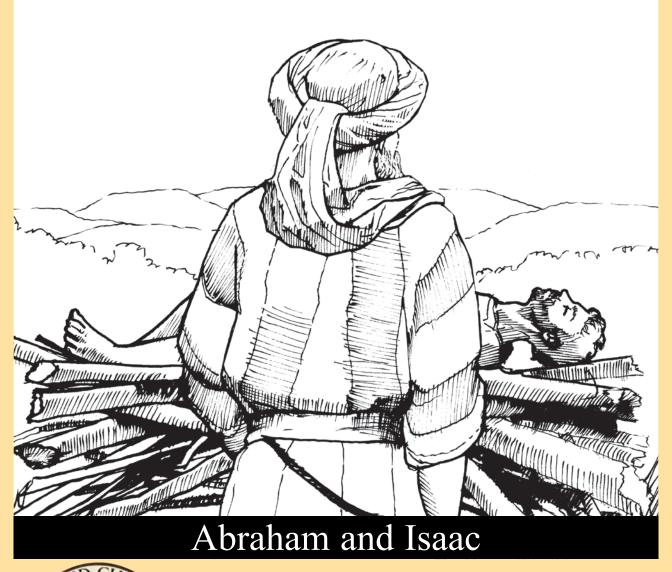
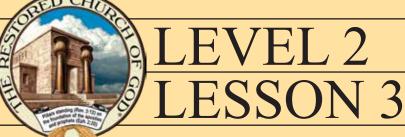
CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS





Abraham

In Lesson 2, we learned of Noah and the Flood. More than 350 years after the Flood, God began to work with a man named Abram.

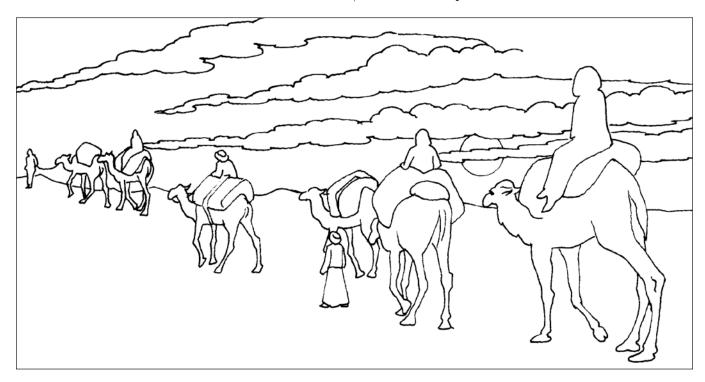
Abram lived in Ur with his family. He owned many sheep, oxen, donkeys, camels and other animals. He also had many servants.

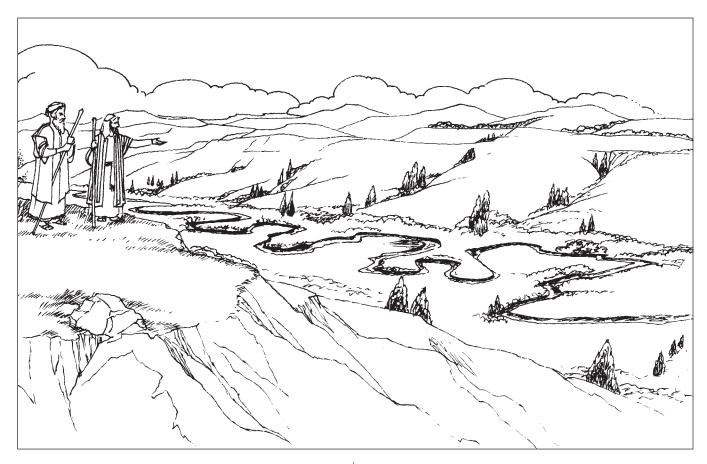
One day, God told Abram to leave his home and country. God told him that He would bring him to a special land. He also said that Abram's children would become a great nation.

Abram Departs

Abram did not ask questions. He simply obeyed God. He took his family and all his belongings and left Ur. He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. Abram was 75 years old when he left.

This was a big move for Abram. But he obeyed God with his whole heart. Abram is an example for all of us today.





Abram traveled to the land of Canaan. God promised to give this land to him and his children. But the people in this land did not obey God. Because of this, there was no rain in Canaan, which limited their food supply.

This famine in the land caused Abram to go to Egypt. After a time, he came back to Canaan.

Lot also had a wife and many animals. Both Abram and Lot had so many animals that they needed more space and had to settle in separate lands. Abram gave Lot the choice of where he would like to live.

Lot and his family settled among the cities of the plain.

Promises from God and Tithing

Abram met Melchizedek, the King of Salem. Abram knew that Melchizedek was the Priest of God, so he gave Melchizedek a tenth of all he owned. Abram obeyed God's command to tithe.

All that we have comes from God. He gives us much! However, we are expected to give one-tenth back to Him. That is why we tithe to God's Church. If your parents give

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you 10 dollars, you give 1 dollar to God through His Church. (Ask your parents to explain to you what a tithe is.)

Abram began to grow old and he did not have any children. He asked God if he would ever have children. God told Abram that he would.

God also told Abram to look toward the sky and count the number of stars. There were too many for Abram to count. God promised that his family would become His children great. would have lots of children for many centuries to the point that his family would be as many as the stars in the sky! What a great promise!

Sarai was also growing older. She had passed the age

when women can have children. She did not know how she would have a child.

She told Abram to take her handmaid, Hagar, as a wife. Sarai hoped that Hagar could have a child for Abram. In those days, men sometimes had more than one wife, but it always led to difficulty. Hagar did have a son. His name was Ishmael.

Quite a few years later, God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Abraham means "father of many nations." God was going to make many nations out of the children of Abraham's family.

God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Sarah means "princess."

Sodom and Gomorrah

One day, Abraham was sitting at his tent. Three men appeared. Abraham knew that two of these men were angels. He also knew the other man was a member of the God Family—the Word—who would later become Jesus Christ.

Abraham welcomed his guests. He invited them to rest. He also had his servants prepare a meal for them.

These men told Abraham that Sarah would have a son. Sarah overheard what they said. She could not believe it! But both Abraham and Sarah were very happy.

The two angels were sent to Sodom by the Word. People in Sodom did not obey God and the city was full of sin. The Word told Abraham that he was going to destroy Sodom with fire.

Abraham knew that Lot lived in Sodom and wanted to save him. Abraham asked, "If there are 50 people who obey God in Sodom, will you save the city?" The Word answered, "Yes, I will save the city if there are 50."

"If there are 45 people who obey God, will you save the city?" Abraham asked. Again, the Word agreed to save the city if there were 45 people.

Abraham then asked, "If there were 40, would you save the city?" He asked about 30, then 20, then, "If there were only 10, would you save the city?" The Word said, "I will not destroy the city if there are 10 people who obey God."

The angels arrived in Sodom. Lot met the visitors and welcomed them

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into his home. The angels knew that the city was filled with evil people. They warned Lot and his family, "Get out of Sodom! It will be destroyed by God!" They added, "Don't stop and don't look back." Only Lot, his wife, and two daughters listened.

When Lot and his family were running from Sodom, his wife looked

back and she instantly turned to salt! She did not learn the lesson to obey what God says to do. She looked back because she missed the city.

Isaac Is Born

Soon after, Sarah had a son, just as God said she would. His name was Isaac. At 100 years old, Abraham



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finally had a son! Everyone was very happy except for Hagar.

She became jealous because she felt that Abraham spent more time with Isaac. Hagar said bad things and Sarah overheard them.

Sarah went to Abraham and said, "Hagar and Ishmael must leave!" Abraham was very sad and worried. But he knew that his family would not be happy together. The next day, Abraham said goodbye to Hagar



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and his son Ishmael. But God told Abraham that He would look after them.

Abraham's Test

Many years passed. As Isaac grew up, Abraham taught him to keep God's laws.

Isaac became a young man. One day, God decided to test Abraham. God wanted to know if Abraham would trust God—always! God told Abraham to "take your son to Moriah and sacrifice him as a burnt offering."

This shocked Abraham! For years, God had told him that He

would produce a great people through Isaac. But Abraham knew that God loved him and knew what was best for him. He also knew that God would keep His promise.

The next morning, he left with Isaac and a couple of servants. Three days later, they arrived. He told his servants to wait at the bottom of the mountian while he and Isaac went up to the place of sacrifice.

When they came near the mountain, Isaac asked where the lamb was for the sacrifice. Abraham answered, "God will provide."

When they arrived at the place, they built an altar and set the wood

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in place. Abraham explained God's command and bound Isaac and placed him on the altar. Isaac may have been scared, but he trusted God and his father. Abraham was ready to obey God's command.

Just then, a voice said, "Do not kill your son or do anything to him. Because you are willing to give up

beg

your son, I now know that you fear God and will obey Him."

Abraham passed the test! He was overjoyed! God provided a ram that was caught in the thicket nearby for the offering instead of Isaac.

A Wife for Isaac

Several years passed and it was time for Isaac to find a wife. Abraham sent his chief servant to Abraham's homeland. He knew that God did not want Isaac to marry a woman from Canaan. He knew that Isaac should marry someone of his own race. Abraham desired a wife for Isaac who would obey God and keep His laws. So the servant took 10 camels and began his journey.

After several days of traveling, the servant came to the city of Nahor. Outside the city was a well and his camels needed water. The servant prayed, "God of Abraham, please show me who should be Isaac's wife. May this woman come and help me give water to my camels."

Before the servant finished praying, a very beautiful woman arrived. Her name was Rebekah. The servant asked her for a drink. She gave him a drink and also offered to give water to his camels.

The servant knew that God had answered his prayer. He gave her some gold jewelry and asked her who her parents were. She answered, "I am Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel and granddaughter of Nahor." Nahor

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was Abraham's brother. This meant that Isaac and Rebekah were second cousins.

The servant explained to Rebekah why he was there. She ran home to tell her family. Rebekah's brother, Laban, invited the servant to stay the night. After talking, Rebekah's family felt that this event was from God. God had answered the servant's prayer!

The next morning, Rebekah and the servant were ready to go back to Abraham and Isaac. Rebekah's family wanted her to stay a little longer, but Abraham's servant insisted that they should return as soon as possible. The choice was Rebekah's and she decided to go at once.

In the next lesson, we will talk about Rebekah meeting Isaac and the life they shared together.

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BIBLE MEMORY: Genesis 12:2-3

