

3. Why did Abram and Lot move away from each other? (*They had so much livestock that they didn't have enough land, and their servants began to fight.*)

Activity Page

Read and apply the Bible verse. “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred” (Genesis 12:1).

Do the lesson.

Students follow Abram’s path as he travels to the Land of Canaan. Start with the first stone and color every other stone to find what God told Abram. Answer: “Abram, leave your country; leave your family. Go to a land I will show you. I will make a great nation of you.”

Lesson 6: Two New Names

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-17; 18:1-15

Teacher’s Story 6

Attribute: God is Faithful

Teacher Meditation: Many years before, God had given Abram several promises. Now God met with Abram in the form of a man. He not only gave them new names, He also told Abraham and Sarah when they could expect their promised son. This special mission with its special message still speaks to us today.

While God isn’t likely to meet us in human form, He will meet each of us as we open our hearts to Him. Not only has God given each of us a new name, He has also given each one a special mission with a special message to share. Are you sharing yours? *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).*

Complete Story to Read

Abram now lived in the Land of Canaan. That was the first step in God’s great plan to save the world from sin. When God called Abram to go to the Land of Canaan, He had promised him some things. At different times after that the LORD had added more promises to the first ones. God had kept some of those promises, but some others had not yet come to pass.

Of course, God had not told Abram when those things would come to pass, so he just had to wait. But as the years rolled by, sometimes Abram couldn’t help wondering how God could ever do what He said.

For example, God had said He would make a great nation of Abram. One night He called Abram to come outside. He said, “Look up at the stars. Count them if you can. That is how many descendants you will have.”

Another time He told Abram that no one would be able to count his descendants. They would be as the sand of the sea, innumerable.

Abram found that hard to believe, because he was almost a hundred years old and he and Sarai did not have one child.

When Abram turned ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him and said, “I am going to change your name to Abraham because you are going to be a father of many nations.” He also said, “You shall not call your wife Sarai anymore. Call her Sarah, for I will bless her and she will be the mother of nations. You and Sarah will have a son and you will name him Isaac. I will keep my promises to him just as I have to you.”

These words filled Abram with joy. From then on his name was Abraham and his wife’s Sarah.

One day as Abraham sat in the doorway of his tent, three men came along. At least they looked like men to Abraham. Actually they were two angels and the LORD Himself. Abraham begged them to stop in and rest and eat with them. The three agreed.

Abraham and Sarah rushed around and prepared a good meal for the strangers. Abraham served it to them under a shade tree.

After they had eaten, the LORD said to Abraham, “Sarah is going to have a son.”

Sarah heard those words, for she was standing inside the tent behind the men. And she laughed to herself because she did not believe what the man said. All her married life she had longed for a child and never had one. Now she was ninety years old, much too old to have a baby.

Of course, the LORD knew Sarah’s thoughts. He said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the LORD?”

Sara was very embarrassed. And she was afraid, for she had made no sound. How did that strange man know she had laughed inside?

“I didn’t laugh,” she said quickly.

“But you did laugh,” said the LORD.

Before the men went on, the LORD repeated His promises. Sarah really would soon have a little son to call her own. Nothing is too hard for God. Sarah had her first son when she was ninety years old. They named him Isaac. That little boy was the next step in God’s plan to save the world from sin.

Lesson Questions

1. Why was it hard for Abram to believe he would have many descendants? *(He and Sarah had no children and they were getting old.)*
2. Who were Abraham’s three visitors? *(The Lord and two angels.)*
3. What did Abraham and Sarah name their little son? *(Isaac)*

Activity Page

Read and apply the Bible verse. “Neither shall thy name anymore be called Abram, but ... Abraham. As for Sarai thy wife ... Sarah shall her name be” (Genesis 17:5,15).

Do the lesson.

Color the sections without dots to finish both sentences. Abram’s name became Abraham. Sarai’s name became Sarah.

Lesson 6

Color the sections without dots to find Abram and Sarai's new names.

Abram's name became...

Sarai's name became...

Neither shall thy name anymore be called Abram, but... Abraham. As for Sarai thy wife... Sarah shall her name be. Genesis 17:5, 15

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Lesson 7: Plans Move Ahead

Genesis 24

Teacher's Story 7

Attribute: God is Good

Teacher Meditation: As time moves on, we see God's plans moving ahead. Abraham's servant could have fretted and worried, worried and fretted, but that would not have accomplished much. Instead he committed his problem to his heavenly Father, and the details simply fell into place. What a beautiful picture of God's grace and goodness! Are you trusting your heavenly Father to work in spite of problems that you may be facing? "*Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass*" (Psalms 37:5).

Complete Story to Read

At last God's promise came true. After waiting so long, Abraham and Sarah had a little son. They named him Isaac, as God had said.

Now Sarah laughed for joy at God's goodness. And Abraham could see God's plan beginning to work. The LORD had promised that Abraham's descendants would be as the stars of the sky—innumerable. God would make that promise come true through Isaac.

Perhaps Isaac was rather lonely, for he grew up without brothers or sisters to play with. But we know his parents taught him about the true God. The Lord had chosen Abraham in the first place because He knew Abraham would teach his children to love the God of heaven. And Abraham did that.

But how about Isaac? Would he teach *his* children about God? Isaac had no children. He was not even married yet. He seemed perfectly happy living with his father and mother. God's plan was not moving ahead very fast.

Then when Isaac was thirty-seven years old, his mother died. How sad and lonely it was without Sarah. And Abraham began thinking.

In those days the parents often chose whom their children married. So it was not strange that Abraham began thinking about a wife for Isaac. He could think of no one in Canaan who would make a good godly wife for his son, for the women there were wicked and worshiped idols. Where could he find a woman who knew the true God?

Then Abraham thought of Haran. That is where he had lived so many years ago. When God called him to leave Haran and come down to Canaan, Abraham's brother had stayed there. His brother's family knew the true God. Maybe he could find a good wife for Isaac in Haran.

But Abraham was far too old to make the long hard trip to Haran. And he didn't want Isaac to go. Perhaps he was afraid that something would happen, and Isaac would not come back. Abraham talked to the head servant of his household. He told him to go to Haran and see if he could find a good woman who would come back to Canaan and marry Isaac.

The servant loaded ten camels with provisions for the trip and expensive gifts, and started for Haran. One day toward evening, after a long, tiring journey, the camel train arrived in the town Abraham had left many years before. The servant halted his weary animals near the well outside the city. Now what? How should he go about finding a wife for Isaac in a strange town where he knew no one?

Many women would soon come to the well to draw water for the night. Might one of them make a good wife for his master's son? If so, how could he tell which one? Even if he knew which one, what would he say to her?

The servant did not know the answer to any of those questions. God would have to show him. The servant began praying, "Oh, Lord God of my master, Abraham, please help me. I am standing here by the well. When

young women come to draw water, I will ask them for a drink. If one of them gives me a drink and offers to draw water for my camels too, please let her be the one You have chosen for Isaac.”

Before the servant had finished praying, a beautiful young woman came to the well with a pitcher on her shoulder. Her name was Rebekah. She went down to the well and filled her pitcher.

When she came up, the servant went to meet her and said, “Would you please give me a little drink?”

Immediately Rebekah let down her pitcher on her hand and gave him a drink. Then she said, “I will draw water for your camels too.” She emptied the pitcher into the trough and ran to the well to fill it again. Back and forth she hurried, pouring pitcher after pitcher into the watering trough. At last the thirsty camels stopped drinking.

Then the servant talked to Rebekah and learned that her family was related to Abraham. How amazing! Of all the people in Haran, the first person the servant met was from the very family Abraham had sent him to find. The servant bowed his head and worshiped the God who had so marvelously answered his prayer.

Rebekah invited the servant to go along to her home, and there he told her parents who he was and why he had come all the way from Canaan.

Her father said, “This thing is from the Lord. Rebekah may go with you if she wants to. You will have to ask her.”

They called Rebekah. “Will you go with this man?”

The girl answered, “Yes, I will go with him.”

The family quickly packed Rebekah’s things. The next morning she and her nurse set out for Canaan with Abraham’s servant. After another long journey they reached Canaan. There Isaac and Rebekah were married. Isaac loved Rebekah and was comforted after his mother’s death.

God’s plan had moved ahead another step.

Lesson Questions

1. Why didn’t Abraham want Isaac to marry a girl from Canaan? (*The women in Canaan were wicked and worshiped idols.*)
2. Who did Abraham send to find a wife for Isaac? (*He sent his head servant.*)
3. How did God show the servant which woman would be Isaac’s wife? (*God answered the servant’s prayer and sent a woman who offered to give his camels water.*)

Activity Page

Read and apply the Bible verse. “The servant . . . said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. . . . and she . . . gave him drink” (Genesis 24:17,18).

Do the lesson.

Color the picture of Abraham’s servant seeking a wife for Isaac.

