

# ABRAHAM: The friend of God

*California Kid's Camp 2008 ~ Teen Workbook*



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent  
Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Marking Sheet

This page is reserved for your counselor, who will be reviewing and marking your workbook.

## Overall Comments

## Workbook Completed? \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Completed?

The following questions were not completed or need more work. Please finish them, and return to your counselor. Let your teacher or counselor know if you need help.

## **Section 1 - SPECIAL PROJECTS**

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Choose one project – either from the Type 1 list, or the Type 2 list on the following page...

### **Type 1: Essay**

The following suggested topics would be suitable for an essay of about 3 typed pages.

Some suggested topics (in no particular order):

1. A character study of one of the following:

- Abraham
- Sarah
- Lot
- Hagar and Ishmael
- Melchizedek

2. God's Providence – The Work of the Angels in the Life of Abraham.

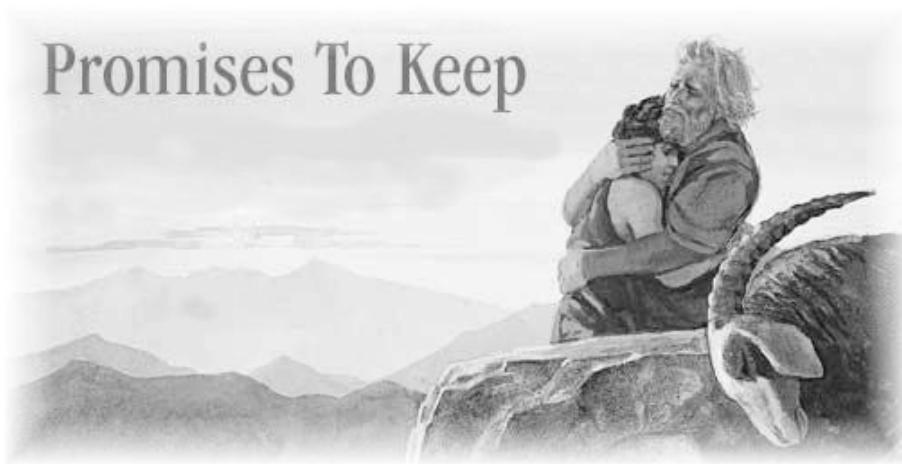
3. Faith demonstrated in the life of Abraham.

4. "Great and Precious Promises" made to the Fathers of Old.

5. Building Altars and Digging Wells. (Try to find out why these two activities seemed to play such an important role in the lives of these men.)

7. Do a review of current events in the Middle East. How does the Arab/Israeli conflict have its roots in the nations that have descended from Abraham?

## Promises To Keep



## Type 2: Creative Projects

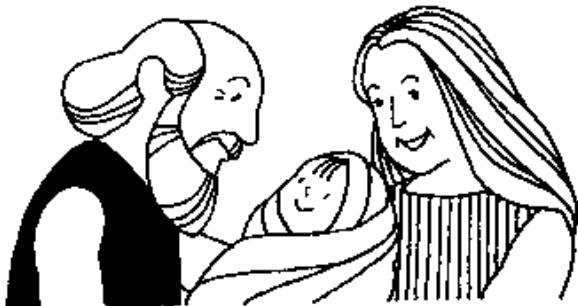
Some of you may not want to do an essay and would rather let your creative energy be channelled in another direction.

There are many very dramatic scenes in this story.

Be sure you know the Biblical account very well and bring out the details and lessons. You will need to do just as much research and study for a creative project as for a talk or essay.

Here are some ideas:

1. Dramatization. Write a skit or short play based on one section or event from the life of Abraham. The skit may be historical or a modern day setting based on the principles from these chapters.
2. Draw a picture or make a model from one of the incidents in Abraham's life. Some examples:
  - The events on Mount Moriah.
  - Abraham entertaining the angels.
  - Abraham's sacrifice when making the covenant with God.
  - A ziggurat of Ur.
3. Create a board game or maze based on Abraham's journey and questions about his life.



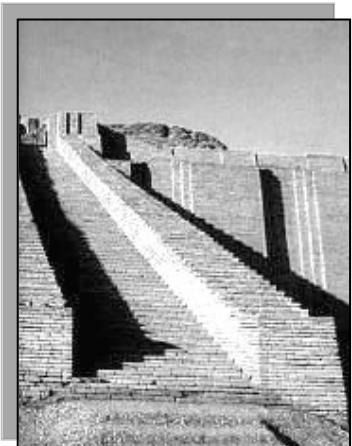
# GENESIS

## chapter eleven

1. Draw a family tree for Abram (Abraham), starting at Terah, including his brothers and their children, based on Genesis 11:27-32.

BOOK “Ur”: Hebrew אור means ‘light’ or ‘fire’; probably because it was known as the moon city or perhaps from the worship practised there. Most scholars are of opinion that the ancient inhabitants of this region were igniclists or worshippers of fire. It was the largest city of Shinar or northern Chaldea, and the principal commercial centre of the country as well as the centre of political power. It stood near the mouth of the Euphrates, on its western bank. It was formerly a maritime city, as the waters of the Persian Gulf reached this far inland. Ur was the port of Babylonia, whence trade was carried on with the dwellers on the gulf, and with the distant countries of India, Ethiopia, and Egypt. It was abandoned about B.C. 500, but long continued, like Erech, to be a great sacred cemetery city, as is evident from the number of tombs found there. Ur was consecrated to the worship of Sin, the Babylonian moon-god.”

(Excerpted from Easton’s Bible Dictionary and Adam Clarke’s commentary.)



2. Ur of the Chaldees was a very important city of the ancient world.

SMILEY Describe what it may have been like to live in such a city, and how Abraham may have felt being asked to leave it. (11:31)

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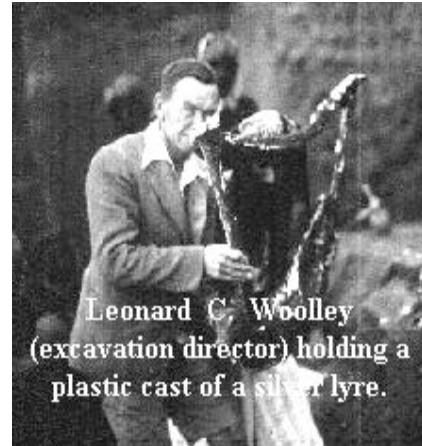
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3. Ur is now known as Orfa; that is, "light," or "fire." The name was probably derived from its being devoted to the rites of fire-worship. Terah and his family were also infected with idolatry like the rest of the inhabitants (See Joshua 24:15). ☺ Why might it be significant that Abraham's background was one of idolatry? How is this true for us today?
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 The ruins of Ur were found and first excavated by the British consul J.E. Taylor, who partly uncovered the ziggurat of Nanna. The British Museum began excavations there in 1919 (directed by Sir Leonard Woolley) and was joined later by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. The expedition completely excavated the ziggurat, the entire temple area at Ur, and parts of the residential and commercial quarters of the city. The most spectacular discovery was the Royal Cemetery. It contained art treasures of gold, silver, bronze, and precious stones.

It doesn't seem possible now that Ur was ever the site of the great civilization that Woolley was later to describe: 'a city surrounded by bounteous gardens with groves of figs and dates and tall palms standing by mathematically straight irrigation canals, a city of temples and warehouses, workshops and schools, spacious villas and the towers they called ziggurats, all within a great wall overlooking the waters of the Euphrates.'



Leonard C. Woolley  
(excavation director) holding a  
plastic cast of a silver lyre.

4. Sarai (Sarah) is said to be 'barren', and without child (Genesis 11:30). There are many faithful women in the Bible who were barren. Make a list of as many as you can think of, along with their first child. (Provide a reference if you can)

“Barren” Mother	“Miraculous” First Child	Reference
Sarah	Isaac (Gen. 21:2-3)	Genesis 11:30

5. Genesis 11:31 says that Terah “took” Abraham and left Ur. Stephen, in Acts 7:2 says God told Abraham to leave Ur. (See also Genesis 12:1). Try to reconcile these two ideas.

- a. Whose decision was it to leave Ur? Explain your reasoning.

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- b. Who did God “call”? Explain your reasoning.

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# GENESIS

## chapter twelve

1. God told Abraham to leave country, kindred and father's house. (Genesis 12:1).
  - a. ☺ Why do you think God asked Abraham to do this?

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- b. ☺ Is there a process involved here (i.e. country → kindred → father's house)? Explain.

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- c. ☺ What might be the lesson for us? (See Jesus' words in Matthew 10:37)

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2. Genesis 12:2-3 are the first of the promises made to Abraham, and are vital to our understanding of God's plan of salvation. List the 7 key components of the promise made here, and indicate if the promise is Personal (relating primarily to Abraham himself) or National (relating to Abraham's natural descendants).

Element of promise - Genesis 12:2-3	Personal or National?
1. "I will make of thee a great nation"	National
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

3. We are periodically given details about Abraham's age. Fill in the following timeline chart giving Abraham's age and the noteworthy event associated with that age.

**"Timeline in the Life of Abraham"**

Reference	Abraham's age	Key Event
12:4		
16:16		
17:1		
17:17		
17:24		
21:5		
25:7		

**Abraham's journey to the Promised Land**



4. Describe the emotions Abraham may have had during this journey. (11:31; 12:4-6)

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5. Abraham's first stop appears to have been "Sichem" (or "Shechem"). (Genesis 12:6)  
 This location is very important in Scripture.

a. Comment on events that occurred here from the following passages:

Reference	Significant Event
Genesis 33:18-19	
Genesis 35:4	
Genesis 37:12-14	
Joshua 24:1, 25, 32	
Judges 9 (see context of the whole chapter!)	

- b. ☺ What do you think is the significance of Shechem, as it relates to the people of God?

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6. ☒ The "plain" of Moreh (12:6): The Hebrew *Nwla* or 'elon' should be translated oak, not plain; the Septuagint translates *thn drun thn uqhlhn*, the lofty oak; and it is likely the place was remarkable for a grove of those trees, or for one of a great height and bulk.

Comment on the significance of this place from the following passages.

Passage	Comment
Genesis 35:4	
Joshua 24:26	
Judges 9:6	

Note: Abraham later settles near the "plain [oak] of Mamre." (Genesis 13:18; 14:13; 18:1)

7. In Genesis 12:7 Abraham's "seed" is promised the land! (cp. 13:17) To whom then does the land belong primarily? Why is this significant? (See Galatians 3:16)

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8. Abraham appears to build altars at important times. Comment on the key events related to Abraham (or his son/grandson) building an altar in the following passages from Genesis:

**“Building Altars to God”**

Reference	Key Event
12:7	
13:7-8	
13:18	
22:9	
26:25 (Isaac)	
33:20 (Jacob)	

- a. ☺ Why do you think Abraham built altars?

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- b. ☺ What may be a lesson for us? (For example, how should we mark key events or milestones in our lives today, like birthdays, baptisms, weddings, etc?)

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9. In Genesis 12:10 there is a famine in the land.

- a. What do famines represent in scripture? (See 1 Kings 8:35 - 40)

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- b. Why would God call Abraham to come to a land, and then allow a famine to occur?

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c. ☺ What lesson is there for us?

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10. ☺ Do you think Abraham shows a lack of faith by heading for Egypt at this time? Explain.

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11. Why did Abraham ask Sarah to say she was his sister? Did it demonstrate a lack of faith? Explain. See Genesis 12:11-15

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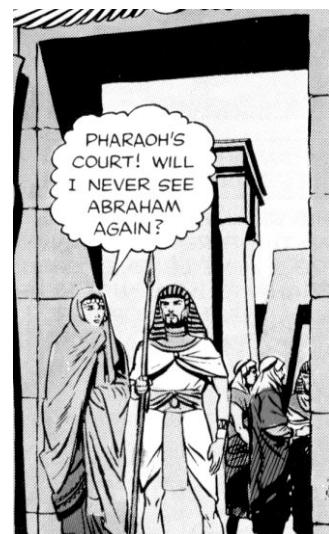
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12. ☺ Describe how Sarah might have felt as she was taken to “Pharaoh’s house”. (See also 1 Peter 3:6)

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13. ☺ Describe how Abraham might have felt as Sarah was taken to “Pharaoh’s house”.

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14. In this situation Abraham was blessed (v.16) and Pharaoh was cursed. (v.17). ☺ Why do you think God allowed this to happen?

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15. There were at least two consequences of Abraham's actions at this time. By going down to Egypt, and deceiving Pharaoh, he gained great wealth (see the list in 12:16).
- Among the gifts were "maidservants". Who may have joined the 'family' at this time, and what was the result? (See 16:1)

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- Abraham's increased material goods may have seemed a blessing (See 13:1), but what was the end result of this prosperity? (See 13:5-8)

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- What lessons can we learn from this incident, regarding the consequences of our actions?

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 Note: It is interesting that Abraham 'spoiled' Egypt and left with its treasures. This may be a foreshadowing of the Israelites exodus from Egypt many years later. (See Gen. 15:14, Ex. 12:35-36)

# GENESIS

## chapter thirteen

1. What does the word “Bethel” mean?

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2. In Genesis 13:3 Abraham returns ‘full circle’ to where he was at the beginning (Bethel). God had brought him to his ‘desired haven’ (Psalm 107:30). What is the lesson for us?

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3. Abraham and Lot had a problem (13:6-9). Describe their conflict, and Abraham’s proposed solution.

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4. ☺ Suggest some other possible solutions to the problem that may have allowed Abraham and Lot to stay together. Unity amongst brethren must always be a priority. (Psalm 133)

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5. Trace Lot's demise based on the following passages:

“Lot’s poor choices regarding Sodom”

Reference	Lot’s behaviour
13:10	
13:11	
13:12	
14:12	
19:1	
19:9	
19:29	

What are some lessons for us from Lot’s poor choices?

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Read Psalm 1:1-3. Can you spot a similar process? List it here. What can we learn from this?

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Can you find any other “processes” in the Bible?

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6. ☺ Why do you think it mentions in Genesis 13:7 that Canaanites and others dwelt in the land, in the context of the strife between Abraham and Lot? What sort of example should Abraham and Lot have been setting?

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7. Abraham allows Lot to choose the land he wants in Genesis 13:9.  
a. How does Abraham demonstrate the principle of 1 Corinthians 6:7?

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- b. What is the lesson for us today?

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8. How does Sodom parallel our day? (Genesis 13:13; Ezekiel 16:49; Luke 17:28)

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9. God reiterates the promises to Abraham after Lot departed (see 13:14-17). **Highlight** all the promises in your bible (use a coloured pencil), and note the **key features** of the promises in the chart below:

**“GOD’S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM”**

Reference	Key features of promise (add only ‘new’ details as you go)
12:2-3	
12:7	
13:14-17	
15:5	
15:18	
17:2-8	
22:17-18	

10. Abraham’s “seed” can be singular or plural. Prove this statement from scripture.  
(Hint: Genesis 22 and Galatians 3)

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11. Abraham's "seed" can be natural (by birth) or spiritual (by faith). Prove this statement from scripture. (Hint: Rom. 3 & 11)
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# GENESIS

## chapter fourteen

1. Make a chart of the names of those involved in the “Five Kings against Four” battle that takes place in Genesis 14.

Those that invaded	Those that ‘rebelled’

2. ☺ Why do you think this battle between nine Gentile kings is mentioned at this time?

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📖 “Dr Harris thinks Sodom and Gomorrah were built on the shores of the Dead Sea so that they could trade in naturally-occurring asphalt. This tarry substance was used in ancient times to waterproof boats and to hold stones together in buildings. But the ground next to the Dead Sea is very unstable, lying on the joint between two of the Earth's tectonic plates which are moving in opposite directions.

The area is vulnerable to earthquakes. Geological and archaeological evidence suggest that a huge one took place about four and a half thousand years ago - the time of the Biblical destruction. Flammable methane pockets lie under the Dead Sea shores; the earthquake would have ignited them, the ground would have turned to quicksand, and a massive landslide would have swept the cities into the water.

Experiments carried out at Cambridge University have backed up this account.”

([http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/1497476.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/1497476.stm))

3. ☺ Why do you think God allowed Lot to be taken captive? (14:12)

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4. What do we learn about the type of person Abraham was from the events recorded in Genesis 14:13-16?

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5. Comment on two key words used in verse 13:

- a.  “Hebrew” – meaning to ‘cross over’ from one region to another.
- i. How does this word describe Abraham?

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ii. What is the lesson for us?

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- b.  “confederate” – This is the word used for ‘covenant’ throughout scripture.

- i. ☺ How do you think these men could be ‘in covenant’ with Abraham?

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ii. What is the lesson for us?

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6. Abraham had 318 trained warriors in his ‘household’ (14:14).

- a. ☺ Why do you think he needed these men, as soldiers?

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- b. How many people do you think Abraham had in total in his ‘household’? (Think of wives and children for these men.)

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- c. What does this tell us about Abraham?

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- d. Read Gen. 18:19. What does this tell us?

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7. God promised Abraham LAND (13:15) – but Acts 7:1-5 says he didn't even inherit a square foot! He even had to buy a burying place for Sarah. (See Hebrews 11:8-10,13) What lesson do we learn from this fact?

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8. How does the phrase “In thee shall all nations of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3) encapsulate the Gospel message? See Galatians 3:8-9, 13, 16

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9. Abraham's promised seed is primarily Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). How can we become inheritors of the same promises? (see Galatians 3:27-29) Explain.

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10. ☺ Why do you think the King of Sodom is introduced in Genesis 14:17, but does not speak (nor is he even referred to again) until verse 21?

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11. What does the name Melchizedek mean? Why is this significant?

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12. Who else will be both a king and a priest? (cp. Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:1-4)

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13. When Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine (14:18), what future event was being signified? (See 1Cor. 11:26)

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14. “Most High God” is the title used by Melchizedek and Abraham in this section. Comment on the use of this Title of God in the following passages.

**“Most High God”**

Passage	Context
Genesis 14:18-22	
Numbers 24:16	
Psalm 78:56	
Daniel 3:26	
Daniel 5:18,21	
Mark 5:7; Luke 8:28	
Acts 16:17	

What do you think is the significance of this title for God?

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15. Why is it noteworthy that Melchizedek blessed Abraham and not vice versa? (14:19)

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16. “Tithes” were given in Genesis 14:20. See Hebrews 7:1-10.

a. What is a tithe?

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b. Who gave tithes to whom?

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c. Why is this significant?

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d. What do you think was tithed in this case?

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17. ☺ Abraham refused the goods offered to him by the King of Sodom (14:21-22).

e. Do you think the King of Sodom was being generous with this offer? Explain.

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f. Do you think Abraham deserved a share of the spoil? Explain.

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g. Why do you think he refused to accept the King of Sodom's offer?

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h. Abraham seems to have anticipated this offer, and had predetermined in his mind to refuse it (14:22-24). ☺ What is the lesson for us by Abraham's example here? (See also Daniel 1:8)

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BOOK “possessor”: Hebrew *hnq* ‘qanah’ a primitive root meaning to erect, i.e. create; by extension, to procure, especially by purchase (causatively, sell); by implication to own

18. Both Melchizedek and Abraham refer to God as the “**possessor** of Heaven and Earth”. What do you think is the relevance of this title of God? Explain.

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19. Abraham does not force his morals or conscience (regarding the spoils taken) on others. He allows his companions to take of the spoil if they want to, according to the King of Sodom’s offer (14:24). ☺ What is the lesson for us from this? (See Romans 14:5)

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# GENESIS

## chapters fifteen & sixteen

1. ☺ Why do you think God had to reassure Abraham that He was his “shield and exceeding great reward” at this time? (Genesis 15:1)

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2. ☺ Do you think Abraham showed a lack of faith by questioning God about the fact that he was childless? (15:2-3) Hint: God had **not** yet said clearly that the ‘seed’ would actually come from the loins of Abraham and Sarah.

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3. Some have suggested that this “Eliezer” (15:2) was the servant sent to find a wife for Isaac in Genesis 24. If this is the case, what do we know about the character of this man, and his relationship to the God of Abraham?

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4. Why was it significant that God **now** made it clear that the promised seed would come from Abraham’s “own bowels”? (15: 4)

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5. Abraham believed God's promises and it was "counted to him for righteousness" (15:6). How do the following passages comment on this important phrase?

Psalm 106:31: \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 4:16-25: \_\_\_\_\_

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6. ☺ Do you think it was wrong for Abraham to ask for assurances in verse 8? Explain.

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7. List the animals that Abraham was told to bring as an offering in Gen. 15:9 and comment on the significance of each of the animals :

Animal/Bird	Hint	Significance under the Law
	Num. 19:2-10; Deut. 21:3-6	
	Num. 15:27-29	
	Lev. 5:15-18	
	Lev. 12:6-8	
	Lev. 12:6-8	

 Note: "It is worthy of remark, that every animal allowed or commanded to be sacrificed under the Mosaic law is to be found in this list. And is it not a proof that God was now giving to Abram an epitome of that law and its sacrifices which he intended more fully to reveal to Moses; the essence of which consisted in its sacrifices, which typified the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world?" (Adam Clarke's commentary)

8. ☺ Why do you think Abraham was careful to "drive away" the fowl in verse 11?

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9. Abraham goes through a symbolic death in verse 12, indicated by the “deep sleep” that fell upon him.
- a. Why is this noteworthy? Hint: When would these prophecies be fulfilled?

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- b. Who else in scripture had a similar experience? (Ex. Gen.2:21; Dan. 8:18)
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10. Into what land did Abraham’s seed go, and become slaves? (See 15:13 and Acts 7:6-8)  
Why is this significant? (Hint: Hos.11:1 Matt. 2:15)

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11. Fill in the chart below based on the prophecies given in this section.

Prophecy (Genesis 15:13-16)	Fulfillment
“thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs”	
“shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years”	
“that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge”	
“afterward shall they come out with great substance”	
“thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age”	
“in the fourth generation they shall come hither again”	

12. What is meant by the phrase “for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”? (15:16)

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13. Why was God going to wait four generations before giving Abraham's seed the land?

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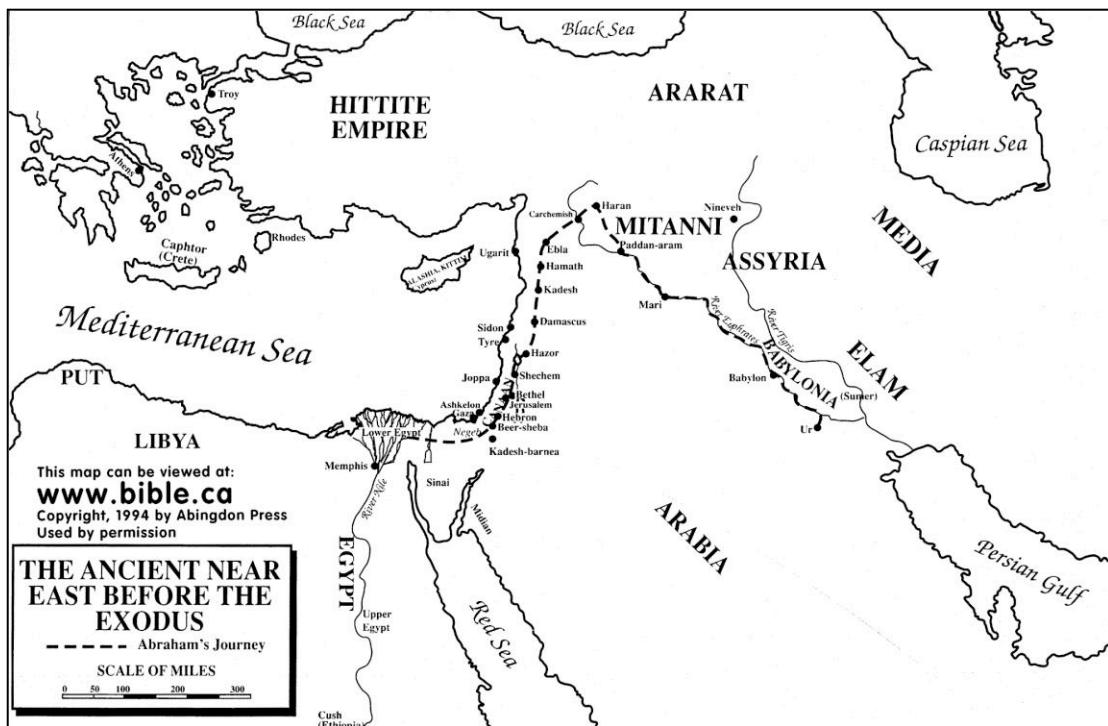
 Note: The four generations in the line of Levi where: Levi → Kohath → Amram → Aaron. (Ex. 6:16)

14. A lot of specific details are given about the sacrifice in Genesis 15:17. What did this have to do with the making of a covenant? (v. 18) (See Jeremiah 34:18)

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15. What is the extent of the land promised to Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21? How does it compare to the modern 'land of Israel'? Colour in each on the map below.



16. Why do you think Sarah had an **Egyptian** handmaid? (Genesis 16:1)

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17. "Abraham hearkened to the voice of Sarah" (16:2). How does this echo Genesis 3:17?

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18. Genesis 16:4 says “her mistress was despised in her eyes” in the KJV. The RSV has “And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.” (See Proverbs 30:21,23) Put this verse in your own words, commenting on who had the wrong attitude in this situation.

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19. What do you think Sarah was doing to Hagar in verse 6? Do you think she was wrong in doing this?

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20. ☺ Why do you think God sent an angel to Hagar in 16:7-9?

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21. God speaks of Ishmael’s future in Genesis 16:10 – 12.

- a. ☺ Why do you think God cared about Ishmael?

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- b. How were these promises to Ishmael fulfilled? (See Genesis 21:20; 25:12-18)

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- c. Who named Ishmael? Why might this be important?

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22. How old was Abraham when Ishmael was born? At this point how long has Sarah been childless in the land?

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23. Paul draws many lessons from the life of Abraham.
- d. What key doctrinal point is made in Romans 4:1-4, 16?

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- e. How is this principle demonstrated in the life of Abraham?

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# GENESIS

## chapters seventeen & eighteen

1. How much time has passed since the end of Genesis chapter 16 and the beginning of chapter 17? Why might this be significant?

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2. Note the phrase “between me and thee” (17:2, 7, 10, and 11). Colour it in your Bible. What does this indicate about the covenant God made with Abraham?

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3. Abram means “Exalted Father”. Abraham means “Father of many Nations”.
  - a. Why is this name change significant?

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- b. List others in scripture that had his/her name changed.

Original Name	New Name	Reference

4. In Genesis 17:6 Abraham is promised that ‘kings shall come out of thee’. Why is this **addition** to the promises made to Abraham important? Name some of these “kings”.

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5. In Genesis 17:8 it says of God, “I will be their God”. How is God’s name (Yahweh) incorporated into this phrase? (See Exodus 3:12-14)

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6. Circumcision ‘sealed’ the covenant made between God and Abraham.

- a. What did this rite symbolize? (See Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6)

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- b. Why don’t we need to practice circumcision today? (See Colossians 2:8-14)

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7. ☺ Why do you think God chose the 8<sup>th</sup> day for male children to be circumcised? (17:12)

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8. Each new generation had to renew the covenant individually, by being circumcised.  
☺ What is the lesson for us from this fact?

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9. ☺ Why do you think the punishment for remaining uncircumcised was death? (17:14)

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10. Sarai means “My Princess”. Sarah means “The Princess”.  
a. What is the significance of this name change?

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- b.  Note: Both Abram and Sarai had the same Hebrew (h) letter added to make the name change! Why might God have done this?
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11. The first time Sarah is **specifically** mentioned as the mother of the promised seed is in Genesis 17:15-16. Why is this significant?
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12. Abraham laughed (17:17) and is not rebuked. Sarah is rebuked when she laughed in chapter 18:12. ☺ Why do you think this is the case?  “laughed” Hebrew **צָחַק** ‘tsachaq’ – meaning: to laugh outright (in merriment or scorn); by implication: laugh, mock, play, make sport.
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13. God names the promised seed “Isaac” (17:19). Who else in scripture is specifically given his/her name by God?
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14. Compare and Contrast Isaac and Ishmael, by filling in the chart:  
“Isaac and Ishmael”

Both were...	Only Isaac ...	Only Ishmael ...

15. How old was Ishmael when he was circumcised? ☺ Why might this be important?
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16. Abraham entertains three “men” (18:2).

- a. At what point do you think he knew they were angels?
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b. What is the lesson for us? (See Hebrews 13:2)

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17. What can we learn from Abraham's eagerness to be hospitable? (18:3-5) See also Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:9.

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18. The angels eat the meal provided by Abraham and Sarah (18:8).

a. What does this tell us about 'immortal beings'? (See also Luke 24:41-43)

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b. What is the lesson for us? (See Luke 20:36)

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19. In the context of promising Sarah a son, Genesis 18:11 speaks of Abraham and Sarah's physical limitations regarding having children. Why do you think this point is being emphasized?

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20. Sarah called Abraham "lord" in her heart (18:12). What significant principle does Peter make of this in 1 Peter 3:6?

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21. “Is anything too hard for Yahweh?” (18:14). Give other scriptural examples that demonstrate this principle.

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22. What lesson do we learn from God’s summation of Abraham in Genesis 18:17-19? (See John 15:14-15)

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23. Note that three “men” came to Abraham (18:2) and two arrive at Lot’s house in Sodom (19:1). What happened to the third man/angel?

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24. How was Abraham able to communicate with “The LORD” (Yahweh) in verses 20-33?

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25. It says of God “I will go down now...” (18:21) (See also Genesis 11:5)

- a. ☺ Why do you think God would have to ‘go down’ to investigate conditions in Sodom?

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- b. How did God ‘visit’ Sodom in this Genesis 19?

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- c. What was the result of the investigation of Sodom? What did God find there?

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26. What can we learn from Abraham's 'negotiation' with God in Genesis 18:23-32?

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27. ☺ Why do you think Abraham went from hoping there were "fifty righteous" people, to thinking there might be only ten?

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28. ☺ Why do you think he stopped at 10 righteous people? (18:32)

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29. What attitude does Abraham demonstrate during this discussion with God? (18:23-32)  
What is the lesson for us regarding prayers and petitions to God?

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30. How does Abraham's attitude towards Sodom compare to the Prophet Jonah's attitude towards Nineveh? (See Jonah 3:10 – 4:4). ☺ What is the lesson for us?

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31. God was willing to spare the entire city of Sodom if He could find ten righteous people.

- a. What does this tell us about the character of God?

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- b. ☺ What is the lesson for us?

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# GENESIS

## twenty & twenty-one

1. In Genesis chapter 20 Abraham makes the same mistake regarding Sarah and a foreign king (this time with the Philistine Abimelech, not Pharaoh).  
☺ Why do you think a faithful man had trouble trusting that God would be with him in this situation? (20:2, 13)

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2. ☺ Why do you think God speaks so harshly to Abimelech when he did take Sarah ‘innocently’? (20:3)

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3. What kind of character does Abimelech appear to have? (20:4-6)

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4. How does Psalm 105:13-15 relate to the incident recorded here in Genesis 20?

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5. In what sense was Abraham a “prophet”? (20:7)

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6. Is Abimelech's rebuke in Genesis 20:9-10 justified? Explain.

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Comment on each of Abraham's 'excuses', and whether you think they are valid.

Abraham's 'Excuses'

'Excuse' (20:11-13)	Valid? Explain
"Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place"	
"and they will slay me for my wife's sake."	
"yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife."	
"when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother."	

- ☺ Did these 'excuses' justify Abraham's behaviour in this regard? Explain.

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7. Abimelech gives gifts to Abraham. Why do you think he did this? (20:14)

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8. In what way was Sarah “reproved”? (20:16) Be sure to compare other translations. (For example: To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; it is your vindication in the eyes of all who are with you; and before every one you are righted." RSV)

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9. Why do you think Abraham had to pray for Abimelech’s wife and maidservants to be healed by God? (20:17) See also Job 42:8-10

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10. Comment on the future dealings between Abraham and Abimelech. See Genesis 21:22-34

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11. Sarah bears a son in the beginning of Genesis 21.

- a. What may some people have insinuated, based on the fact that Sarah had just been in Abimelech’s palace?

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- b. Have you ever been in a situation that looked bad, but was really quite innocent? Did people make accusations against you? How did you feel?

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- c. What is the lesson for us? (See 1 Cor. 13:4-8)

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Note that it **clearly** says in 21:6 that Abimelech had no relations with Sarah. You may want to modify your answer to question 9 from this section.

12. What does “Isaac” mean? Why do you think they called him this? (21:3, 6) (cp. 17:19)

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13. How does Sarah demonstrate her faith in Genesis 21:6-7?

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14. Comment on examples of other women in scripture who rejoice in song or poetry at significant events. Can you find another one?

Passage	Woman's Name	Event
Exodus 15:20-21		
1 Samuel 2:1-10		
Luke 1:46-55		

15. ☺ Why do you think Abraham made a great feast when Isaac was weaned? (21:8)

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16. It says Ishmael “mocked” Isaac (21:9). See Galatians 4:29.

a. ☺ Why do you think he did this?

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b. What do you think he said?

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17. ☺ Do you think Sarah was right to demand that Hagar and Ishmael be “cast out”? (21:10)

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18. ☺ Why do you think Abraham was grieved about casting them out? (21:11)

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19. What is significant about the phrase “In Isaac shall thy seed be called”? (21:12)  
See also Romans 9:7; Hebrews 11:18

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20. ☺ Why do you think God also blesses Ishmael? (21:13)

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21. What became of Ishmael and his descendants?  
(See Genesis 25:9, 12-18; 28:9)

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22. Scripture is clear; the true (everlasting) promises are passed down from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob. List the key components of the promises mentioned in each verse in the chart:

Verse(s)	To Whom	Promises to the Patriarchs: Key components
26:3		
26:4		
26:24		
28:3		
28:4		
28:13-15		
35:10		
35:11		
35:12		

Comment on these promises as they relate to the 'here-and-now' and how they relate to the 'life-to-come'. (See 1 Timothy 4:8)

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23. What is ironic about Isaac later dwelling at Gerar and interacting with Abimelech? (See 26:1-13) Note: Abimelech may have been a title for the king, and not necessarily the same man Abraham had dealt with.

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24. What does Hebrews 11:11-12 tell us about Sarah's faith in relation to the birth of Isaac?

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25. What role did the covenant of circumcision play in the life of the Patriarchs? (See also Acts 7:8)

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# GENESIS

## twenty-two

1. It says “God did **tempt** Abraham” (22:1).

 “tempt” Hebrew: **תַּסְתַּחַ** ‘nacah’ - a primitive root; to test; by implication, to attempt:--adventure, assay, prove, tempt, try. (Strong’s Concordance)

- a. What does this mean “God tempted Abraham”? (See Hebrews 11:17; 1 Peter 1:7 and 1 Corinthians 10:13)

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- b. Compare James 1:13 where it says Gods tempts no man. How can you reconcile these passages? (That is, Genesis 22:1 and James 1:13)

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2. Abraham responds to God’s call by saying “Behold, here I am.” (22:1) This phrase is used by other faithful servants. Comment on the passages below:

“Behold, here I am”

Passage	Person	Comment
Isaiah 6:8		
Acts 9:10		

☺ Give an example of how you could respond in this way today?

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3. Abraham was told to go to the land of “Moriah”, to a mountain there (22:2)

- a. What is significant about the land of “Moriah”? (See 2 Chronicles 3:1)

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- b. What else happened at this place? (See also 2 Samuel 24:15-25)

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- c. Where is this place today?

4. Isaac was to be a “burnt offering” (22:2).

- a. What types of animals were to be used for a burnt offering under the Law? (See Leviticus 1)

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- b. How could Isaac be such an offering? (Cp. Judges 11:30-31)

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- c. Did God ever require human sacrifices? Explain. (See Deuteronomy 12:29-31)

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- d. Why do you think God asked Abraham to offer Isaac in this case?

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5. Abraham saw “the place” that God had told him about (22:3-4). Comment on the use of the phrase “the place”, and the details given.

Passage	Significance of “The Place”
Exo 15:17	
Exo 23:20	
Deut 12:5	
Deut 12:14	
Deut 16:16	
1Kings 8:29	
1Chr 21:22	
2Chr 3:1	
John 4:20	
John 19:41	

In summary; to what is ‘the place’ referring?

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6. Abraham “rose up early in the morning” (22:3). Who else rose early and for what purpose? Indicate if it was for a good (positive) or a bad (negative) activity. (The chart continues onto the next page)

“Rising Early”

Passage	Person	Reason	Good or Bad?
Gen 19:27			
Gen 28:18-22			
Exodus 8:20			
Exodus 32:1-6			
Exodus 34:4			
Jos 6:12, 15			
Jos 7:16; 8:10			
Jud 6:28			
Jud 7:1			
1 Sam 17:20			

2 Sam 15:2			
2 Chr 20:20			
2 Chr 29:20			
Job 1:5			
Psa 63:1			
Isa 5:11			
Jer 7:13, 25			
Dan 6:19			
Zep 3:7			
John 8:2			
Luke 21:38			
Mark 16:2			
Acts 5:21			

☺ What is the lesson for us?

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7. What is very interesting about Abraham's instructions to his servants in Genesis 22:5?  
(See Hebrews 11:19)

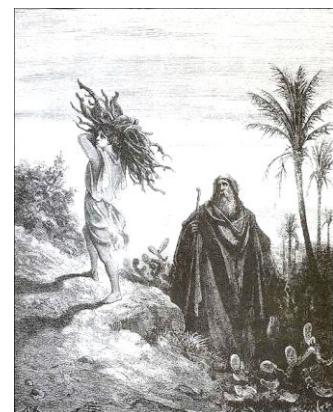
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8. “Laid the wood upon his son” (22:6). There are many parallels between the events in Genesis 22 and God offering his only Son Jesus in the Gospel accounts. Find as many similarities, and differences between the two incidents. (Supply references if possible.)

**The offering of Isaac compared to the offering of Jesus**

Parallels/Similarities	Reference	Contrasts/Differences	Reference
The son carried the wood	Gen.22:6; Joh 19:17	Jesus had help to carry the cross	Lu 23:26

9. “So they went both of them together” (22:6, 8). Describe the significance of this phrase.

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10. “God will provide” (22:8).

- a. What do you think Abraham meant by this?

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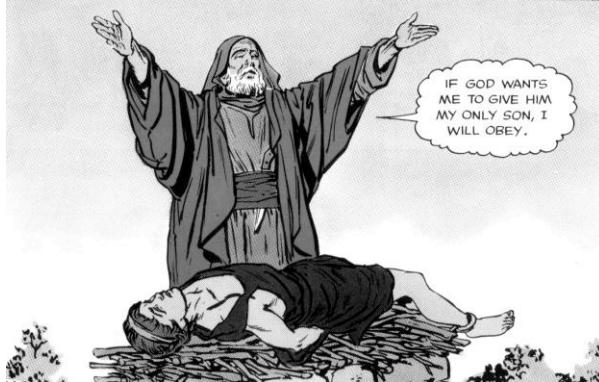
- b. How does “God provide” for us today?

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11. ☺ Do you think Abraham really intended to kill Isaac? (22:10). Explain:



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12. Why do you think Isaac is called “thy son, thy only son” several times in Genesis 22, when in fact Abraham did have at least one other son, Ishmael? (See Matthew 3:17)

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13. Why do you think it was a “ram” that God provided? (22:13) See also Leviticus 5:15-18.

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14. The ram is described as “caught in a **thicket** by his **horns**”? (22:13)

- a. ☺ Why a “thicket”? (❑ From a primitive root meaning to entwine.)

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- b. ☺ Why by his horns? (See Psalm 118:26-29; 132:17)

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15. Abraham called the place “Jehovah-jireh” (KJV) or “Yahweh-yireh” in some modern translations (22:14), which means  ‘Yahweh will see’ or ‘Yahweh will provide’.

- a. What is the significance of this name?

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- b. What was later to be ‘seen’ or ‘provided’ in this Mount? (Hint: Think about what else happened at “this place”.)

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16. It says of Abraham that he had “the gospel preached to him” (Gal. 3:8), and that he “rejoiced to see” Christ’s day and was glad. (John 8:56). Describe how the events of Genesis 22 could apply to these statements.

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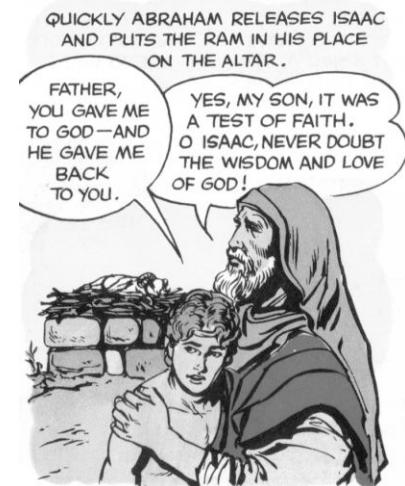
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17. ☺ How much do you think Abraham understood about God’s work to come in Christ? Explain.

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18. Is there anything new added to the promises God gives to Abraham in Genesis 22:16-18? (i.e. something not mentioned in previous promises.)

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19. ☺ Describe what Abraham's feelings/emotions might have been as they "went together" from Moriah, and rejoined the servants. (22:19)

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20. Describe how the events of Genesis 22 support the principle of "faith and works" interacting, as described by the apostle in James 2:21-23.

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# GENESIS

## twenty-three to twenty-five

1. Sarah died when she was 127 (23:1)
  - a. How long had she been in the “Land of Promise”?  
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  - b. How old was Abraham when Sarah died?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How old was Isaac at this time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Abraham did not own any land, not even enough to bury his wife. (23:4)
  - a. What lesson does Stephen make from this point in Acts 7:2-5?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What lesson is drawn from this in Hebrews 11:13-16?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. ☺ What is the lesson for us?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. ☺ Why do you think Abraham wanted to buy the field instead of accepting the offer to have it given to him? (23:5-16) See Genesis 14:21-23.  
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4. From the expressions used in Genesis 23:14-16, do you think 400 shekels of silver was a lot of money, or did Abraham get a good ‘deal’?  Note: 400 shekels is about \$300  
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5. List all the people buried in the Cave of Machpelah:

Passage	Person
Gen. 23:19	
Gen. 25:9	
Gen. 49:30-31	
Gen. 49:30-31	
Gen. 49:30-31	
Gen. 50:13	

Who is conspicuously absent from this list? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hint: Genesis 35:19-20)

6. What does Genesis 24:1 say about Abraham?

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7. What does v.3 tell us about Abraham's character? (Gen. 18:19)

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8. What lesson can we take from his statement in v.3?

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9. Read through v.58-67. How are these verses different than the way the world thinks today? How can we apply these verses in our thoughts for the future when we are looking for a partner in the Truth?

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10. Genesis 25 lists the sons of Abraham by Keturah. The descendants of many of these sons grew to be mighty nations.

 Note: “Abraham took a wife” (25:1) – rather, “had taken”; for Keturah is called Abraham’s concubine, or secondary wife (1Ch 1:32); and as, from her bearing six sons, it is improbable that he married her after Sarah’s death; and also as he sent them all out to seek their own independence, during his lifetime, it is clear that this marriage is related here out of its chronological order, merely to form a proper conclusion to the patriarch’s history. (JFB)

Comment on the significance of these nations in the following passages:



- a. Midian - Exodus 2:15; Judges 6-8

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- b. Sheba and Dedan – Ezekiel 38:13

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11. ☺ Why do you think Abraham “sent away” these other sons from Isaac?

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12. Why is it important that “God blessed Isaac” after Abraham’s death? (25:11) What does this tell us about the promises?

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13. Why are the promises to the fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) mentioned in the context of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt in Exodus 2:23-24?

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14. Why are the promises to the fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) mentioned in the context of the birth of John the Baptist in Luke 1:68-73?

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**Please remember to note any points that you found interesting in your Bible!!**