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WHERE Genesis 12:1-9, 18:1-15, 21:1-7
TIME 10 minutes
DATE Around 2000

Abraham and Sarah's story

When Abraham and Sarah married, they wanted to be a couple who tried to listen for God's voice together. A number of times we read that the Lord 'appeared' to Abraham and spoke to him. God promised that Abraham and Sarah would be the parents of a great nation. And God promised that their nation would rule the land of Canaan. Abraham and Sarah were faithful. But at times they must have felt uncertain about how to hear and respond to God's communication. How, when and where things would happen were all unknown. And yet they followed God's lead. When God said move, they moved. Always into the unknown. Always trusting God's plan for their future.



Abraham & Sarah

? When have you felt that you have faced the unknown? How did it make you feel?

Imagine how hard it was for Abraham and Sarah, when everyone around them seemed able to get pregnant, but they couldn't. Imagine how anxious they must have been that they would not have anyone to leave their legacy to.

In spite of their struggles and their doubts, they continued listening to God together in their marriage. God even changed their names from Abram to Abraham (meaning 'ancestor of a multitude') and Sarai to Sarah (meaning 'princess') so they were constantly reminded of his promises. But years passed and Sarah went through the menopause. God's promises seemed completely impossible, and their future more uncertain than ever. Had they misheard God? Had they got it all wrong? And then suddenly, God announced that Sarah was about to have their long awaited son. What did Sarah do? She laughed. The Hebrew name Isaac means 'he laughs'. Perhaps God laughed too, in delight at Abraham and Sarah's surprise.

to REFLECT

God promised many blessings to Abraham and Sarah as they set out for the land to which they were being called. Becoming a parent is in many ways a 'calling to a new land' as each new child brings new possibilities into a family.

? What hopes and dreams do you have for your family?

God communicates with us in many ways: through scripture, in silence, through family and friends, in a baby's first smile ...

? How is God communicating with you? What signs of faithful love at work in your life can you name?



ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY

Abraham & Sarah

TIME LINE

The Beginnings

c. 2000–1700 BC **Abraham & Sarah**

c. 1700–1250 BC **Moses**

c. 1250–1030 BC **Ruth & Naomi**

c. 1030–931 BC **David**

c. 600–400 BC **Ezra & Nehemiah**

c. 20 BC–AD 90 **Mary (c.20 BC–AD 50)**

c. 20 BC–AD 90 **Jesus Christ (c.4 BC–AD 30)**

c. 20 BC–AD 90 **Paul (c.AD 20–90)**

The Journey continues

to DO

Talk to your child as they grow about God's love. Let them know that God takes great delight in each and every human person, created in the image and likeness of God. And that God has great plans for the future of each and every person.

ABRAHAM'S PRAYER

“O Lord, what will you give me, for I continue childless...” (Genesis 15:2)

† Dear Lord, the promises I believe in seem distant when I face an uncertain future. Continue to uphold me with your everlasting hope. Amen

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

“Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them...” So shall your descendents be. (Genesis 15:5)

THE BIG PICTURE

In the story of Abraham and Sarah, God makes a 'covenant' (a formal relationship that includes a promise or agreement) with Abraham. There had already been covenants with Adam (God's covenant with a family) and Noah (God's covenant with a household). But this covenant was different because it was between God and a whole Tribe.



Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 12:1-18:15 and 21:1-7

You may hear these readings on the feast of the Holy Family, just after Christmas, when Abraham and Sarah are held up as an example of marriage and family life. On the second Sunday of each Lent we hear about Abraham's journey of faith. Otherwise we hear their stories in the summer months, when the focus is their hospitality as a family, and God's healing power as he opens Sarah's womb.

when we face
the unknown

Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 12:1-18:15 and 21:1-7

Abraham and Sarah were made some bold promises by God. But perhaps at times they felt the lack of details in God's communication. The 'how', the 'when' and the 'where' were all unknown. And yet they followed God's lead. They trusted that God had a plan and God was calling them into the future.

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