

Walking With God

Patriarchs: Abraham & Sarah

UNIT

1

Lesson
Three



Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...
Dear Lord, help us to welcome new things into our lives every day and learn from our experiences. We trust that life will lead us in interesting directions. We know that your love and guidance can help everything we do bring us closer to you. Amen.

Hye-Q

What do you remember about Noah and the Ark? Discuss the following questions with your teacher:

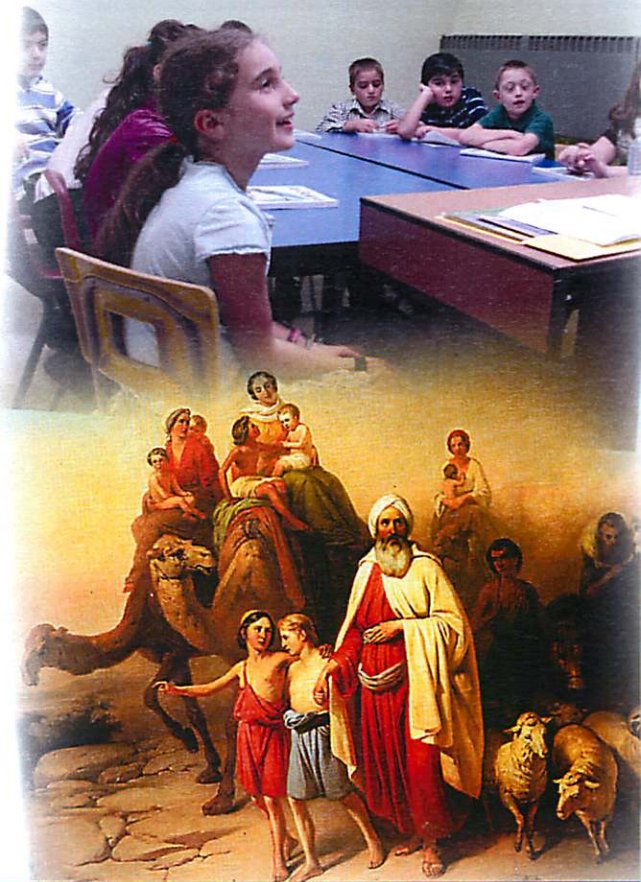
- How did Noah know how to build the Ark?
- Why was Noah so sure that the Ark would save him, his family, and the animals?
- How did Noah and his family know that the flood was over and that there was land nearby?

Daily Bread

Change can be scary and difficult. But sometimes, we must change what we are used to being or doing in order to follow God and make our lives better.

Abram was a descendant of Noah. He and his wife, Sarai, lived in a place called Haran all of their lives. They had servants and livestock and their nephew, Lot, lived with them. They had no children of their own. God had great plans for them, so he asked Abram to leave his home and move to a place called Canaan. This was a very scary thing to do in those days. Abram could not look up Canaan on a computer to find out what it was like. There was no way to learn if the weather was good there, or if there was enough food and water to keep his household alive.

Abram trusted God, so even though he was unsure of how this change would turn out or how long it would take, he followed God's word. It took many years and adventures for Abram and Sarai to finally get to Canaan



and be settled there. Their experiences were not always easy, but they trusted God and were persistent. God changed his faithful servants' names to Abraham and Sarah. He made a covenant with Abraham, promising him that he would be "father of many nations."

Abraham questioned this since he did not have any children. Then God promised him that his wife, Sarah, would have a son. At first, neither he nor Sarah believed it. They thought they were too old to be able to have a child. But, after a few years of living in Canaan, Sarah did have a healthy son whom they named Isaac.

Abraham and Sarah were patient and in the end God delivered to them a family and their own land. So even though they left what they were used to, they ended up with something better.

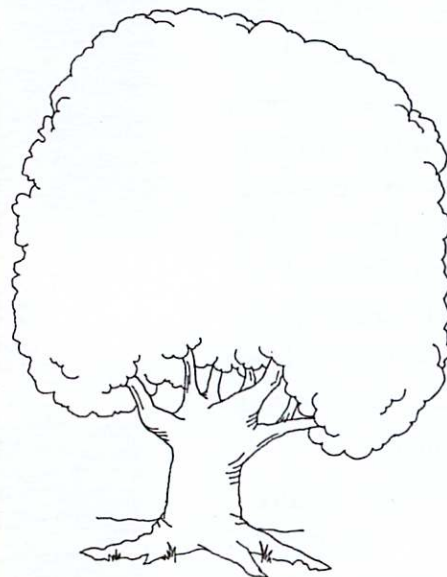


In the time of Abraham and Sarah, the land of Canaan was located between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. There were several different tribes of people living in that area then.



CELEBRATE WITH GOD

Faith Family Tree



SCRIPTURE SOURCE

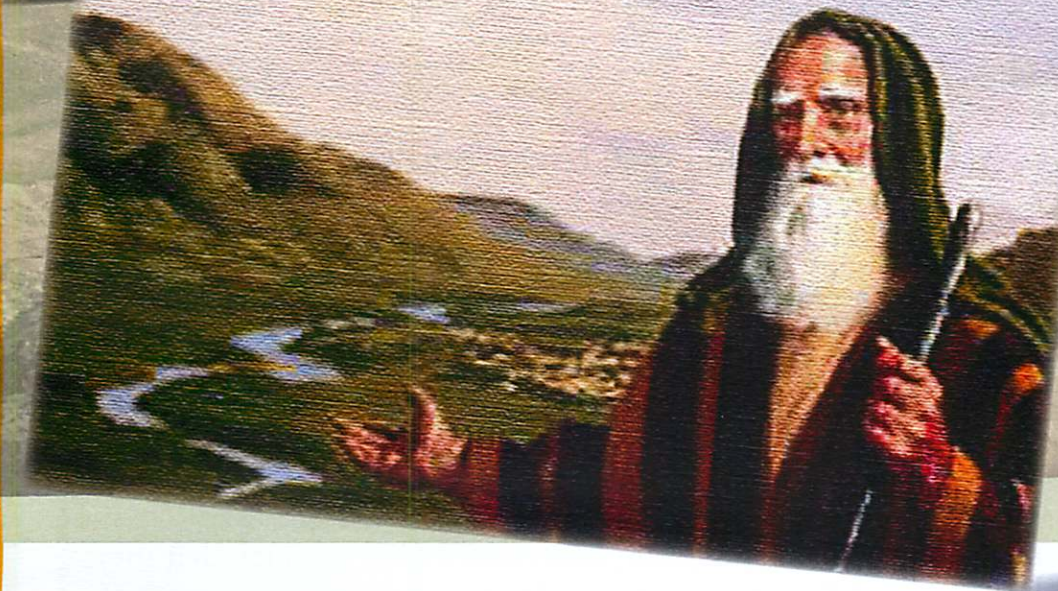
"Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him."
Genesis 18:18

In this verse, God tells Abraham that his descendants will touch everyone on earth, but he does not say exactly how. Their descendants became the Jewish people and the land of Canaan became Israel. Also, God's promise created the community where Jesus was born, many years after Abraham and

Sarah's lifetime.

Jesus was one of their descendants.

Now, in the 21st century, we can see how all the nations of the earth have been blessed by the descendants of Abraham.



In the Armenian Tradition

King Drtad and Queen Ashkhen

The King and Queen of Armenia made a very bold decision for their country to become a Christian nation. There were many people in Armenia who had become Christian since the time of Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew, but there were more people who worshiped pagan gods. Armenia's King Drtad was pagan. Christians had to hide that they believed in Jesus because King Drtad had banned the religion and imprisoned or executed those who claimed to be Christian.

It was St. Gregory the Enlightener who taught Drtad and his wife, Queen Ashken, about Jesus and baptized them. This was the beginning of a big change in Armenia, which was to become the first Christian nation in 301 A.D. We'll learn more about that story next week!





BIBLE BYTES

Sojourn is a word that is used often in the Old Testament, especially in the story of Abraham and Sarah. It means to go to a place to stay a little while or to visit. During Abraham and Sarah's journey to Canaan, they stayed in many places, knowing that they were not going to settle there. The people in those places called them "sojourners."

Well Versed

"As for me, this is my covenant with you; you shall be the father of many nations."
Genesis 17: 4

Family Focus

Today, we learned about the life of Abraham and Sarah, who trusted God so much that they left everything behind to begin a new life and generations of believers in the one true God. Their willingness to change and grow under God's guidance was a great inspiration to the class. We also read about the change of heart in King Drtad and Queen Ashkhen that led to Armenia's conversion to Christianity, becoming the "first Christian nation."

Living Your Faith

1. Discuss the changes in your family that have turned out good for you, such as the birth of a new baby or moving to a new place. Or tell your children how you have been patient, maybe over years of hard work or turmoil, to arrive in a great place. Examples might be being in school for many years in order to graduate or saving money in order to take a special trip or buy a home.
2. Abraham and Sarah were once called Abram and Sarai, but God changed their names when he invited them into a new covenant with him. Ask your child what Abraham and Sarah mean (they learned in Sunday School). Every Armenian priest receives a new name when he is ordained. Find out the original name of *your* priest.