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God's Friend

Starting & Finishing

INTRODUCTION

Last week we heard how God gave people a fresh start. People began to trust God, and he became their friend. Do you have a friend you like to share things with? Isn't it good to have a friend you can trust.

Today's story is about a man called Abraham who learned to trust God.

Let's OPEN THE BOOK at the story called 'God's Friend'.

*Read **God's Friend** in *The Lion Storyteller Bible* (2008 expanded edition)*

CONCLUSION

So God's promise to his friend Abraham came true! He did have children, and grandchildren...and great grandchildren! And Abraham was glad that he'd trusted God.

QUIET MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Close your eyes and think of a good friend who you can trust.

Allow time for reflection.

PRAYER INTRODUCTION

Now I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer say "Amen" at the end after me.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for friends we can laugh with and friends we can trust. Thank you that Abraham trusted you and was called a 'friend of God'. Help us to understand what it means to trust you and be a 'friend of God' too. Amen.

STORYTELLERS NEEDED

- Essential** Narrator, Abraham, Sarah.
Additional Voice of God, 3 messengers.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTING THE STORY

- This story works very well with puppets. If you decide on this option, there is a downloadable script available (see below). If you decide not to use puppets, then act out the story simply using the characters in the story.
- Abraham and his family can move around to show that they have left Haran.
- Divide children into three groups to giggle, chuckle and laugh as the words are mentioned in the story. Have a clear 'stop' signal.

SUGGESTIONS FOR VISUAL IMPACT

- For puppet presentation:

Puppets can be used with or without a screen:

With screen: a screen can be made using photographic lights tripods or any other means of stringing a cloth up. You need loud voices or a microphone to make sure you can be heard. The advantage is that your words can be pinned to the back of the screen for easy reference!

Without screen: these puppets tend to be bigger and held on the arm. You can actually walk around with them as they go on their long journey, and more exaggerated movements are possible. Your words can be discreetly pinned to the backs of the puppets

- For acting the story:

Use props to set the scene: washing bowl, towel, bread, bowl of 'stew', 3 bowls, 3 spoons, baby doll.

EXTRA RESOURCES - downloadable from www.openthebook.net

- Puppet script
- Photographs of puppets
- Instructions for making puppets or suggestions for purchase of puppets.
- Information on making or buying a puppet screen.

MY NOTES