

Abram and Sarai

Genesis 12:1-5 Contemporary English Version (CEV) **The Lord Chooses Abram**

1 The Lord said to Abram:

Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. **2** I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. **3** I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.

4-5 Abram was seventy-five years old when the Lord told him to leave the city of Haran. He obeyed and left with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions and slaves they had gotten while in Haran.

Genesis 13:14-17 Contemporary English Version (CEV) **Abram Moves to Hebron**

14 After Abram and Lot had gone their separate ways, the Lord said to Abram:

Look around to the north, south, east, and west. **15** I will give you and your family all the land you can see. It will be theirs forever! **16** I will give you more descendants than there are specks of dust on the earth, and someday it will be easier to count the specks of dust than to count your descendants. **17** Now walk back and forth across the land, because I am giving it to you.

Questions

What promise did God make to Abram and Sarai? What promise(s) does God make to us? How can you tell that God is keeping those promises?

Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 17:1-8 Contemporary English Version (CEV) **God's Promise to Abraham**

1 Abram was ninety-nine years old when the Lord appeared to him again and said, "I am God All-Powerful. If you obey me and always do right, **2** I will keep my solemn promise to you and give you more descendants than can be counted."

3 Abram bowed with his face to the ground, and God said:

4-5 I promise that you will be the father of many nations. That's why I now change your name from Abram to Abraham. **6** I will give you a lot of descendants, and in the future they will become great nations. Some of them will even be kings.

7 I will always keep the promise I have made to you and your descendants, because I am your God and their God. **8** I will give you and them the land in which you are now a foreigner. I will give the whole land of Canaan to your family forever, and I will be their God.

Questions

What are all the details in the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah? (List them on the chalkboard.) Why do you think it was important that God changed Abram's and Sarai's names? How are we descendants of Abraham and Sarah? What does that mean for how we are related to God?

Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac

Genesis 18:1-15 **Contemporary English Version (CEV)** **The Lord Promises Abraham a Son**

1 One hot summer afternoon Abraham was sitting by the entrance to his tent near the sacred trees of Mamre, when the Lord appeared to him. **2** Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. He quickly ran to meet them, bowed with his face to the ground, **3** and said, "Please come to my home where I can serve you. **4** I'll have some water brought, so you can wash your feet, then you can rest under the tree. **5** Let me get you some food to give you strength before you leave. I would be honored to serve you."
"Thank you very much," they answered. "We accept your offer."
6 Abraham quickly went to his tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Get a large sack of flour and make some bread." **7** After saying this, he rushed off to his herd of cattle and picked out one of the best calves, which his servant quickly prepared. **8** He then served his guests some yogurt and milk together with the meat.
While they were eating, he stood near them under the trees, **9** and they asked, "Where is your wife Sarah?"
"She is right there in the tent," Abraham answered.
10 One of the guests was the Lord, and he said, "I'll come back about this time next year, and when I do, Sarah will already have a son."
Sarah was behind Abraham, listening at the entrance to the tent. **11** Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah was well past the age for having children. **12** So she laughed and said to herself, "Now that I am worn out and my husband is old, will I really know such happiness?"
13 The Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Does she doubt that she can have a child in her old age? **14** I am the Lord! There is nothing too difficult for me. I'll come back next year at the time I promised, and Sarah will already have a son."
15 Sarah was so frightened that she lied and said, "I didn't laugh."
"Yes, you did!" he answered.

Genesis 21:5-7 **Contemporary English Version (CEV)**

5 Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac was born, **6** and Sarah said, "God has made me laugh. Now everyone will laugh with me. **7** Who would have dared to tell Abraham that someday I would have a child? But in his old age, I have given him a son."

Questions

How did Abraham show hospitality to the three strangers? Why do you think it was important to show such kindness to travelers in those days? How do we do that today? Why did Sarah laugh when she heard that she would have a baby within a year? What did the birth of Isaac mean for the relationship between God and Abraham and Sarah? How is our relationship with God like this?