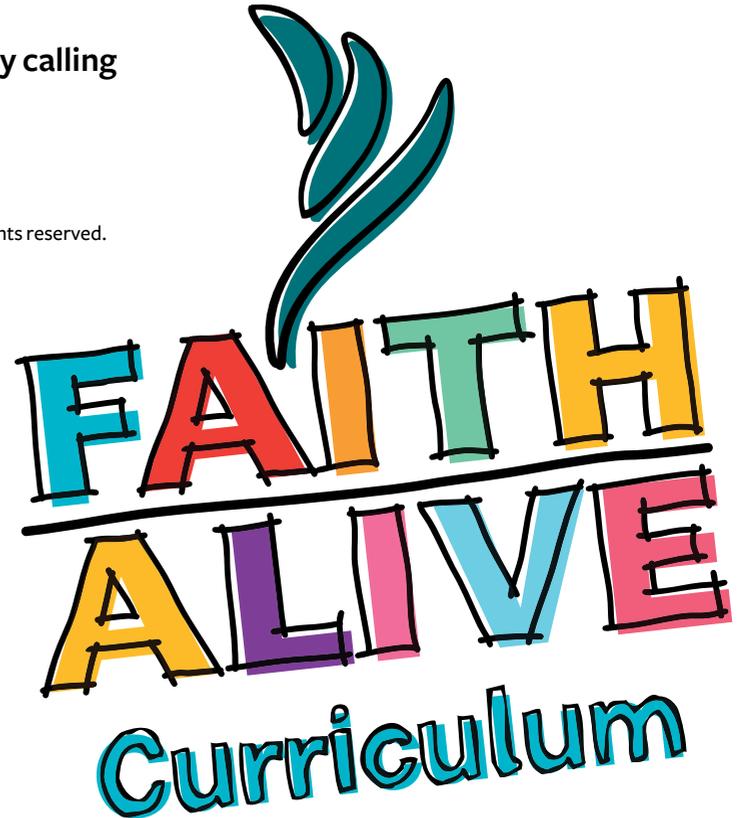


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▶ Tell the Story. Live the Story.

Dear Family:

Today, your child began a new theme in church school, “God Makes a Covenant with Us.” The four lessons in this unit focus on

- Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12:1-9; 17:1-9)
- Abraham and Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16-33; 19:1-29)
- Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 17:7, 9)
- Abraham’s children: Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (Genesis 25:19-23; 26:24-25; 32:22-30; 37:1-11; 45:4-8; 46:1-4)

Each week your child will be bringing home a paper that highlights some of the learning we did that day and offers activities and challenges to do at home.

Please pray for us as we study and celebrate God’s covenant promises.

Sincerely,

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Memory Challenge

“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”

Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.”

—Genesis 17:7, 9 (NIV)



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Abraham the Alien

Script:

Hello, boys and girls. Have you ever met an alien? Well, let me introduce myself. My name is Abraham. No, I'm not from outer space. I'm an alien because I moved from my homeland to a new and strange land. God sent me on this journey to a new place where things are very different. At times I had no idea where I was going or what name to give to things in my new language.

I notice you have a map showing the places on my journey. That's good—you can help me if I get confused. **(Hold map upside down.)**

Now where is Haran? Does anyone see my home in Haran? Oh, thank you. **(Turn map around.)** My wife, Sarah, and I lived in Haran. Before that I lived in Ur. Ur was a lovely place. I grew up there as a boy, so it's not that I never moved. It's just that I never left my home country. I had everything I needed in Haran. In fact, I was quite rich; I had many animals.

Well anyway, there I was, enjoying the good life, when God came to me with a difficult assignment. God told me to leave my country, my relatives, and my friends and go to a distant land. Well, you can imagine my wife's surprise when I told her we must go and leave our home. Can you imagine leaving the home where you live right now? And learning to speak all these strange words? No one quite understood why we needed to obey God except me. For I had heard the marvelous promises that followed. God said to me, "Abraham, I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you." Well I wasn't a youngster like you. At that time I was seventy-five years old—maybe even older than your grandpa. I had no children, but yet God was promising me many desks. No. It's another word—something that means my children and their children's children for all the ages to come. *Descendants*. Does that sound right? And then God said, "I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing, and all the nations will be blessed through you." Why God picked an average guy like me for this honor, I'll never know. And so I herded up my animals. Now let me think. What do they call those black and white wooly creatures in my new land? Ships, right? No . . . sheets? No? I got it. Sheep! And I had boats too . . . I mean goats.

I packed up our belongings, said goodbye to my family and friends, and started walking with Sarah and my nephew . . . what's his name now? Spot? No, Lot. That's it, and our servants. We didn't know where we were going but I believed that God would take care of us. We had no car or airplane in those days so we walked for many weeks—trudging through wide, wet slivers—I mean rivers. And dry, hot desserts. Is that right? Oh, I guess I mean deserts. After many weeks we arrived at Bacon . . . no—what did they call it? Ah yes, Canaan. Let's see . . . can you find it on the map? From there I went to Shec . . . Sheckers? No, Sheck-mate? Oh, thanks, it was Shechem. Beside a tree there on a high hill overlooking the land **(shield eyes from sun)** God's voice came to me again and said, "I will give all this land to you—this whole country. It will belong to you and to your children forever." **(Pause in wonder.)** God is gracious! I built an altar there to help me remember God's promises. Now I'm on my way to set up camp at Beth L.'s. Who's Beth L. anyway? Do you know where she lives? Let's see if we can find her on the map. Oops, could it be Bethel? Yes, it's right near Ai. I wonder where 'O' 'U' and 'E' are. . . . Anyway, I keep following God's leading even though I've become an alien. I believe God will keep his promises to me and all of my descendants because God is faithful. **(Slowly hobble out of the room.)**

Option: Abraham the Alien Acrostic

Script:

A—Alien

Hello, boys and girls. I'm using the letters in my name to tell you my story. God sent me to a land that didn't belong to my family or to me. God knew that made me an alien. An alien is one who lives in a country that is not his or her own. But it can also mean belonging to another planet. You might think I'm the kind of alien that belongs to another planet by the way I'm dressed, but I'm from your planet—just from long ago when people dressed this way. Let me tell you how I became an alien. I was living in a place called Haran with my father. We all worshiped the gods of the land. One god that was especially important was the moon god of Mesopotamia. We watched the moon, hoping it would give us answers to everything we needed. Sometimes it seemed to work, but most of the time it only seemed like chance. This god never spoke to us or paid attention to us. Then one day I heard the voice of the Lord God. God said to me, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household. I will make a great nation come from you. And I will bless you." That sounded too good to be true. My herds of animals had multiplied into vast numbers in this rich land of trees, grasses, and rivers. So I was already blessed. But my wife, Sarah, and I had no children. Could it be true that God would give me a son, and from that son a great nation would come? And would it all happen if I just moved?

B—Believer

It all came down to one thing. Either I trusted in the gods of my father or I trusted in the Lord God who came and spoke to me. It wasn't a choice of what made the most sense, because as you may know, if things are going pretty good you don't want to walk away from them. After all, we had temples and towers in Mesopotamia. People respected my father and our family. I knew little about the countries outside of Mesopotamia, but I had the impression the land was not as productive and the cities were not as large or modern. When I was younger, my family moved from Ur. But that was in the same country, and we could follow the Euphrates River to get where we were going. We had no fear of getting lost. However, God spoke to my heart and my ears. And I believed that the Lord God was the true and living God. So I said, Yes, I'll move.

R—Rambler

A rambler is someone who takes long walks in the country, someone who's not really headed to any place in particular. My journey looked exactly like that. What a difference a river to follow or one of those later-day inventions—the map—would have made! Say, is that a map you have there? Can you find Ur on there? That's where I was born. Now what about Haran? That's where I lived until I was seventy-five years old and God gave me the call to move. Now, can you find Ai and Bethel? That's where I was headed. Only I didn't know it! A map would have helped me feel less like a rambler. I wonder if you ever feel like you don't know where you're going or what comes next. But I knew that God had planned it all, and I had to trust God, no matter how foolish I looked. So I kept wandering from place to place with a wife, my nephew Lot, his family, men servants, women servants, goats, sheep, cattle, tents, cooking utensils, table mats, dishes, water skins, burning fires, and clothing bundles. We were a walking village.

A—Altar

Do you have a key on your map that tells you how far it is from Haran to Shechem? It's several hundred miles. Would you like to walk 100, 200, or 300 miles? Would you ask, "Are we there yet?" or, "When will we get there?" If had a son at that time and he asked me those questions, I would have felt miserable because I wouldn't have had the answer. But finally we arrived at a place called Shechem. And there God spoke to me again. God said, "I will give this land to you and your offspring." *Offspring* meant children. Once again my hope soared over having a son. I built an altar to God right there because God had appeared to me. Amazing! I was eager for that son God promised. And eager to answer his questions about God.

H—Hill Country

From there I traveled toward the hills near Bethel. The beauty of the hills amazed me. I loved looking up at them. Their presence surrounded me and reminded me of God being near me. I set up my tent so that I could view the hills of Bethel in the west and the hills of Ai in the east. The sun rose and set on the hills. All I needed was a front tent porch and a back tent porch to view the beauty of the day from the beginning to the end and give my thanks to God.

A—Ancestor

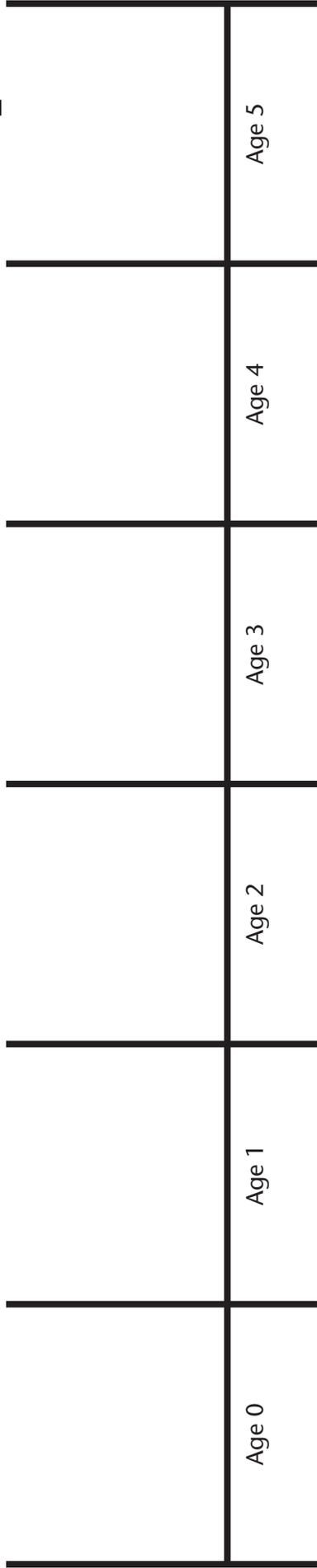
Twenty-four years later, God was still with me, but I did not have that son. Would you give up on God if what was promised still had not happened after twenty-four years? How could I be an ancestor? An ancestor means that you have children, and those children have children, and it keeps going like that. But with me it was nothing. Then, when I was ninety-nine, God spoke to me again. "I will make a nation of you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant for you and all those that come after you." There had been times in the twenty-four years that I had not trusted God completely. But I wanted to trust all those great promises. After all, the Lord was my God.

M—Man

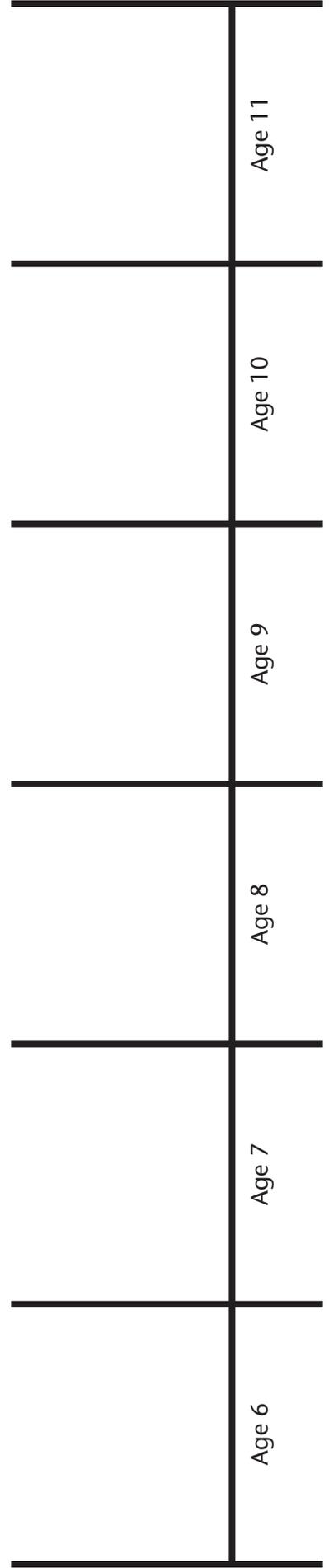
I was just a man. Sarah and I had tried for years to have a child. If it was going to happen, only God could do it. A man or woman or boys and girls are given many abilities from God, but sometimes we just have to trust. You may have heard that I was a great man. But now you know the truth. I was just an ordinary man who had to trust God.

Timeline

God Keeps



Promises to Me



Isaac

Genesis 25:19-23, 26:24-25

What did Isaac do?

_____ Genesis 25:21



What did God do?

_____ 25:21



What did Rebekah do?

_____ 25:22

What did God say?

_____ 25:23



What did God tell Isaac?

_____ 26:24

What did Isaac do?

_____ 26:25



Jacob

Genesis 32:22-30, 46:1-4

What did Jacob ask the man from God?

_____ Genesis 32:26



What did the man from God do?

_____ 32:28-30

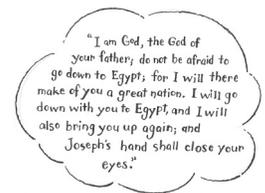


What did Jacob do?

_____ 46:1

What did God tell Jacob?

_____ 46:3

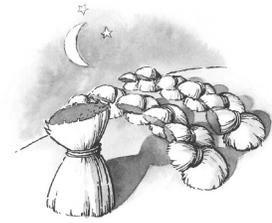


Joseph

Genesis 37:1-11, 45:4-8

What did Joseph see in his dream?

Genesis 37:5-9



Why didn't the brothers like the dream?

37:10

What did Joseph tell his brothers when the dream came true?

45:7-8

