of the DVD, which includes the sample presentation video.

Life in a Nutshell Facilitator Training Notes

Good day to you. Welcome to Life in a Nutshell Training. By the time you have read through this brief training, you will know enough to facilitate learning.

You will be motivated to help many children find a fulfilling relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. In this package you'll find the videos, guiding questionnaires, and guidance to lead someone to the Lord. These can be used to give children (as well as deaf, blind, and illiterate adults) a good basic knowledge of the Word of God. Their faith will grow and they will know how to walk with the Lord, rather than to be religious.

The Role of the Facilitator.

This is a brief foundational training for you as a facilitator. The role of a facilitator is to facilitate learning with the audience. You are however more than a facilitator. You are also a Bible teacher under guidance of the Holy Spirit. You don't need a Bible School background, but do need a personal relationship and walk with the Lord.

A good knowledge of the Bible passages you're presenting is essential. These can be found on the questionnaire:



1. Creation Questions:
Genesis 1 and 2, John 14:21 and 23

These questions are designed to guide the presenter ministering to the children after the video was presented.

You need to prepare thoroughly by reading the relevant chapters. This, together with the questionnaire, will provide the necessary background

for the session you're about to present.

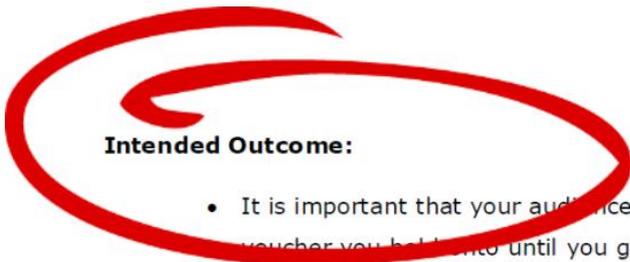
For each session you'll find the video on the accompanying DVD. Please present the videos in sequence, since they follow a particular learning pattern. In this document you'll find the questions which are on photocopiable pages that can serve as masters to be copied. They are designed to stimulate your mind and imagination and create opportunity for ministering to the audience however the Holy Spirit guides you. Please refrain from getting sidetracked and revert to preaching. Try and stick to the questions to maintain interaction with the audience.

If you want to accomplish the aim of this project, it will be wonderful if you keep the following in mind:

These videos are NOT just Bible stories.

Each video represents deep spiritual truths with practical applications, for example: *"People also don't rule over the earth anymore, because Satan, who cheated Adam, rules now. Many years later Jesus, the Son of God, would be born as a man. He would rule over Satan on behalf of those who believe and do what Adam should have done – put Satan in his place! Jesus was called the second Adam, and those who believe in Jesus can have the same power Jesus has, if they obey Him"* (Transcribed from video 3 - *Sin's Effects*).

The aim is to equip children from a young age with truth. This will enhance both their faith and relationship with their Lord. Please ensure you familiarise yourself with the truth and the outcome we intend to impart. Keep these in mind during the presentation, rather than just telling a story. Also keep the aim of this program in mind. This information can be found on the documents containing the questionnaires.



Intended Outcome:

- It is important that your audience understand that faith is the voucher you hold onto until you get what the Lord wants for you.
- Life is not about what you want, but about what the Lord wants for you; for the sake of His Kingdom. This we receive through faith.
- 1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." God's **love**; the ultimate solution to any challenge you face, is the object you aim to have. It's always there, but you need to make it your own. You **hope** (have a glad expectation) to possess and live out (exercise) this object (God's love). **Faith** is the substance and evidence (the voucher or proof) that you have it, until you feel part of it through a relationship with Him.

Please do not skip any questions.

The questions are a purposeful repetition of the most important facts mentioned in the video. This has the following benefits:

1. You can determine whether the children have listened.
2. You can see whether they have understood the message.
3. The repetition reinforces the message.
4. It helps those, who missed something the first time, to get it.
5. The re-emphasis imprints the truth in their hearts.
6. The questions inspire you to share additional thoughts.

In preparation familiarise yourself with the questions by reading through them a few times, thinking them over. This will allow for them to be familiar to you during the presentation.

The idea is NOT to read the questions to the audience. The questions are written to the facilitator in an adult manner. You as facilitator ought to

ask the questions in your own words on the level of the age group you're serving.

This is why you ought to familiarise yourself with them during preparation so you could find the question on your sheet at a glance. We always work with the questionnaire in hand so we don't forget questions.

Feel free to adapt the wording of the questions to the age and ability of the group.

Pray beforehand.

These videos were initiated by the Holy Spirit. Every word and picture was obtained under His direction. Because He has initiated this program, working with Him will be the wise thing to do. Therefore, without prayerful preparation along with the Holy Spirit, it will just be a religious exercise.

Pray it through before the time and if possible, have intercessors pray during the presentation. Children are not just to be babysat. They are the next generation believers and if their foundation is sound, the future church will be healthy.

Be over the top!

Children like the loud and dramatic. Not everybody can be loud, but at least be dramatic. Elicit response from the audience. Compliment, reward and be an actor. We often make use of declarations and the children love them.

Declarations are slogans of faith that you call out in sections and the audience repeat them. In the spiritual realm these little believers establish proclamations that will have an everlasting effect on their lives. For example: "In Christ I am more than a conqueror. With Jesus on my

side I have nothing to fear!!”

You have been gifted and will be directed to bring forth something unique, based on truth relevant to the video. Feel free to use your initiative under guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The video in the last chapter on the DVD contains this training including an example of a presentation. Please watch it carefully.

When we do a presentation, we do an introduction of what is coming. This includes the declarations and usually prayer. Then we play the video and thereafter discuss questions from the questionnaire. You'll see in the sample presentation video at the end of the training video how this works.

Whilst watching the sample presentation, look out for the following:

1. Concern for the audience's wellbeing,
2. Making declarations,
3. Giving encouragement,
4. Crowd control – putting up of hand,
5. Handling of wrong answers,
6. Repeating their answers,
7. Prompting for answers,
8. Controlling attention span and tiredness,
9. Handling of audience's opinions,
10. The role of repetition, and
11. Creating understanding by means of explanation.

There you have it. We pray that you will have much joy and fruit in presenting these video teachings to the children that matters to you. Please contact us with any questions at cwhl@live.co.uk. Have a look at our website www.t-a-c.co.za.

Introduction to the Questions

These questions are designed to guide the presenter of this video in ministering to the children after the video was presented to them. The idea is to

- test how they have listened,
- re-emphasize important truths to solidify it in their minds and spirits, and
- create a foundation for the Holy Spirit to minister to them through the facilitator as the presenter.

Feel therefore free to make use of this opportunity to speak into the children's lives on the topic the video has highlighted.

The questions are designed to bring over a pertinent point and it is preferable that you stick closely to them.

1. God called Abram Questions

Genesis 12:1-9, Hebrews 11

Intended Outcome:

- Aim to hear the Lord's voice when He wants to guide you.
- When the Lord tells you to do something, either from the Bible or to you personally, simply believe Him and do it.
- Our own good works doesn't help our relationship with the Lord. Only faith and obedience makes the Lord happy.

Questions

1. Q: God made Abram the father of two groups of people. Who were they?

A: *(Israel and believers in Jesus Christ.)*

2. Q: What did the Lord tell Abram to do?

A: *(He had to leave his family and go to a land God will show him.)*

3. Q: Did the Lord tell him where it was?

A: *(No.)*

4. Q: The Lord made Abram four promises. What were they?

A: *(Answer:*

a. Many descendants [Israel and believers] and a great nation,

b. The Lord will bless him and make his name famous,

c. He will be a blessing to others,

d. Through Abram God will bless many nations.)

5. Q: When someone tells you to go somewhere, but you don't know where – would you go?

A: *(Facilitator to respond to the audience's answers with godly wisdom.)*

6. Q: Abram just left on this journey without asking questions. Why was the Lord happy about this?

A: *(Because Abraham trusted Him.)*

7. Q: When we just do what the Lord tells us to do without asking questions, what is it called?

A: *(Faith.)*

8. Q: And how does this faith make the Lord feel?

A: *(It makes Him happy!)*

Memory Verse:

Romans 4:3: For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

and/or

Hebrews 11:6: And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

2. Abraham, a Man Just like Us Questions

Genesis 12, 16, 20, 2 Corinthians 12, Philippians 4

Intended Outcome:

- Everybody makes mistakes.
- We all have weaknesses.
- If you trust the Lord, His grace is enough to give you strength to overcome your weaknesses.
- When you are weak, you are actually strong in the Lord Jesus.

Questions

1. Q: According to the video and the Bible Abraham was the father of _____?

A: *(Faith.)*

2. Q: Why was Abraham called the father of faith?

A: *(Facilitator to explain: His faith made the Lord happy. He trusted the Lord without asking questions. He just did what the Lord asked him to do without thinking what the end result might be. He waited for years believing that, what the Lord had promised, He would do. He probably had his time of doubting, but resisted it in order to please the Lord. On one occasion his faith even failed.)*

3. Q: Was Abraham a perfect man, you know, like a super hero, or was he just like us?

A: *(Just like us.)*

4. Q: What did the video say; how do we know this?

A: *(He made many mistakes, just like we do. Facilitator should explain.)*

5. Q: Tell me one mistake he had made?

A: *(1. Twice, when he was scared, he lied, saying his wife was his sister.*

2. When he doubted God, he made a child for himself with his maid instead of waiting on the Lord.)

6. Q: Did the Lord turn His back on Abraham when he had lied?

A: *(No.)*

7. Q: Why did He not?

A: *(Because of His great love for Abraham. He knew Abraham was only human and would make mistakes, but in his heart he was right with God and he always returned to believing Him.)*

8. Q: If we trust God and live right, what will He do when we make mistakes?

A: *(He will cover for us and help us on the right way.)*

9. Q: Abraham made Ishmael when his faith failed. Why did the Lord then bless Ishmael?

A: *(Because He is faithful to his promises, even when we are unfaithful and fail. He promised all of Abraham's offspring will be blessed, and Ishmael was his offspring.)*

10. Q: So when we are weak, He is _____.

A: *(Strong.)*

Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 12:9A: Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." & 10B: For when I am weak, I am strong!

and/or

Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

3. Abram and Lot Questions

Genesis 13. Proverbs 3:6-7, Psalm 32:8

Intended Outcome:

- To avoid a lot of problems in your life, ask the Lord's advice about all the decisions you're about to make.
- Do not rely on people; trust the Lord for answers and wisdom.

Questions

1. Q: Did the Lord tell Abram to take Lot with him?
A: *(No.)*
2. Q: What did the video say; because Abram took Lot with him he got a lot of
- A: *(Problems.)*
3. Q: Give some examples of these problems?
A: *(- Their herdsmen fought.
- When they separated Lot took the best land.
- When God wanted to destroy Sodom, where Lot lived, Abram had to plead for Lot's life.)*
4. Q: What should you do before you make a decision?
A: *(Ask for wisdom and advice.)*
5. Q: Who do we usually ask for advice first?
A: *(Our friends. If the audience answer parents, tell them it's good, but they have to ask the Lord as well. Take note that in certain churches there are a requirement to only ask advice from the church elders, so feel free to emphasise that though it's good to ask advice from adults, we need to learn to hear God's voice for ourselves.)*
6. Q: Who should we ask for advice first?
A: *(The Lord Jesus.)*

7. Q: What did the video say; when you look to people for advice, instead of to God, they can ...

A: *(They can discourage you and hinder your faith)*

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 3:6: Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

4. Don't Look Back Questions

Genesis 18 and 19, John 14:21, 23

Intended Outcome:

We will be tempted to enjoy everything the world offers, but real life is building friendship with the Lord and obey what He tells us every day to do.

Questions

1. Q: When Lot lived in Sodom, something made the Lord very angry. What was it?
A: *(The horrible sins the people did.)*
2. Q: When the Lord told Abram He was going to destroy Sodom with fire, what did Abram ask the Lord?
A: *(Whether He would destroy Sodom if He could find good people in it. If time allows it, The facilitator can tell the story of the countdown that Abram did in more detail.)*
3. Q: How many good people did the Lord find in Sodom?
A: *(Only Lot, his wife, and his two daughters.)*
4. Q: What did the angels tell the Lot family to do?
A: *(To run out of Sodom and not to look back, otherwise they will turn into pillars of salt.)*
5. Q: Someone looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Who was it?
A: *(Lot's wife. Maybe she enjoyed the sin in the city. Facilitator can explain that, when we have turned our back on sin, we should not look back and desire it.)*
6. Q: According to the video, what does the Lord want us to do?
A: *(He wants us to live only for Him and not to share Him with sin, the world, and wrongdoing that look so nice.)*

7. Q: Which of these two is the better thing to do? (Facilitator to say the words "Number one & two..." and then the option.)
1. To be friends with the Lord or
 2. To desire all kinds of worldly things.

A: *(Number one.)*

8. Q: The video suggested four things that are good for you to do. What are they?

A: *(a. Enjoy the Lord's love,
b. Learn about Him from the Bible,
c. Talk with Him in prayer,
d. Obey Him by living right. Facilitator can expound on this.)*

Memory Verse:

John 14:23: Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them."

5. Isaac Promised Questions

Genesis 17 and 18. Proverbs 3:5-6

Intended Outcome:

Make it the focus of your life to get to know the Lord and learn how to wait on Him and His plans for your life.

Questions

1. Q: How old was Abraham when Isaac was promised?
A: *(75 years old.)*
2. Q: Although Isaac was Abraham's only child, how many people would Abraham have through Isaac?
A: *(As many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashores. Facilitator can explain the details.)*
3. Q: Sarah decided that God is too slow in making His promise come true. What did she do to help Him?
A: *(She felt Abraham should make his own child through her Egyptian servant Hagar and gave her to him as a wife.)*
4. Q: What was the name of the child Hagar gave Abraham?
A: *(Ishmael)*
5. Q: What should Abraham have done instead?
A: *(He should have waited patiently on the Lord.)*
6. Q: What did the video say you should not do?
A: *(You should not try and help God fulfil His promises.)*
7. Q: What should you do instead?
A: *(You should wait patiently for God's perfect time. He always knows the best.)*
8. Q: Why does God know the best?
A: *(Because He sees things we cannot see.)*
9. Q: If we trust the Lord and wait patiently for Him, how would it be good for us?
A: *(We will not make so many mistakes.)*

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.

6. Hagar and Ishmael Questions

Genesis 16, 1 John 1, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 1:8-10

Intended Outcome:

- God will keep His promises. If we try to rush Him, we will usually make a mistake.
- If we make mistakes or do wrong things, but then confess or sins, the Lord will forgive us and remove our wrongdoing from His memory. (1 John 1:8-10)
- God is faithful. Even if we mess up, He will continue with His plan with our lives.

Questions

1. Q: Sarah thought God is not going to keep His promise. What did she suggest to Abraham?

A: *(She gave her servant Hagar to Abraham to make a child for himself through her.)*

2. Q: When Hagar saw she was having a child and Sarah not, she mocked Sarah. What did Sarah then do?

A: *(She treated Hagar badly.)*

3. Q: Hagar then fled into the desert. Who met her there?

A: *(Jesus who was then known as the Angel of the Lord – Facilitator to explain the difference between **an** angel and **the** Angel of the Lord. Whenever the Old Testament refers to **the** Angel of the Lord, it refers to Jesus, the Son of God.)*

4. Q: He told Hagar two things. What were they?

A: *(a. She will have a son who will give her a big offspring and
b. She should go back to Sarah and be a good servant –
Facilitator to explain.)*

5. Q: What did the Lord do with Abraham, Sarah and Hagar when they messed up?

A: *(He understood they were only human and loved and forgave them. He still kept His promise to them.)*

6. Q: Does God stay true to His promises?

A: *(Yes, always.)*

7. Q: Did God bless Ishmael too?

A: *(Yes.)*

8. Q: What should you do when you make mistakes?

A: *(You should ask for forgiveness and try again.)*

9. Q: If you mess up, will God stop using you?

A: *(No, He is faithful and, if you return to Him, He will just continue with His plan for your life.)*

Memory Verse:

1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (English Standard Translation)

1 John 1:9: But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. (Good News Translation)

7. Abraham Tested Questions

Genesis 22, Matthew 6:33, Romans 8:28, John 14

Intended Outcome:

- If you first do what the Lord wants, He will turn things out for good for you, even if things at first look bad.
- God will test you as well and you will not always see it coming.
- Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (NIV)

Questions

1. Q: When Isaac was a little older, the Lord told Abraham to do something. What was it?
A: *(He had to sacrifice Isaac to God.)*
2. Q: Did Abraham argue with the Lord about it?
A: *(No, he simply obeyed for He trusted the Lord.)*
3. Q: What did Isaac ask his dad when they walked up the mountain?
A: *(Where is the lamb that they needed to sacrifice?)*
4. Q: What did Abraham tell him?
A: *(God will provide a lamb.)*
5. Q: Why did he say the Lord will provide a lamb?
A: *(Facilitator to explain: He knew the Lord would somehow make another plan. He will not allow Abraham to actually kill his son of promise. Abraham knew the Lord well because he had a relationship with Him.)*
6. Q: According to the video, why was the Lord pleased that Abraham was prepared to give Him his only son?
A: *(Because they were in a covenant, God could now also sacrifice His only son, Jesus. Explain a covenant in an age appropriate way as more binding than a marriage contract.*
7. Q: What would the Lord do if you obey Him?

A: *(He would do His part by caring for you and showing you who He is – John 14:21.)*

8. Q: What should you do to obey the Lord?

A: *(Do first what He wants you to do and help Him in His Kingdom – Facilitator to expand a little on this – Matthew 6:33.)*

9. Q: What will then happen?

10. A: *(You will receive all you need.)*

11. Q: Do you think the Lord will test you as well?

A: *(Yes, but you will not always know the test is coming. Therefore you always have to live right.)*

Memory Verse:

Matthew 6:33: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (NIV)

8. Let the Lord Guide you Questions

Genesis 24, Matthew 7:7-8, Mark 11:24, Proverbs 3:5-8

Intended Outcome:

- The Lord has a plan and purpose for your life that you should find and follow through.
- In your decisions you should wait on the Lord's guidance (Proverbs 3:5-8)

Questions

1. Q: Where did Abraham send his servant to find a wife for Isaac?
A: *(To the land where he came from.)*
2. Q: Why did he not want Isaac to go back with the servant?
A: *(He wanted Isaac to move forward with God's plan. Facilitator to explain that if Isaac went back, there was the possibility that he would have stayed there and not move on in the direction God had led Abraham.)*
3. Q: Do you think the Lord has a plan for you as well - a plan that you should complete at the end of your life?
A: *(This question is meant to stimulate the individual children's thoughts and the facilitator can direct their thoughts as to various purposes the Lord may have for individuals.)*
4. Q: Who did God send ahead to choose a wife for Isaac?
A: *(His angel.)*
5. Q: What did the servant do to get the right wife?
A: *(He prayed, asking the Lord to arrange events in a certain way. Facilitator to explain that, when the Lord wants you to discover something, He will lead you by arranging circumstances for you to discover it if you ask Him to.)*
6. Q: Who did both Abraham and his servant trust to find the right wife?
A: *(The Lord God)*

7. Q: What should you do in order to make the right choices?

A: *(Pray and wait for the Lord to show you the right way.)*

Memory Verse:

Mark 11:24: Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (ESV)