



# TROUT STREAM

TAG PACKET FOR  
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

ARROW UP



## Parents,

Welcome to Arrow Up! While we are not able to connect with you through in-person retreats, camps, and events at this time, we are delighted to bring Trout to you and your home in this digital content pack. This packet is designed as a parent-led, family devotional and activity. TAG is an abbreviation that we use at Trout that means – “Time Alone with God.” This is a daily devotional pack that your Middle School camper can do on their own each day.

Our Arrow Up series will guide your students through the life of Abraham in the Old Testament. Each day will center students on key Biblical Teachings from his life as he was called, challenged, and lead by God. All of our lives, like an arrow, will point and lead to someone or something. Will our lives point towards God, or someone / something else?

We are privileged to be able to partner with you in this way during this uncertain time. While we are prevented from gathering in groups, our God is still sovereign. He is still faithful, and we are so thankful for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

We welcome your feedback, and if you find this content pack helpful please share on your social media outlets.

## Trout Lake Camps

**Program Team**

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# INTRODUCTION TO ARROW UP

**DID YOU KNOW?** That an arrow comes in many shapes, sizes, and has many capabilities / abilities?

You probably first thought of a simple bow and arrow, however an arrow can be so much more than that. In fact, did you know that people can be arrows? It's true.

All of us make decisions each day that point to someone or something. We decide the direction we point with our thoughts and our choices. The question you have to ask yourself is, where is my life pointing and who is it pointing towards.

Will we focus our thoughts and choices towards God – upward or towards something more temporary and less lasting? That is what we are going to explore this week in our ARROW UP series on the life of Abraham.

Each day you will have the chance to learn what it means to “Arrow Up” by having Time Alone with God (TAG Time). This is your chance to hear from the God of the universe who loves and cares for you more than anyone else! The best part?

You don't have to pretend to act a certain way when you spend time with God. God is big enough to handle your doubts, your hurts, and your anger. You don't have to hold back with God so don't be afraid to open up to Him. He's just glad that you've chosen to spend time with Him.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR TAG TIME EACH DAY –

- TAG Time is meant to be done all by yourself so pick a comfy spot (away from all your screens) with just yourself.
- You will need a pen to answer questions and take notes and your Bible.
- It's ok to take notes in your Bible, underline, highlight and write notes in the margins so you can be reminded of what you learned when you return to those passages at a later time.

## THE BOTTOM LINE:

God calls me to a  
Great Journey

## BIBLE STORY:

Genesis 12:1-9; 20

## QUOTE:

"An **ARROW** can only be shot by pulling it backwards. So when life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you into something great. So just **focus** and **keep aiming**."

--Anonymous--




## THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

Abraham was a man who lived a long time ago. The Bible records his story in the book of Genesis. As you will see, Abraham had a lot that he could be anxious about, but he chose to live by faith. Abraham allowed his life to be an **ARROW** that was pointed upwards towards God.

## INTRODUCTION:

What does it mean to be an arrow? There are several ways to think about an arrow, here are some examples:

1. "A weapon that is made to be shot from a bow and that is usually a stick with a point at one end and feathers at the other end."
2. "A mark such as, "  " that is used to show direction"
3. "To move fast and straight in flight"

An arrow is sharp and points in one direction. If your life is an arrow, what or who is it pointing at? Your favorite sports team? Your schoolwork? Video Games? Social Media? Your friends? How about your relationship with Jesus?

Is there a way to make your life point **more** towards Jesus? Let's look Abraham's calling that he received from God and how he chose to point his life upward.

## BIBLE STORY

Look Up and Read Genesis 12:1-9, 20

**READ** then **WRITE** your answers to the following questions below:

1. Write about a time in your life where you were asked to either do something crazy?

**THE BOTTOM LINE:**

God calls me to a  
Great Journey

**BIBLE STORY:**

Genesis 12:1-9; 20

**QUOTE:**

"An **ARROW** can only be shot by pulling it backwards. So when life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you into something great. So just **focus** and **keep aiming**."

--Anonymous--



2. If you had to move to another country anywhere in the world, where would you move and why?

**COMMENTARY**

Ok, so maybe God isn't calling you to leave your family and country just quite yet! But the important thing is that Abraham wasn't any sort of "special guy." He was a normal guy from a nowhere town called Ur.

What made Abraham 'special' was that when he sensed God was calling him, he was obedient and answered His call. And God promised him some pretty incredible things too! (The Father of a Great Nation, A Huge Family, and that God would be with Him always!).

That same God that called Abraham many years ago, calls each one of us to that same incredible journey! And best of all, no matter what-He promises to be with us through the best and worst of that journey!

**BIBLE TEACHING SUMMARY**

- Abraham was called by God to go. (How cool is that?!)
- God SPOKE TO Abraham.
- Abraham was called to go on a journey to leave his home, his family, his friends, everything that he knew to be familiar.
- He packed up his things and left for a Great Journey with God. Abraham did not know what to expect, but he knew what God has promised him.
- Abraham was called on a great journey to follow God. God is also calling you to a great journey with Him.

# ARROW UP

**Day 1**

The journey God calls each of us to doesn't have to mean moving to a

**THE BOTTOM LINE:**

God calls me to a great journey

**BIBLE STORY:**

Genesis 12:1-9; 20

**CAMP STAFF****TESTIMONY:**

"When I was younger, I was hit with a lot of problems and struggles while trying to pursue God. I was really attacked hard with anxiety, depression, guilt, shame, and had really bad thoughts. On my worst day, I cried out to God. The next day God showed me Psalm 16:8, "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. God showed me that through all of my suffering He was always there with me holding my hand."

—Steve—

foreign country like with Abraham. It means making God the center of our lives and everyday choices.

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER**

Reflect on **Genesis 12:1-9, 20** then **WRITE** your answers to the following questions below:

1. What area(s) of your life is God NOT the center of your choices? (e.g. Parents, Siblings, Friends, School, Online, Youth group, etc.)
2. What is a simple step you can take to make God the center of that area of your life?
3. Do you think it was hard for Abraham to leave his home country? Why or Why not?

**MEMORY VERSE FOR TODAY**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." -Proverbs 3:5-6-

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

God will never run  
away from me

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 15 & 17

**CAMP STAFF  
TESTIMONY**

"One of the biggest times that God has shown up in my life is when He carried me through a depressed season of my life. There was a time when I felt isolated. Christ was there for me and held me in His hands through it all. He comforted me and filled me with an immense amount of joy afterwards. He never left my side and made it clear to me when I would feel Him in my heart and cry out His name. The Lord is so faithful! "

—Brooklyn—

**GOD IS STEADFAST**

Has the thought ever occurred to you: Will God always be there for me?  
The truth is God IS and WILL always be there for you no matter what.

God will always be there for you no matter how messed up you think your life is. Even if or when you're running away from God, no matter how far you run, God is always with you.

Now this isn't a license to do whatever we want. We know that our choices have real consequences. It also doesn't mean that God isn't hurt when we make choices that disobey his truth and direction for our life. This simply means that we don't have to fear what can happen when we know God is always with us.

"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or terrified...for the LORD your God goes with you; he will NEVER leave you nor forsake you.

-Deuteronomy 31:6 –

The Bible also says that when we invite God into our lives, His Holy Spirit lives inside us! His presence is always with me even when we don't feel Him.

"Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives within you?"

-1 Corinthians 3:16-

**BIBLE STORY – ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY CONTINUES**

Look Up and Read Genesis 15 & 17

**READ** then **LIST** all the promises that God made for Abraham below:





## THE BOTTOM LINE

God will never run away from me

## BIBLE STORY

Genesis 15 & 17

## MEMORY VERSE

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go"

-Joshua 1:9-

## BIBLE TEACHING SUMMARY

- Abraham made a decision to believe in God
- Abraham was obedient to God
- God is not afraid of our brokenness or messy lives
- Even if we choose to ignore God, God is always there waiting for us to draw close to Him.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Reflect on what you read in Genesis 15 & 17 then **WRITE** your answers to the following questions below:

1. Agree or Disagree: God's promises to Abraham means that God will always take care of him. Why or Why not?
2. Do you think that any of God promises to Abraham would apply to you? If so, which ones? If not, why not?
3. Think of a difficult time in your life, how can you see God being faithful to you through that hard time?

## THE BOTTOM LINE:

God calls me to do  
the right thing

## BIBLE STORY:

Genesis 13



## DOING THE RIGHT THING

Doing the right thing may not always sound so easy to do at times. It may be very hard to do sometimes. Like standing up for the one who gets bullied through text or social media. Sometimes it's easier to go along with our friends or the "crowd" then to stand up and do the right thing.

When we look at the life of Jesus, Jesus chose to do the right thing. He did so by appealing to His heavenly Father and by not following what people were doing around Him.

When the world and other people around you tell you to do what's against what Jesus wants us to do, remember-you're in the same boat Jesus was!

Doing what is right does not makes not only makes us good people in this world but allows us to experience God in new ways.

## BIBLE STORY

Look Up and Read Genesis 13 to see how Abraham did the right thing

**NOTE:** Back in Abraham's day the older generation had the authority in choosing the very best whether that was food, animals, or land.

## HOW YOU CAN "ARROW UP" BY DOING THE RIGHT THING.

- Standing up for someone who is being picked on
- Listening to and respecting your parents
- Trusting the Bible as an authority in your life
- Helping a friend get through a difficult time
- Learning to embrace the people in your life with their flaws

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

**WRITE** your answers to the following questions below:

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

God calls me to do  
the right thing

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Be watchful, stand  
firm in the faith, act  
like men and  
women, be strong.  
Let all that you do  
be done in love."

-1 Cor.16:13-14-

**BONUS MEMORY  
VERSE:**

"This God- His way  
is perfect; the word  
of the LORD proves  
true; he is a shield  
for all those who  
take refuge in him."

-Psalm 18:30-

1. In what ways do you display the love of God in the people around you?
2. Write down a time when you did the right thing for someone else.
3. Why is it hard to do the right thing? Or why is it hard for us to trust God?

**CAMP STAFF TESTIMONY**

"Last summer was my first time as a Cabin Leader. Going into the summer, I knew I was on the younger end of staff and I wasn't quite sure how ready I was to be leading a cabin of girls.

Everyday served as both a struggle and a blessing. With every uphill climb I encountered, God proved faithful through it all! He provided me patience when I most needed it, rest when sleep wasn't quite enough, and peace to know that He has me right where He wants me. He filled me with an overwhelming joy for my job and such a strong love for every camper that was placed in my cabin. I am so beyond excited that God has me on staff as a Cabin Leader. Thank you, Lord for never giving up on me."

-Nakeyia-

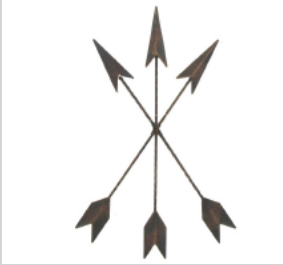
**GOD PROVIDES ME WITH EVERYTHING I NEED**

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

God provides me  
with everything that  
I need

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 22:1-19



Has there ever been a time in your life when you needed something? Maybe a glass of water on a hot day, or a good snack after a long day at school? The Bible teaches us that our biggest need of all is to be completely dependent on God.

From the very beginning of Adam and Eve, God knew that sin would keep us separate from a relationship with Him. Yet, God had a plan to send His only son- Jesus to die on the cross so that separation could be removed as a barrier.

There are times in our life when we are going to be in need. When our desire is going to point our lives and invest in things that don't give us life. However, our biggest need is to be sure that we have been accepted by God through a relationship with Jesus.

Abraham also needed God to provide for him. God showed up in a powerful and unexpected way

**BIBLE STORY**

**Look Up and Read Genesis 22:1-19 to see how God provided for Abraham**

Ok, so you might think God asking Abraham to sacrifice his own son sounds pretty weird. But God was at work in a much bigger way.

First, God was using this to see if Abraham really trusted God.

Second, God would use Abraham's story to foreshadow the story of Jesus many years later. Abraham knew that if his son-Isaac stood any chance of being saved, it would take God's provision to make it happen. And God came through just like He always does.

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER**

**WRITE** your answers to the following questions below:

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

God provides me  
with everything that  
I need

**CAMP STAFF  
TESTIMONY**

"I think one of the times that God showed up in my life was when I was graduating high school. I had a lot of anxiousness because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do next year. He really helped ease my worries and guided me. I felt his presence the most in that time and He helped lead me to Trout where I became an intern. I would say if you feel unsure in your life- lean on God because He will help you and He'll reveal His plan to you in his time."

-Emilee-

1. How do you think Abraham felt after God asked him to sacrifice Isaac?

2. How did God provide the Abraham?

3. Write down a few times when God provided for you:

**THE "ARROW UP" SUMMARY**

- Obedience was important for Abraham's relationship with God
- Like Abraham, God has provided you with many blessings
- Trusting the Bible as an authority in your life
- Helping a friend get through a difficult time
- Learning to embrace the people in your life with their flaws

**MEMORY VERSE**

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."**

**-JOHN 3:16-17-**

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

My life is best lived  
in God's timing

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 16:1-16

**CAMP STAFF  
TESTIMONY**

"My family moved to a new town pretty far away from my old home. It was really difficult for me to go to a new school where I didn't know anyone. In time, God brought people into my life who valued me. Joining a youth group at a church in my new town helped as well by giving me a good environment to meet people. Jesus sees the value in each of us."

-Hannah-

**MY LIFE IS BEST LIVED IN GOD'S TIMING**

Sometimes in life the hardest thing to do is to wait. To wait in line during lunch, to wait to open your Christmas presents, to wait to see if you passed your test, to wait on God.

Waiting is hard, but God can use times of waiting for good in our lives! When you learn to lean into your relationship with God during times of waiting, God teaches us patience. And being patient on God's timing in our lives means we are willing to wait for God's BEST in our lives!

If we try to rush God into our timing, we may miss out on what God may have had for us. Think of it like going on a road trip: Your final destination maybe the Pacific Ocean, but what if you just slept the whole trip? You'd miss the Rocky Mountains, or Great Plains, or desert sunsets, and much more! You will still get to the ocean, but you will miss so many awesome sights along the way!

God's timing is not always our timing. When we ask God for something sometimes he says, "Yes!" And sometimes he says, "No!" (Remember, God is perfect and knows what's best for us, even better than what we think it best for us!)

You may not know what you want to be when you grow up or where to go to college and that is okay. As you live your life with God each day, he will reveal new things as you journey through life with Him. So if you can't seem to "grow

**BIBLE STORY**

**Look Up and Read Genesis 16:1-16 to see how God's timing mattered for Abraham**

As Abraham journeyed with God, he made mistakes along the way. Living in an "Arrow Up" fashion doesn't mean that we don't make mistakes.

Abraham knew God had promised him children. But Abraham grew tired of waiting for God to fulfill what He had promised, so Abraham

and Sarah took matters into their own hands. As a result- Abraham got his wish (sort of) a Son named Ishmael.

**BUT** at the expense of losing his maid servant-Hagar as her relationship with Sarah became too toxic for them to remain together.

When it comes to your life. There are probably a TON of things you cannot wait for!-A driver's license, the ability to date, not having a bedtime or curfew, etc.

But when you try to demand your own way (like Abe did) by ignoring your parents, having secret dating relationships, or ignoring God's Word- you can bet that it will always end up much worse than you originally imagined.

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER

**WRITE** your answers to the following questions below:

1. What is something that you are most looking forward to about growing up?
2. Agree or Disagree: It's easy for me to wait on God's timing. Why or why not?
3. Write down a time when you had to wait for something. Why was it hard for you to wait?

### THE BOTTOM LINE

My life is best lived in  
God's timing

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 16:1-16

### CAMP STAFF

### TESTIMONY

"My family moved to a new town pretty far away from my old home. It was really difficult for me to go to a new school where I didn't know anyone. In time, God brought people into my life who valued me. Joining a youth group at a church in my new town helped as well by giving me a good environment to meet people. Jesus sees the value in each of us."

-Hannah-



**THE BOTTOM LINE**

My life is best lived  
in God's timing

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 16:1-16

**CAMP STAFF  
TESTIMONY**

"I had this dream of living and working in Canada. Leading up to me actually moving everything started to fall through. I started freaking out. In those moments, God gave me peace. I knew it was going to be ok I just had to be patient. God impressed upon me the desires of His heart for me and it wasn't what I expected. I've learned that His way is always better than my way.

-Ren-

4. How should have Abraham responded to his desire to have children?
5. Now that you've learned how Abraham was pointing his life like an arrow towards God, how is your life going to be different? How can you be an arrow that points up to God?

**THE "ARROW UP" SUMMARY**

- Waiting on God's timing is ALWAYS best
- Your journey with God is just as important as your destination
- Don't ignore God's instructions in His Word.

**MEMORY VERSES FOR TODAY**

"Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD." -Psalm 27:14-

"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in this his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!" -Psalm 37:7-

**CAMP STAFF TESTIMONY**

"When I was in Middle School, I struggled a lot with friends. I didn't know who was or wasn't a true friend to me. I didn't know who would have my back or who would want to spend time with me. Sometimes I still struggle with those doubts.

Then and now God always meets me where I'm at. He reached out His hand to me and said I am always here for you. God sent people into my life to fill the loneliness and remind me that I am loved and valued."

-Sarah-