

ABRAHAM- GOD'S BRAVE EXPLORER

GENESIS 11-25

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ABRAHAM—GOD'S BRAVE EXPLORER

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*For my precious husband, Jerry,
with loving thanks for all you do!
Especially for driving 6000 miles so I could experience the Oregon Trail.
You are a special gift from God, and I am so thankful for you!
I love you with all my heart.*

Janna

*Song of Solomon 5:16—
“This is my beloved and this is my friend.”*

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SEARCHING FOR TRUTH— A BIBLE STUDY YOU CAN DO!

Hey! Guess what? Molly, Sam (the great detective beagle), and I are heading out West to follow the Oregon Trail. Doesn't that sound exciting? By the way, my name is Max, and we want you to join us in an exciting adventure in God's Word as we travel across the hot, dusty wilderness and discover one of God's brave explorers—a man named Abram.

Did you know that the pioneers who followed the Oregon Trail left behind their homes, country, and families to begin a new life in a land that they had never seen in the hope of having a better life? WHAT about Abram? WHO is this brave explorer? WHY did he leave his home and journey to a land he didn't know? WHY did God change his name from Abram to Abraham? And WHAT did he do to have a life full of blessings and to be called God's friend? Isn't that awesome to think that God would call you His friend?

You have so much to discover about Abraham as you study God's map, the Bible—the source of all truth—and ask God's Spirit to lead and guide you. You also have this book, which is an inductive Bible study.

That word *inductive* means you go straight to the Bible *yourself* to investigate the life of Abraham in the Book of Genesis and discover what it means, instead of depending on what someone else says it means.

So pack up your gear, and don't forget God's map! Let's begin our westward trek over rugged terrain to discover what it means to walk by faith and become

God's
friend.
Westward
ho! Let's go!

I'm ready
to go!



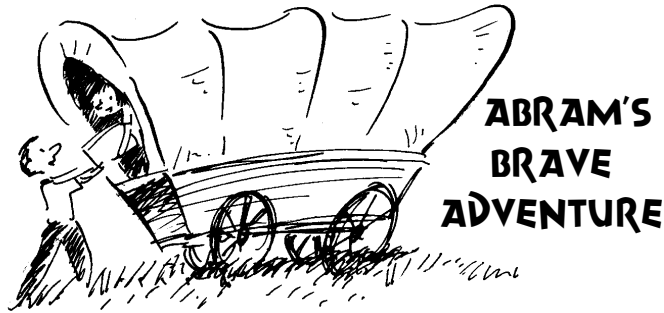
Max

THINGS YOU'LL NEED

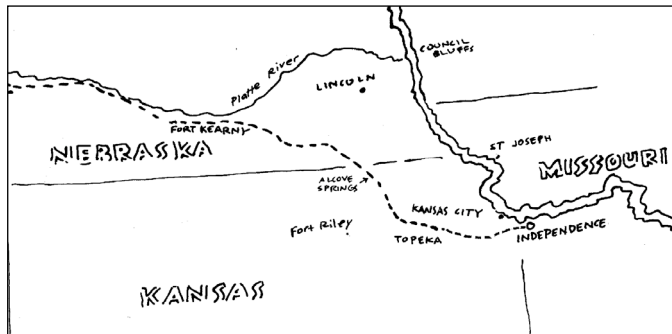
NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE
(UPDATED EDITION)—OR, PREFERABLY, THE
NEW INDUCTIVE STUDY BIBLE (NISB)

PEN OR PENCIL
COLORED PENCILS
INDEX CARDS
A DICTIONARY
THIS WORKBOOK

1



GENESIS 11-14



“All right! The SUV is packed and ready to go. Uh-oh, where’s Sam? Sam, where are you? Come on, boy, we’re ready to go. Watch out—here he comes! Quick! Move out of the way! Whew—just in time. Sam, settle down, boy. You almost ran over Molly.

“Okay, let’s pile in the SUV and hit the road. Our first stop is St. Louis, Missouri, where many of the pioneers arrived from their homes to get ready for the adventure of their life. So pull out God’s map—the Bible—and as we head west for our big adventure, let’s find out about God’s brave explorer. WHO is Abram and WHY did he leave his home? Was it for the spirit of adventure or a better life, like it was for some of our pioneers? Let’s open God’s map to find out.”

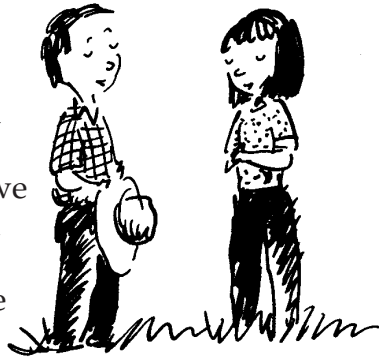


FOLLOWING GOD'S BRAVE EXPLORER

We are on our way. As you open God's map to discover WHO Abram is, WHAT is the first thing you need to do? Do you know? You've got it! Pray. Bible study should always begin with prayer.

We need God to be our Wagon Master as we begin our journey on the Oregon Trail. The wagon master was in charge of the entire wagon train. He made all the decisions about whether to go on or stop. He also decided which trail they should take. His word was law!

Just like the wagon master took care of the pioneers on their journey, we need God to direct us and teach us by His Spirit as we begin our journey in His Word, so that we can understand what He says and make sure we handle His Word accurately. Let's pray, and then we can start reading God's map.



Heavenly Father, we praise You for being our Shepherd who leads us as we study Your Word. Open our eyes so that we can see truth as we study Abram's life. Open our hearts so that we can understand what Your Word means. Help us to apply all that we learn to our lives so that we can be more like Jesus. We want to please You. We love You and ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Abram's life begins in the Book of Genesis, which is known as the book of beginnings. So as we start our research on our brave explorer, we need to put ourselves in context by reviewing the Book of Genesis.

WHAT is context? Context is the setting in which something is found. This is very important in Bible study. Context is a combination of two words: *con*, which means "with," and *text*, which means "what is written." So when you look for context in the Bible, you look at the verses and chapters surrounding the passage you are studying, such as looking at the whole Book of Genesis, as well as seeing how the passage fits into the whole Bible.

Context also includes:

- ‡ The place something happens. (This is geographical context, such as knowing where Abram lived. Did he live in the land of Canaan or in the United States?)
- ‡ The time in history an event happens. (This is historical context, such as, did Abram live before Noah and the flood or after the flood?)
- ‡ The customs of a group of people. (This is cultural context. For instance, did Abram live in a tent or in a house like we do today?)

If you have already studied Genesis Part One, *God's Amazing Creation*, and Genesis Part Two, *Digging Up the Past*, then you have discovered for yourself that Genesis is a book of generations. A generation is what is brought into being. It shows where something or someone came from. A generation shows the order of birth, the family history.

In Genesis 2:4 we see the generations of the heavens and the earth. In Genesis 5:1 we see the generations of Adam. We see Noah's generations in Genesis 6:9; Shem, Ham, and Japheth's generations in Genesis 10:1; and Shem's generations in Genesis 11:10. WHERE does Abram fit into these generations? Let's find out.

Turn to your Observation Worksheets on page 157. Observation Worksheets are pages that have the Bible text printed out for you to use as you do your research on the life of Abram.

Now read Genesis 11:24-32 and mark every reference to Abram in a special way by coloring *Abram* blue, along with

any pronouns that also refer to Abram. WHAT are pronouns? Check out Max and Molly's map below.

PRONOUNS

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns. A noun is a person, place, or thing. A pronoun stands in for a noun! Here's an example: "Molly and Max are heading west to travel the Oregon Trail. They will have to drive about 3000 miles from their home to get to the end of the trail." The word *they* is a pronoun because it takes the place of Molly's and Max's names in the second sentence. It is another word we use to refer to Molly and Max.

Watch for these other pronouns when you are marking people:

I	you	he	she
me	yours	him	her
mine		his	hers
we	it	X	
our	its		
they	them		

Now that you have marked *Abram*, go back and mark one of the key phrases in the Book of Genesis, "*these are the generations of,*" by putting a blue box around this key phrase.

Great! Now let's ask some questions. An explorer always gets the facts by asking lots of questions before he or she begins a journey.

Let's see WHAT we can learn about Abram and his family by asking the 5 W's and an H questions. What are the 5 W's and an H? They are the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW questions.

1. Asking WHO helps you find out:

WHO wrote this?

WHOM are we reading about?

To WHOM was it written?

WHO said this or did that?

2. WHAT helps you understand:

WHAT is the author talking about?

WHAT are the main things that happen?


3. WHERE helps you learn:

WHERE did something happen?

WHERE did they go?

WHERE was this said?

When we discover a WHERE, we double-underline the WHERE in green.

4. WHEN tells us about time. We mark it with a green clock like this: 

WHEN tells us:

WHEN did this event happen or WHEN will it happen?

WHEN did the main characters do something? It helps us to follow the order of events.

5. WHY asks questions like:

WHY did he say that?

WHY did they go there?

WHY did this happen?

6. HOW lets you figure out things like:

HOW is something to be done?

HOW did people know something had happened?

Now get the facts.

WHOSE generations are these in Genesis 11:27?

Looking back at Genesis 11:10, we see that Terah came from the generations of Shem. Let's find out WHO is in Terah's family tree.

Genesis 11:27 WHO did Terah become the father of?

Genesis 11:27 WHO did Haran become the father of?

Genesis 11:29 WHO was Abram's wife?

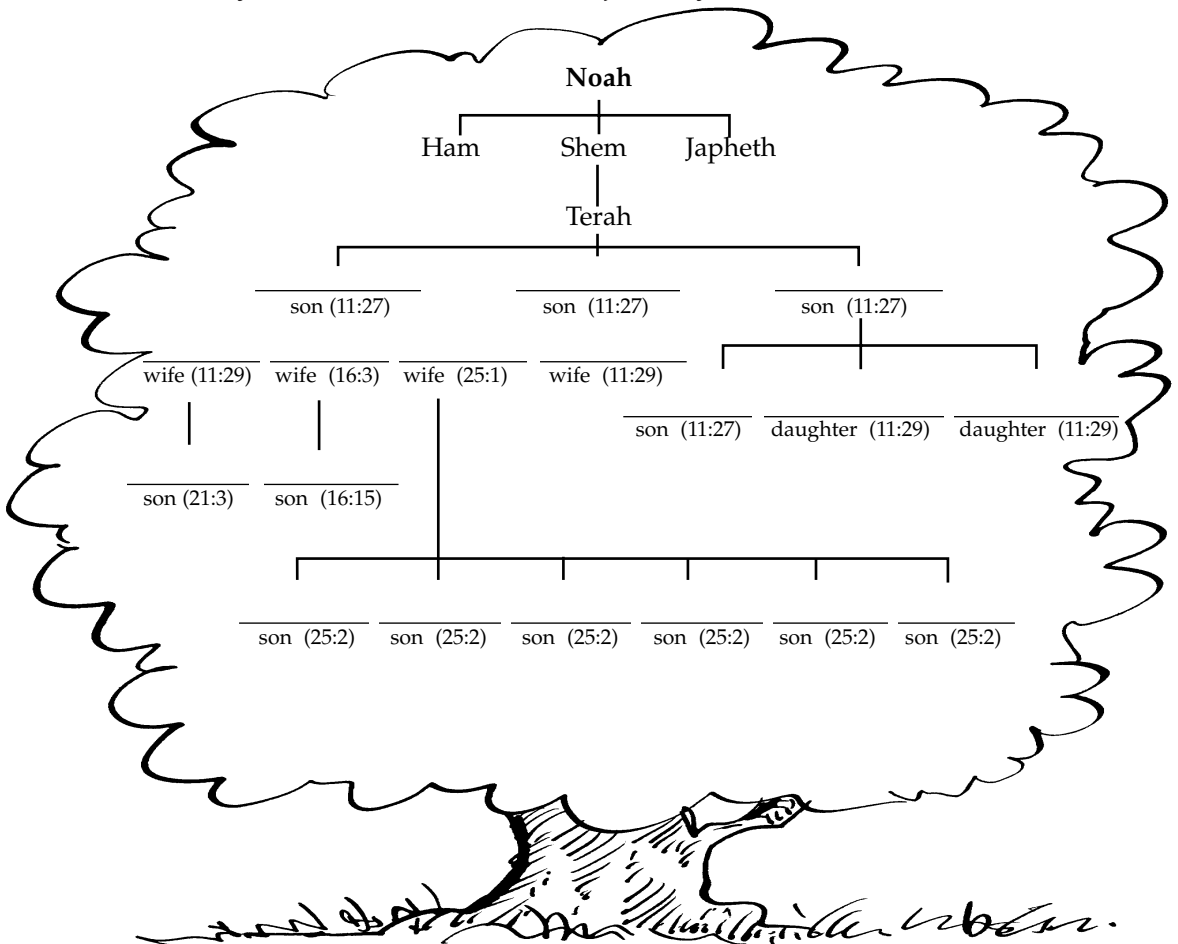
Genesis 11:30 WHAT do we see about Sarai?

Genesis 11:31 WHERE did Terah's family live?

Genesis 11:31 WHERE did Terah settle his family?

Genesis 11:32 WHAT happened to Terah in Haran?

Now go back and read Genesis 11:27-29 again so you can fill in part of Terah's family tree below. We'll complete his family tree as we continue our journey in God's Word.

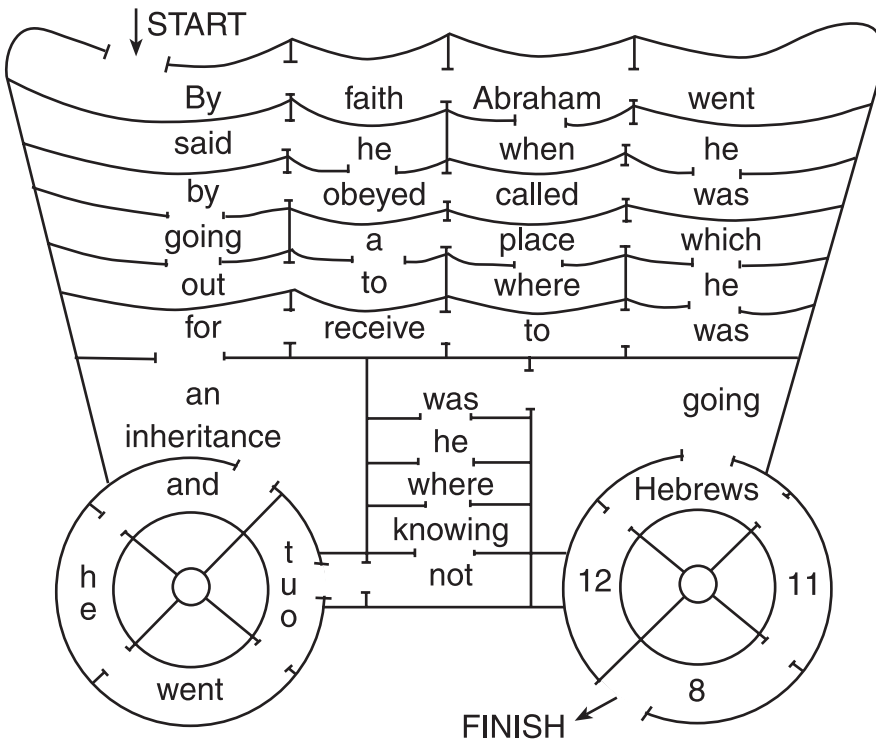


Wow! Look at all you have discovered from just a small portion of God’s map! You are going to make quite an explorer!

Before we arrive in St. Louis, there is one more thing you need to do. A brave explorer for God needs to be prepared for the journey that God has planned for him or her, and the only way to be ready for whatever God has for you is to know His Word. Hiding God’s Word in your heart will keep you on the right road when the going gets tough and will give you hope as you put your faith in God.

As part of your journey across the wilderness, you need to learn a memory verse each week so that by the time you arrive in Oregon City, Oregon, you will be fully equipped for whatever God has planned for your life.

To discover this week’s verse, use your navigational skills to find the correct path in the maze below. Then fill in the blanks with the correct words on the lines after the maze.



—Hebrews ____ : ____

Way to go! Now practice saying it aloud three times in a row, three times every day!



GOD CALLS ABRAM

“Look!” exclaimed Molly as Max, Sam, and their families headed through the park in St. Louis toward the St. Louis arch. “There it is—straight ahead. I can’t believe how big it is!”

“Oh, wow! Hurry up, everyone. I can’t wait to see it up close. Do we really get to ride all the way to the top of the arch, Dad?”

“You sure do, Max,” answered Luke, Max’s dad. “We can ride all the way to the top in a tiny five-passenger capsule. Then we can get out inside the top of the arch and look through some tiny little windows.”

“This is going to be so awesome,” Max stated. “How high up will we be?”

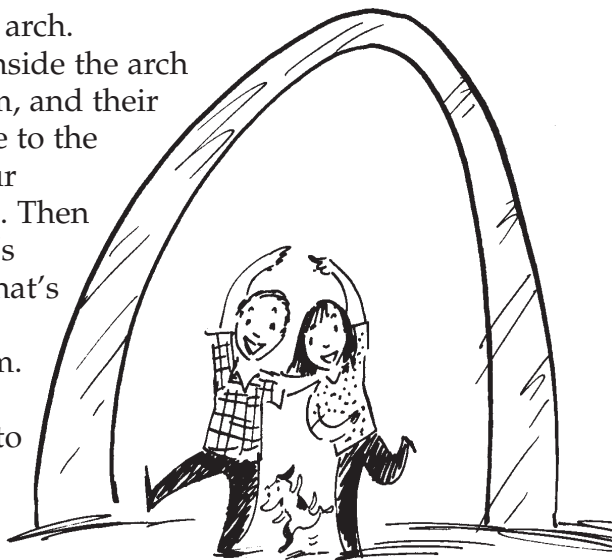
Max’s Aunt Kathy, who is Molly’s mom, answered as she read from their guidebook. “The arch is one of the United States’ greatest and tallest monuments. It is 630 feet tall!”

“Cool,” replied Max. “We’re almost there. Let’s race, Molly.”

“Okay,” Molly laughed. “Go,” she yelled as she took off across the grass to beat Max and be the first one to touch the arch.

Now as we head inside the arch with Max, Molly, Sam, and their families to take a ride to the top, let’s talk with our Wagon Master—God. Then we can pull out God’s map and discover what’s happening with our brave explorer Abram.

As we ride to the top of the arch, turn to your Observation Worksheet on Genesis 11:24-32 on pages 158-159.



Let’s review what we saw yesterday as we discovered WHO was Abram’s family.

Genesis 11:31 WHERE did they live?

_____ of the _____

WHERE was Terah (Abram’s father) headed to with Abram, Lot (Terah’s grandson and Abram’s nephew), and Sarai (Abram’s wife)?

The _____ of _____

But as they began their journey they ended up WHERE?

In _____

Genesis 11:32 And then WHAT happened?

_____ died.

Now WHY did Terah decide to move his family? Do you know? Let's find out by doing some cross-referencing. WHAT is *cross-referencing*? Cross-referencing is where we compare Scripture with Scripture by going to other passages in the Bible. This is a very important Bible study tool that we can use as we search out the meaning of Scripture because we know that Scripture never contradicts Scripture.

Let's take out God's map (the Bible). Look up and read Acts 7:1-5.

Looking at Acts 7:2-3, WHY did Abraham (Abram) decide to leave his country?

Acts 7:2 WHEN did God speak to Abraham?

When he was in _____, before he lived in _____

Acts 7:3 WHAT did God tell Abraham to do?

Acts 7:4 WHAT did Abraham do?

Acts 7:4 WHAT did God have Abraham do after his father died?

Look up and read Isaiah 51:1,2.

Isaiah 51:2 WHEN did God call Abraham?

Isaiah 51:2 WHAT happened after God called Abraham?

God _____ him and _____ him.

Now let's look up one more verse—your memory verse.
Have you practiced it today? Look up and read Hebrews 11:8.

WHAT did Abraham do when he was called?

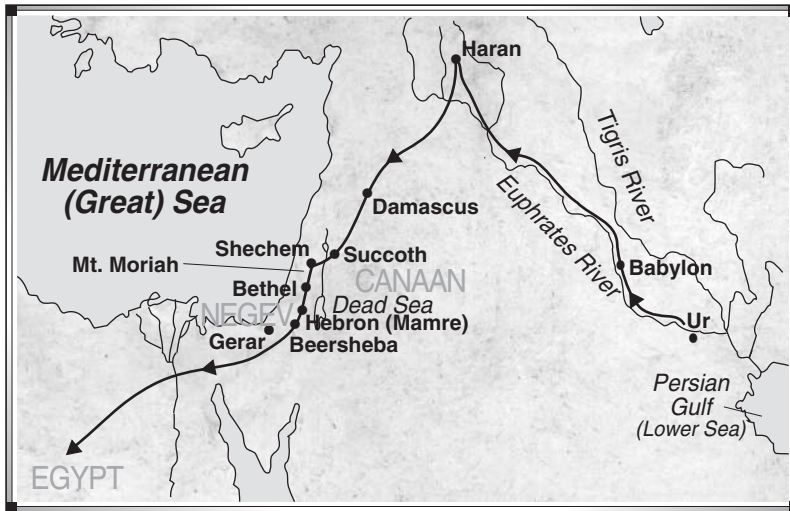
He o _ _ _ _ d.

HOW? By _____

Did Abraham know where he was going?

Take a look at the map on the next page to see the route that Abraham took to get to Canaan.

Now we know WHY Terah decided to move his family. Acts 7 tells us that God appeared to Abraham and told him to leave his country and relatives to go to a land He would show him. Isaiah 51 and Hebrews 11 show us that God called



Abram. In Hebrews we also see that Abram obeyed, not knowing where he was going. Isn't that awesome?

Abram had faith. He trusted and followed God when God called him, even though he didn't know where it would lead him.

HOW about you? Have you put your faith in God? Are you willing to follow Him? Do you obey when God shows you what you need to be doing? Think about how you respond to God's call.

We'll uncover more as we continue our journey tomorrow. Now that we've made it to the top of the arch, let's practice our memory verse as we take in the fantastic view of St. Louis from 630 feet above the ground!



LEARNING TO FOLLOW GOD

"Wasn't it awesome being in the top of the arch?" Max asked Molly as they were eating breakfast the next morning.

“Yeah, I loved it,” replied Molly. “But getting up there was another thing. That little capsule was sooooo small and stuffy. I didn’t think those four minutes would ever end.”

Max laughed as he replied, “Sam didn’t like it too much either. I have never heard him bark so much, have you?”

Max’s mom, Jena, responded, “Sam, you almost got us kicked out of the arch. Now be a good dog today as we head to Independence, Missouri—one of the three ‘jumping-off’ places for the pioneers. It will be the official start of our journey on the Oregon Trail.”

“Yeah!” Max and Molly exclaimed. “We’re ready to go!”

How about you? Have you talked with your Wagon Master? Let’s begin the next leg of our journey. Turn to page 159 to Genesis 12. Today as we read our map we need to mark some key words.

What are *key words*? Key words are words that pop up more than once. They are called key words because they help unlock the meaning of the chapter or book that you are studying and give you clues about what is most important in a passage of Scripture.

‡ Key words are usually used over and over again.


‡ Key words are important.

‡ Key words are used by the writer for a reason.

Once you discover a key word, you need to mark it in a special way using a special color or symbol so that you can immediately spot it in Scripture. Don’t forget to mark any pronouns that go with the key words, too! So let’s get started. Read Genesis 12 and mark the following key words:

 Lord (draw a purple triangle and color it yellow)

Abram (color it blue)


 bless (blessing, blessed) (put a blue cloud around it and color it pink)

land (double-underline it in green and color it blue)

altar (draw a red box around it)

Lot (color it orange)

famine (box it in black and color it brown)

Don't forget to mark anything that tells you **WHERE** by double-underlining the WHERE in green. And don't forget to mark anything that tells you **WHEN** by drawing a green clock like this: 

Now let's make a list to see what God promised Abram.

Genesis 12:1 I will give you a l _ _ d that I will show you.

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a _____ .

Genesis 12:2 I will _____ you and make your n _ _ _ great.

Genesis 12:7 To your _____ I will give this _____ .

As we follow Abram on our journey of faith, we need to watch and see what God does. Does God keep His promises to Abram? Remember, Sarai is barren at this point. *Barren* means that she and Abram have never had a child, yet God has promised to make Abram a great nation and to give his descendants this land. In order for God to make Abram a

great nation, we know that someday He will give Abram and Sarai a child.

Now let's continue to get the facts by asking the 5 W's and an H.

Genesis 12:4 HOW old is Abram when he departs from Haran?

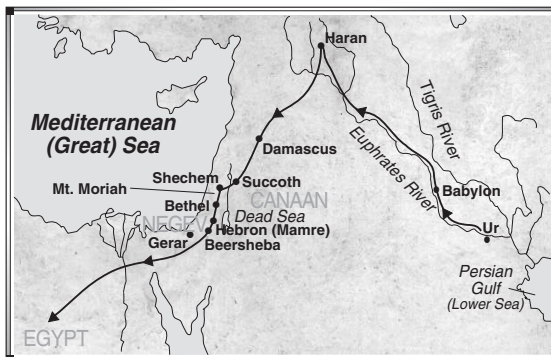
Can you believe that Abram is 75 years old, and he doesn't have any children yet? (By the way, did you remember to put a green clock over Abram's age?)

Genesis 12:5 WHOM did Abram take with him?

Genesis 12:5 WHERE are they headed?

Genesis 12:6 HOW far did Abram get?

Take a look at your map. Check out where Abram stopped and circle the place in green.



Genesis 12:7 WHAT happened in this verse?

Genesis 12:7 WHAT did Abram build there?

Genesis 12:8 WHAT did Abram do here?

Genesis 12:9 WHERE did Abram journey?

Genesis 12:10 WHAT happens?

Genesis 12:11-13 WHAT did Abram tell Sarai to do when they got to Egypt?

Genesis 12:15 WHAT did Pharaoh do?

Genesis 12:16 HOW was Abram treated?

Genesis 12:17 WHAT did the Lord do?

Genesis 12:17 WHY?

Genesis 12:18 WHAT did Pharaoh do?

Look at all we uncovered on our journey today! As Abram begins his journey to follow God, he comes to Shechem where God appears to him and reminds him of His promise. HOW does Abram respond? He builds an altar and worships God.

Then as he continues his journey to Ai, not only do we see Abram build another altar to worship God, but we also see him call on the name of the Lord.

Did you know that in the Bible a person's name reveals his character? So for Abram to call on God's name, he was recognizing God for WHO He is—His character and His ways. To worship God is to acknowledge His worth, to give Him the honor and reverence that is due Him. It is praising God for WHO He is.



God had been faithful to lead Abram in his journey to the land He had promised, so Abram built the altars to worship God and call on His name.

But what happens next? There's a famine in the land and, instead of asking God what he should do, Abram heads off on his own. He heads down to Egypt. Did you know that Egypt is a picture of the world?

Not only do we see Abram taking his own route instead of God's as he heads to Egypt, but we also see that he gets himself into some trouble. Abram tells Sarai that he is afraid that Pharaoh will kill him if he finds out that she is his wife, so he tells her to tell Pharaoh that she is his sister. This shows us that Abram fears man more than he fears God.

Just look at the trouble that brings. God strikes Pharaoh and his household because Pharaoh has taken Sarai.

WHAT a mess! Is Abram perfect? No, we have just seen Abram make a very big mistake. But does God change His mind about His promise to Abram? No way! God rescues Abram by striking Pharaoh and his household.

Even though Abram failed, God didn't reject him. He still loves Abram and has a plan for his life. This shows us that God is a God of grace and mercy. Grace is unearned favor. We don't earn God's love and forgiveness—it is a gift. We also see that God is long-suffering. This means God is patient with us as we learn to rely and depend on Him. Abram is just beginning his journey of faith, learning to trust and depend on God.

HOW about you? WHAT is your relationship like with God? Abram was scared of Pharaoh. Have you ever been scared and said something you shouldn't have said in order to get out of a difficult situation that you were in? ____ Yes ____ No

If you have, write out what you did on the lines below.

Now pray and ask God to help you trust Him the next time you are afraid. Ask Him to give you the courage to do the right thing!

All right—you are on your way on your journey of faith! Don't forget to practice your memory verse three times in a row three times today!



CONFLICT AND CHOICES

As the SUV pulled into the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, Max said, "Independence, Missouri—one of the three 'jumping-off' places for the pioneers. Did you know our guidebook says that just west of here is the place where the pioneers filled up their water barrels before heading west?"

"That's right, Max," said Max's Uncle Kyle, who is Molly's dad. "When the emigrants arrived here, the first thing they did was look for a wagon train they could join up with. Then they needed to get outfitted with the supplies, tools, and animals for the long, hard journey that was ahead of them. Do you know what they had to do after they joined a wagon train and packed their supplies? They had to wait on one more thing."

"I know, Dad," Molly said. "They had to wait for the grass to turn green so that they could feed the horses, oxen, and other animals along the trail."



"You're right, Molly," replied her dad. "Now let's all go inside and learn how to pack our wagons just like the pioneers did for their trip out West."

As we head into the museum to learn how to pack our wagons, let's read God's map and find out what Abram does and where he goes after Pharaoh's men escort him out of the land of Egypt.


Turn to page 161. Read Genesis 13 and mark the following key words:

Abram (color it blue)

Lot (color it orange)

land (double-underline it in green and color it blue)

altar (draw a red box around it)

Don't forget to mark anything that tells you WHERE by double-underlining the WHERE in green. And don't forget to mark anything that tells you WHEN by drawing a green clock like this: 

Now turn back to the map on page 19 and follow Abram's journey as you answer the 5 W's and an H questions.

Genesis 13:1 WHERE did Abram go from Egypt?

The Negev is the wilderness, a parched land. It is the southern district of Judah.

Genesis 13:3 WHERE did Abram journey from the Negev?

Genesis 13:3,4 WHAT did Abram do when he returned to the place his tent was before? _____

Isn't it awesome to see Abram returning to worship God and call on His name after he had failed? Abram sinned when he chose to do things his way instead of trusting God. But God intervened. He protected Abram and His promise to him. Once Abram realized his failure, did he give up? No way! Our brave explorer moves on. He doesn't stay in his failure. He returns to God to call on His name and worship Him.

Genesis 13:5-7 WHAT is happening in these verses?

Genesis 13:8,9 WHAT does Abram tell Lot to do?

Genesis 13:10,11 WHAT land did Lot choose?

Genesis 13:13 WHAT do we see about the men of Sodom where Lot settled?

Genesis 13:12 WHERE did Abram settle?

Genesis 13:14,15 WHAT did the Lord tell Abram after he and Lot separated?

Genesis 13:16 WHAT did God tell Abram about his descendants?

Genesis 13:17 WHAT did God tell Abram to do?

Genesis 13:18 WHERE did Abram move his tent?

Genesis 13:18 WHAT did Abram do?

Did you notice the conflict between Lot and Abram? Abram's character is revealed as we see him allowing Lot to choose the land he wanted first. Abram was rich, but he was

not greedy. Did you notice that Lot chose what he thought was the best land? Was it?

Have you ever had to share the last piece of cake with your brother or sister? When you cut the cake, did you choose the best piece for yourself, or did you allow your brother or sister to choose first?

Remember, God watches what we do and rewards our unselfishness.

What did God show Abram after he finally separated from Lot? For the first time God shows Abram the land that He has promised him. Wow! Then God tells him that this land will belong to his descendants forever.

He also tells him that he is going to have so many descendants that they will not be able to be numbered. Isn't that amazing, since Abram is 75 years old and doesn't even have one child? Yet, God is promising him that one day he will have so many descendants that he won't be able to count them all!

Today we have also seen two very different choices: Lot chose what he thought was the best land, but Abram waited on God to show him the land He had promised. How do these choices affect these two men's lives? We'll find out as we continue our journey.

HOW about you? Do you make choices without God's help, or do you wait on God to show you what is best?

Write out what you do.

Now that our wagons are packed, let's head to the courthouse in Independence, Missouri, and jump off on the Oregon Trail while we practice saying our memory verse out loud. Westward ho! Let's go!



GOD'S EXPLORER MEETS THE KINGS

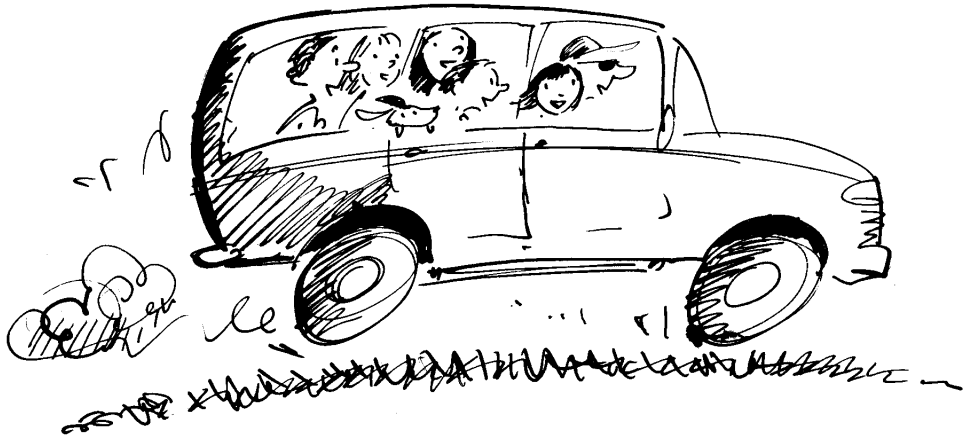
"All right!" Max shouted as his whole family piled into the SUV and left Independence. "Westward ho! We are finally on the Oregon Trail! Hey, Molly, did you know that as the pioneers crossed the Missouri border they were also leaving the United States?"

"Hey," replied Molly, "that's kind of like Abram leaving his country to follow God's call."

"It sure is," said Max. "As the wagon master gave the order 'Wagons, ho!' the wagons would creak their way across the plains, leaving the United States on a five- to six-month journey that would change their lives forever."


"I sure am glad it isn't going to take us five to six months to get to Oregon," joined in Max's mom.

Everyone laughed. Max's mom said, "Now why don't we pull out God's map as we hit the trail. Let's head back to Genesis to follow our brave explorer and watch how his journey of following God changes his life."




Are you ready to hit the trail? Have you prayed? Great! Then pull out God's map and turn to page 162. Read Genesis 14 and mark the following key words:


 God (draw a purple triangle and color it yellow)

 bless (blessing, blessed) (put a blue cloud around it and color it pink)

Abram (color it blue)

Lot (color it orange)

 Melchizedek (draw a purple box around it)

Don't forget to mark anything that tells you WHERE by double-underlining the WHERE in green. And don't forget to mark anything that tells you WHEN by drawing a green clock like this: 

Now WHAT has happened since Lot and Abram separated? Let's find out by asking the 5 W's and an H.

Genesis 14:1-10 WHAT is happening with these kings? WHAT are they doing? They are at __ __ __ with each other. (awr) (Unscramble the word and place it in the blanks.)

Genesis 14:11 WHAT do they take from Sodom and Gomorrah?

Genesis 14:12 WHAT happens to Lot?

Genesis 14:13-16 WHAT does Abram do when he finds out?

Genesis 14:17 WHAT happens after Abram returns?

Genesis 14:18 WHO comes out to meet him?

Genesis 14:18 WHO is Melchizedek? That's quite a name, isn't it? It's pronounced like this: mel-kee'-zeh-dek.

Genesis 14:19 WHAT does Melchizedek do?

Genesis 14:19 HOW does Melchizedek describe God?

Wow! Isn't that awesome? God's name is *El Elyon*, God Most High. This name means that God is sovereign. He is the One in control. He is the Possessor of heaven and earth. God is the Ruler over all!

Look at Genesis 14:20. WHAT else has God Most High done?

WHAT did Abram give Melchizedek?

Genesis 14:21 WHAT did the king of Sodom want to give Abram?

Genesis 14:22-24 Did Abram take them? WHY or WHY not?

Just look at all we have discovered about our explorer! When Abram hears that his nephew Lot has been taken captive, he goes and rescues him. Abram is victorious in his battle against the kings!

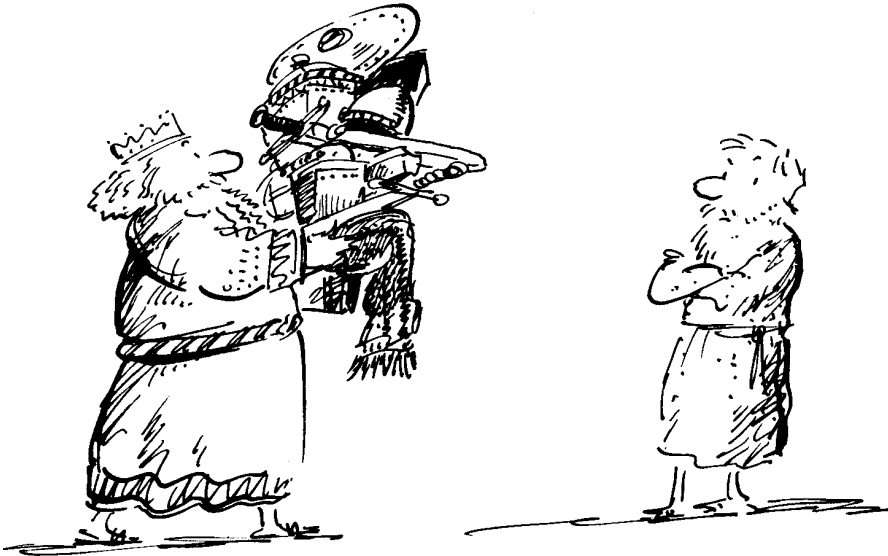
Did you know that God uses conflicts (hard situations) to develop our character and to test our faith? Abram was victorious in his battle, but HOW would he handle his victory?

Would he take the glory for the victory, or would he give the glory to whom it belonged—God?

WHAT does it mean to give God the glory? Have you ever seen a soccer game when someone scored the winning goal? Did the soccer player take the credit for winning the game, or did he share the credit with his entire team? WHO should get the credit: the one who kicked the goal, or the other team members who helped the kicker make the goal?

So WHO should receive the credit for Abram's battle against the kings: Abram or God, who is the Ruler over all and made it happen?

WHAT did Abram do when the king of Sodom tried to give him the goods? He refused. Isn't that awesome? Would you have refused those riches in order to honor God?



Abram refused because he didn't want the king to be able to say he had made Abram rich. Abram gave God the glory. He recognized that not only had God given him victory in the battle against the kings, but He had also given him everything

he had. He knew God as God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth. Just look at how our brave explorer has grown in his relationship with God.

- Do you recognize that God is the Giver of all that you have? ____ Yes ____ No
 - Do you recognize that God is the One in control of all your circumstances, even when there is hardship and conflict? ____ Yes ____ No
 - Do you give God all the glory for the things that you have and all of your accomplishments? Or do you take the credit for yourself and say, "Look at what I can do"? Write out what you do.
-

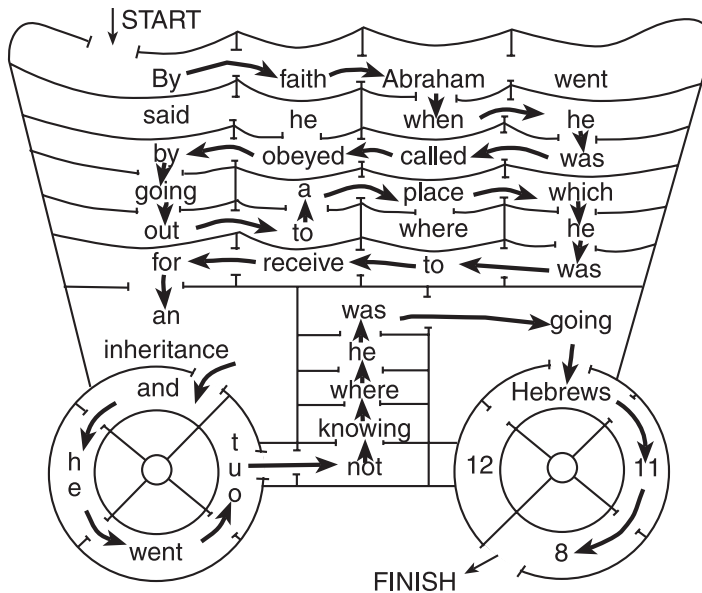
Why don't you take a few minutes and just praise God for WHO He is and what you have learned about Him. Write out a short prayer of praise on the lines below so that you can grow in your journey of faith as you learn how to walk with God.



Now say your verse out loud to your parents or a grown-up. Fantastic! You are becoming quite an explorer!

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Pages 14-15



By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

—Hebrews 11:8

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Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

—Genesis 15:6

OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

Chapter 11

- 1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.
- 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.
- 3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.
- 4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."
- 5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
- 6 The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.
- 7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."
- 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.
- 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.
- 10 These are *the records of* the generations of Shem. Shem was one hundred years old, and became the father of Arpachshad two years after the flood;

- 11 and Shem lived five hundred years after he became the father of Arpachshad, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 12 Arpachshad lived thirty-five years, and became the father of Shelah;
- 13 and Arpachshad lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Shelah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 14 Shelah lived thirty years, and became the father of Eber;
- 15 and Shelah lived four hundred and three years after he became the father of Eber, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 16 Eber lived thirty-four years, and became the father of Peleg;
- 17 and Eber lived four hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Peleg, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 18 Peleg lived thirty years, and became the father of Reu;
- 19 and Peleg lived two hundred and nine years after he became the father of Reu, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and became the father of Serug;
- 21 and Reu lived two hundred and seven years after he became the father of Serug, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 22 Serug lived thirty years, and became the father of Nahor;
- 23 and Serug lived two hundred years after he became the father of Nahor, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and became the father of Terah;
- 25 and Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years after he became the father of Terah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.
- 26 Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.
- 27 Now these are *the records of* the generations of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran; and Haran became the father of Lot.

- 28 Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.
- 29 Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah.
- 30 Sarai was barren; she had no child.
- 31 Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there.
- 32 The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

Chapter 12

- 1 Now the LORD said to Abram,
"Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land which I will show you;
- 2 And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
- 3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."
- 4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

- 5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.
- 6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite *was* then in the land.
- 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.
- 8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.
- 9 Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.
- 10 Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.
- 11 It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman;
- 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.
- 13 "Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you."
- 14 It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.
- 15 Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.
- 16 Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.

- 17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.
- 18 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?"
- 19 "Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go."
- 20 Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

Chapter 13

- 1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.
- 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.
- 3 He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,
- 4 to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.
- 5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.
- 6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.
- 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.
- 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers.

- 9 “Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if *to* the left, then I will go to the right; or if *to* the right, then I will go to the left.”
- 10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—*this was* before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.
- 11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.
- 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.
- 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.
- 14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;
- 15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.
- 16 “I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.
- 17 “Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.”
- 18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Chapter 14

- 1 And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,

- 2 *that* they made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).
- 3 All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).
- 4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled.
- 5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim and the Zuzim in Ham and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,
- 6 and the Horites in their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness.
- 7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and conquered all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, who lived in Hazazon-tamar.
- 8 And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) came out; and they arrayed for battle against them in the valley of Siddim,
- 9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five.
- 10 Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country.
- 11 Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed.
- 12 They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.

- 13 Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram.
- 14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.
- 15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.
- 16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.
- 17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).
- 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.
- 19 He blessed him and said,
"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
- 20 And blessed be God Most High,
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."
He gave him a tenth of all.
- 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself."
- 22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,
- 23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.'
- 24 "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."

Chapter 15

- 1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying,
“Do not fear, Abram,
I am a shield to you;
Your reward shall be very great.”
- 2 Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”
- 3 And Abram said, “Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.”
- 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.”
- 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.”
And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”
- 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 7 And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.”
- 8 He said, “O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?”
- 9 So He said to him, “Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.”
- 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.
- 11 The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.
- 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror *and* great darkness fell upon him.

- 13 *God* said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.
- 14 “But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.
- 15 “As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age.
- 16 “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”
- 17 It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.
- 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:
- 19 the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite
- 20 and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim
- 21 and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.”

Chapter 16

- 1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife had borne him no *children*, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.
- 2 So Sarai said to Abram, “Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing *children*. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
- 3 After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram’s wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.

- 4 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.
- 5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me."
- 6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.
- 7 Now the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.
- 8 He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."
- 9 Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority."
- 10 Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count."
- 11 The angel of the LORD said to her further,
"Behold, you are with child,
And you will bear a son;
And you shall call his name Ishmael,
Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction.
- 12 "He will be a wild donkey of a man,
His hand *will be* against everyone,
And everyone's hand *will be* against him;
And he will live to the east of all his brothers."
- 13 Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"

- 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.
- 15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.
- 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

Chapter 17

- 1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,
“I am God Almighty;
Walk before Me, and be blameless.
- 2 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you,
And I will multiply you exceedingly.”
- 3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,
- 4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.
- 5 “No longer shall your name be called Abram,
But your name shall be Abraham;
For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.
- 6 “I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.
- 7 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.
- 8 “I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

- 9 God said further to Abraham, "Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.
- 10 "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.
- 11 "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.
- 12 "And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a *servant* who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants.
- 13 "A *servant* who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.
- 14 "But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."
- 15 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall be* her name.
- 16 "I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a *mother of nations*; kings of peoples will come from her."
- 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a *child*?"
- 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!"
- 19 But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant

- with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.
- 20 “As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.
- 21 “But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”
- 22 When He finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.
- 23 Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all *the servants* who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s household, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, as God had said to him.
- 24 Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.
- 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.
- 26 In the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son.
- 27 All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Chapter 18

- 1 Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.
- 2 When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,

- 3 and said, "My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, please do not pass your servant by.
- 4 "Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree;
- 5 and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant." And they said, "So do, as you have said."
- 6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead *it* and make bread cakes."
- 7 Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave *it* to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it.
- 8 He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed *it* before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.
- 9 Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "There, in the tent."
- 10 He said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.
- 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing.
- 12 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"
- 13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear *a child*, when I am *so* old?'
- 14 "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

- 15 Sarah denied *it* however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."
- 16 Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off.
- 17 The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,
- 18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?
- 19 "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."
- 20 And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.
- 21 "I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."
- 22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD.
- 23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?
- 24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep *it* away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?
- 25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"
- 26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account."

- 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am *but* dust and ashes.
- 28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* if I find forty-five there."
- 29 He spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose forty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do *it* on account of the forty."
- 30 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do *it* if I find thirty there."
- 31 And he said, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* on account of the twenty."
- 32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* on account of the ten."
- 33 As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

Chapter 19

- 1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them and bowed down *with his* face to the ground.
- 2 And he said, "Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant's house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." They said however, "No, but we shall spend the night in the square."
- 3 Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

- 4 Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter;
- 5 and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."
- 6 But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him,
- 7 and said, "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly.
- 8 "Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof."
- 9 But they said, "Stand aside." Furthermore, they said, "This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them." So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door.
- 10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.
- 11 They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied *themselves trying* to find the doorway.
- 12 Then the *two* men said to Lot, "Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring *them* out of the place;
- 13 for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it."
- 14 Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, "Up, get out of this place, for the LORD

will destroy the city." But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

- 15 When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city."
- 16 But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD *was* upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.
- 17 When they had brought them outside, one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away."
- 18 But Lot said to them, "Oh no, my lords!
- 19 "Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die;
- 20 now behold, this town is near *enough* to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved."
- 21 He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken.
- 22 "Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar.
- 23 The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar.
- 24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven,
- 25 and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

- 26 But his wife, from behind him, looked *back*, and she became a pillar of salt.
- 27 Now Abraham arose early in the morning *and went* to the place where he had stood before the LORD;
- 28 and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.
- 29 Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.
- 30 Lot went up from Zoar, and stayed in the mountains, and his two daughters with him; for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters.
- 31 Then the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of the earth.
- 32 "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through our father."
- 33 So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and lay with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.
- 34 On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father; let us make him drink wine tonight also; then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father."
- 35 So they made their father drink wine that night also, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

- 36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.
- 37 The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.
- 38 As for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.

Chapter 20

- 1 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar.
- 2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.
- 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married."
- 4 Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even *though* blameless?"
- 5 "Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this."
- 6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.
- 7 "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."
- 8 So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.

- 9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done."
- 10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?"
- 11 Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.
- 12 "Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife;
- 13 and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, "This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother.""
- 14 Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him.
- 15 Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please."
- 16 To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared."
- 17 Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids, so that they bore *children*.
- 18 For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Chapter 21

- 1 Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised.

- 2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him.
- 3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.
- 4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.
- 5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
- 6 Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."
- 7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."
- 8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.
- 9 Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking.
- 10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac."
- 11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son.
- 12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.
- 13 "And of the son of the maid I will make a nation also, because he is your descendant."
- 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave *them* to Hagar, putting *them* on her shoulder, and *gave her* the boy, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.

- 15 When the water in the skin was used up, she left the boy under one of the bushes.
- 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said, "Do not let me see the boy die." And she sat opposite him, and lifted up her voice and wept.
- 17 God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.
- 18 "Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him."
- 19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water and gave the lad a drink.
- 20 God was with the lad, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer.
- 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.
- 22 Now it came about at that time that Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do;
- 23 now therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me and to the land in which you have sojourned."
- 24 Abraham said, "I swear it."
- 25 But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized.
- 26 And Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor did I hear of it until today."

- 27 Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.
- 28 Then Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.
- 29 Abimelech said to Abraham, "What do these seven ewe lambs mean, which you have set by themselves?"
- 30 He said, "You shall take these seven ewe lambs from my hand so that it may be a witness to me, that I dug this well."
- 31 Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an oath.
- 32 So they made a covenant at Beersheba; and Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, arose and returned to the land of the Philistines.
- 33 *Abraham* planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.
- 34 And Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines for many days.

Chapter 22

- 1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
- 2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."
- 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.
- 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

- 5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."
- 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.
- 7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"
- 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.
- 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
- 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
- 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
- 12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."
- 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.
- 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

- 15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,
- 16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,
- 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.
- 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."
- 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.
- 20 Now it came about after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:
- 21 Uz his firstborn and Buz his brother and Kemuel the father of Aram
- 22 and Chesed and Hazo and Pildash and Jidlaph and Bethuel."
- 23 Bethuel became the father of Rebekah; these eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.
- 24 His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah and Gaham and Tahash and Maacah.

Chapter 23

- 1 Now Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; *these were* the years of the life of Sarah.
- 2 Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

- 3 Then Abraham rose from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,
- 4 "I am a stranger and a sojourner among you; give me a burial site among you that I may bury my dead out of my sight."
- 5 The sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him,
- 6 "Hear us, my lord, you are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our graves; none of us will refuse you his grave for burying your dead."
- 7 So Abraham rose and bowed to the people of the land, the sons of Heth.
- 8 And he spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish *for me* to bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and approach Ephron the son of Zohar for me,
- 9 that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he owns, which is at the end of his field; for the full price let him give it to me in your presence for a burial site."
- 10 Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth; *even* of all who went in at the gate of his city, saying,
- 11 "No, my lord, hear me; I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead."
- 12 And Abraham bowed before the people of the land.
- 13 He spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If you will only please listen to me; I will give the price of the field, accept *it* from me that I may bury my dead there."
- 14 Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,
- 15 "My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead."

- 16 Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, commercial standard.
- 17 So Ephron's field, which was in Machpelah, which faced Mamre, the field and cave which was in it, and all the trees which were in the field, that were within all the confines of its border, were deeded over
- 18 to Abraham for a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city.
- 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field at Machpelah facing Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.
- 20 So the field and the cave that is in it, were deeded over to Abraham for a burial site by the sons of Heth.

Chapter 24

- 1 Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way.
- 2 Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh,
- 3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live,
- 4 but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac."
- 5 The servant said to him, "Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?"

- 6 Then Abraham said to him, “Beware that you do not take my son back there!
- 7 “The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give this land,’ He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.
- 8 “But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there.”
- 9 So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.
- 10 Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master’s in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.
- 11 He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.
- 12 He said, “O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.
- 13 “Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water;
- 14 now may it be that the girl to whom I say, ‘Please let down your jar so that I may drink,’ and who answers, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels also’—*may she be the one* whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master.”

- 15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.
- 16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.
- 17 Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar."
- 18 She said, "Drink, my lord"; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink.
- 19 Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking."
- 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.
- 21 Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not.
- 22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold,
- 23 and said, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?"
- 24 She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor."
- 25 Again she said to him, "We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in."
- 26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD.
- 27 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."

- 28 Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things.
- 29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring.
- 30 When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man said to me," he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.
- 31 And he said, "Come in, blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?"
- 32 So the man entered the house. Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.
- 33 But when *food* was set before him to eat, he said, "I will not eat until I have told my business." And he said, "Speak on."
- 34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.
- 35 "The LORD has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys.
- 36 "Now Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him all that he has.
- 37 "My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live;
- 38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.'
- 39 "I said to my master, 'Suppose the woman does not follow me.'
- 40 "He said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and

- you will take a wife for my son from my relatives and from my father's house;
- 41 then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'
- 42 "So I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now You will make my journey on which I go successful;
- 43 behold, I am standing by the spring, and may it be that the maiden who comes out to draw, and to whom I say, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar";
- 44 and she will say to me, "You drink, and I will draw for your camels also"; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'
- 45 "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew, and I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'
- 46 "She quickly lowered her jar from her *shoulder*, and said, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'; so I drank, and she watered the camels also.
- 47 "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him'; and I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.
- 48 "And I bowed low and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.
- 49 "So now if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, let me know, that I may turn to the right hand or the left."

- 50 Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The matter comes from the LORD; so we cannot speak to you bad or good.
- 51 "Here is Rebekah before you, take *her* and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."
- 52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the LORD.
- 53 The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.
- 54 Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master."
- 55 But her brother and her mother said, "Let the girl stay with us a *few* days, say ten; afterward she may go."
- 56 He said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."
- 57 And they said, "We will call the girl and consult her wishes."
- 58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."
- 59 Thus they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham's servant and his men.
- 60 They blessed Rebekah and said to her,
"May you, our sister,
Become thousands of ten thousands,
And may your descendants possess
The gate of those who hate them."
- 61 Then Rebekah arose with her maids, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.
- 62 Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev.

- 63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming.
- 64 Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel.
- 65 She said to the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?" And the servant said, "He is my master." Then she took her veil and covered herself.
- 66 The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
- 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Chapter 25

- 1 Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.
- 2 She bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah.
- 3 Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim.
- 4 The sons of Midian *were* Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these *were* the sons of Keturah.
- 5 Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac;
- 6 but to the sons of his concubines, Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the east.
- 7 These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, one hundred and seventy-five years.
- 8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied *with life*; and he was gathered to his people.
- 9 Then his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre,

- 10 the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth; there Abraham was buried with Sarah his wife.
- 11 It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi.
- 12 Now these are *the records of* the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham;
- 13 and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, and Kedar and Adbeel and Mibsam
- 14 and Mishma and Dumah and Massa,
- 15 Hadad and Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah.
- 16 These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; twelve princes according to their tribes.
- 17 These are the years of the life of Ishmael, one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.
- 18 They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives.

Hebrews 11

- 1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- 2 For by it the men of old gained approval.
- 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
- 4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous,

God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

- 5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.
- 6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe *that* He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- 7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
- 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.
- 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;
- 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
- 11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.
- 12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, *as many descendants* as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.
- 13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

- 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.
- 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.
- 16 But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.
- 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;
- 18 *it was he* to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called."
- 19 He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.
- 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.
- 21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.
- 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.
- 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.
- 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
- 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
- 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

- 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.
- 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.
- 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.
- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.
- 31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.
- 32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,
- 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,
- 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
- 35 Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;
- 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.
- 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated
- 38 (*men* of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

- 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,
40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

Romans 4

- 1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?
2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."
4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.
5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,
6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:
7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven,
And whose sins have been covered.
8 "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."
9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness."
10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;
11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he

- might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,
- 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.
- 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.
- 14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified;
- 15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.
- 16 For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that it *may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,
- 17 (as it is written, “A father of many nations have I made you”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.
- 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”
- 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;
- 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,
- 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

22 Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.

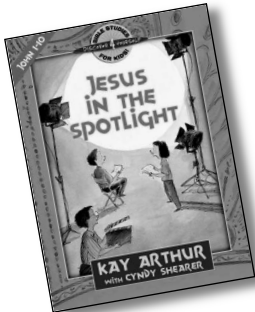
23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,

24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

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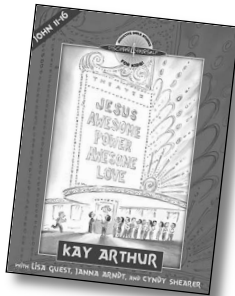
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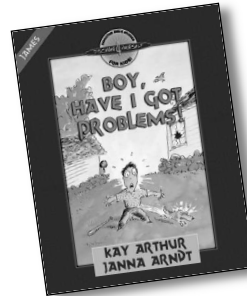
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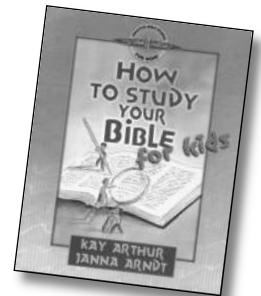
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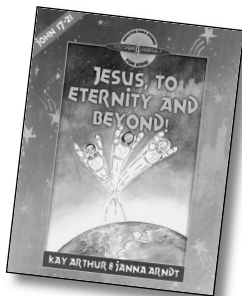
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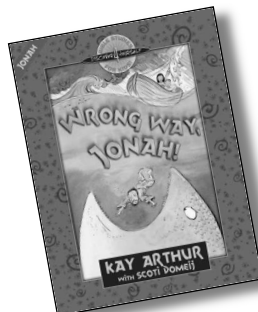
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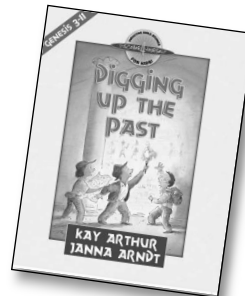
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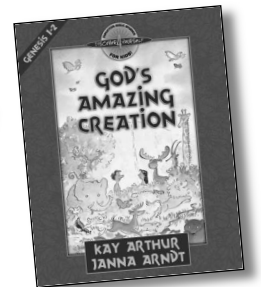
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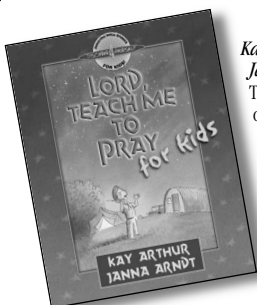
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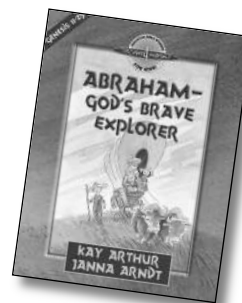
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