



LEVEL 3  
3-3  
LESSON 3

# Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Father of the Faithful

# Father of the Faithful

**T**he people who lived before the Flood had turned away from God. They followed the selfish way of Cain. Now, the people after the Flood had done the same thing. They followed the false religion of Nimrod.

Now God decided to do something special. He would begin a new phase in His plan. He would start a new nation. He would work with the people in this nation and give them an opportunity to be an example to the other nations. God would bless this nation for obedience. This would show them and the world that living God's way brings blessings!

God chose to start this special nation with a man named Abram.

Abram was a descendant of Noah's son Shem. He was a scientist and astronomer in the land of Chaldea. Priests who taught false religion said that the sun, moon, planets and stars were gods or were controlled by gods. But Abram knew they were not. Using observation and the laws of mathematics, he proved that these heavenly bodies followed predictable patterns. God used this fact to help

Abram prove that there had to be a true God who created them and who created the laws by which they move through the heavens.

Jewish historian Josephus recorded that the teachings of Abram caused the pagan priest of Chaldea to become very angry with him. This priest persecuted Abram for teaching true science and the truth about the existence of the Creator God.

## **GOD CALLS ABRAM**

Despite his trials, Abram stayed faithful to his belief in the great Creator. One day, God actually spoke to him in the city of Haran, when Abram was 75 years old.

God told Abram to leave Chaldea with his family and move to another country. But He did not tell Abram where to go or explain the reason why. God simply told Abram that he would be blessed if he obeyed.

What would you do in that situation?

Imagine giving up your friends, your things and your favorite places, all because God told you to move.

What would your attitude be? What is your attitude when your parents tell you to do things that are much simpler and easier than this?

The Bible records that Abram did not argue or complain or even delay. “So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him” (Genesis 12:4).

Abram left the city of Haran with his wife, Sarai, the family of his nephew Lot, hundreds of servants, and belongings including herds of cattle, goats and sheep. After a

long journey, God led Abram’s large household into the wilderness of Canaan. Canaan was a fertile land with good pasture for animals as well as rich soil and favorable weather for growing fruits and vegetables.

But when Abram arrived, Canaan was suffering from a famine. Because there was no rain, fruits and vegetables could not grow. It was difficult to find anything to eat. Abram decided to move to Egypt until the famine passed.



ILLUSTRATIONS MELISSA BARREIRO

Abram leaves Haran.



Abraham remains faithful to his Creator.

After the famine ended, Abram returned to Canaan. God then appeared to Abram and told him that all the land he could see in all directions would belong to him and his descendants forever. God also promised Abram would have more descendants than there were stars in the sky or sand on the shore. But Abram and Sarai did not have any children, and he was already 85 years

old. Sarai was about 75, which is well past the age when women could have babies. It did not seem like God's promise was possible. Abram needed faith in God to perform a miracle!

### **BIRTH OF ISHMAEL**

In Chaldea, there was a custom that if a man's wife was unable to have babies, he could have legal heirs with one of his wife's servants. This custom was



Lot and Abraham part ways.

against God's law, but Abram did not have enough faith in God at this point in his life. So when Sarai told Abram he should have a child with her Egyptian servant, Hagar, Abram agreed.

Hagar became pregnant, and she started to look down on Sarai for being unable to have children. She started to act like she was Abram's wife, instead of Sarai's servant. This caused a lot of hatred between Sarai and Hagar. Sarai told Abram she wished she had never suggested that he have a child with another woman. Abram told Sarai that she could be stricter with Hagar. But when Sarai did this, Hagar ran away.

God sent an angel to Hagar to tell her to go back to Sarai and be a

servant to her. The angel also told Hagar that she would bear a son. God had seen her affliction, and had given her a son who would become the father of a great multitude. The angel instructed Hagar to name her son Ishmael, which means "God listens."

Soon after Hagar returned to Abram and Sarai, she had a son and named him Ishmael.

Thirteen years later, God appeared to Abram again and reminded him that if he obeyed God, he would become the father of many nations. To help strengthen Abram's faith, God changed his name to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude." God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah, meaning "princess."



Hagar and Ishmael are sent away.

God told Abraham that his wife Sarah would be the mother of nations, but Abraham doubted God and wondered how it was possible for Sarah to have a child when she was 90 years old. Abraham then asked God to make Ishmael his heir and to grant His promises through him. But God told Abraham that Sarah would indeed have a son within a year, whom they would name Isaac, and that God would establish His covenant with Isaac.

It seemed impossible, but God wanted Abraham to learn that all things are possible with God.

## **SODOM AND GOMORRAH**

Soon after God spoke with Abraham, three visitors came to his tent. They appeared to be three men, but they were actually two angels and the God Being who would later become Jesus Christ!

These visitors warned Abraham about God's plan for Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom and Gomorrah were two nearby cities that were filled with wicked and violent people, just like the people who lived before the Flood. The three visitors told Abraham that God would destroy both cities with fire.



Lot and his daughters flee Sodom and Gomorrah;  
when his wife looks back, she turns into a pillar of salt.

The two angels who visited Abraham then traveled to Sodom to find Lot.

Lot had been living in Sodom for several years. He welcomed the two visitors into his home. They warned him and his family to get out of the city, telling them, *Do not stop, and do not look back.*

Lot's family fled, and fire from the sky rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot's wife disobeyed and looked back. Even though Sodom was horribly sinful to the point that God had to destroy it, Lot's wife loved Sodom. When she looked back, God punished her for loving sin by turning her into a pillar of salt. Lot and his two daughters escaped the destruction of Sodom because they obeyed God's warning!

## **BIRTH OF ISAAC**

After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah. They had been waiting a long time, but Sarah miraculously gave birth to a son! Abraham named his new son Isaac.

Ishmael grew jealous of Isaac and began to tease and bully him. When Sarah saw Ishmael picking on Isaac, she asked Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Abraham didn't want to do this, because he loved Ishmael as well. But God spoke to Abraham and told him to do as Sarah had asked. God promised to take care of Hagar and Ishmael, but

Isaac would be in danger as long as Ishmael lived in the same house.

So Abraham gave Hagar and Ishmael food and water for a long journey, and sent them away. Eventually, they made their way to the wilderness of Paran. Hagar found an Egyptian wife for her son. Just as God promised, Ishmael and his wife had 12 sons who became princes. After a few generations, Ishmael's descendants became a great and numerous people.

As Isaac grew up, Abraham taught him to believe and obey God. Once Isaac was grown, God would have another great test of faith for Abraham.

## **TEST OF FAITH**

One day, God spoke to Abraham and told him to perform a specific task. God said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and





get you into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering ...” (Genesis 22:2).

Abraham had waited years for this promised son. Isaac had finally been born, and Abraham loved him dearly.

But now God commanded Abraham to kill him! This was an extremely hard trial—perhaps the hardest test a father could possibly go through.

But Abraham trusted God. God had promised him that his descendants



Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac.

would multiply and become many nations, and that those descendants would specifically come from Isaac.

Abraham knew that even if he killed Isaac, God would keep His promise. So he believed God must be able and willing to bring Isaac back to life. This was the hardest decision Abraham ever had to make, but he decided to obey God.

Abraham and Isaac left for Mount Moriah. On the mountain, Abraham and Isaac built an altar out of stones. Abraham bound Isaac and laid him on top of the altar. With tears in his eyes, Abraham grabbed his knife and pulled back his arm to kill his son as quickly and painlessly as possible.

But before Abraham could plunge the knife down and end Isaac's life, a voice cried out, "*STOP!*"

The voice was from an angel who was delivering a message from God's throne: *Stop, Abraham.*

God had experienced this ordeal with Abraham in a unique way. He knew that thousands of years later, He would sacrifice His own Son, Jesus Christ. God saw Abraham's heart, and knew that even though it was an agonizing experience, Abraham would sacrifice even his own child because God commanded him to.

God stopped Abraham so that he would not have to experience the anguish of watching his son die. When you realize the anguish

this man willingly went through in order to obey God, you realize why obedient and believing Abraham has been called, for thousands of years, the *father of the faithful*.



Abraham embraces Isaac after God stopped his sacrifice.

# BIBLE MEMORY Books of the New Testament

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

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## Abraham Word Search

S N I A C E N E F H E J L A E  
L A S M F A T H E R S I O Z T  
E S A R A I N E D E O S T R Y  
W T S A R P L A A E R A A A P  
F R A P S E L D A L T A R H G  
A O C E G Y P T E N O C D M U  
M N A B R A H A M O B A U S L  
E O G B F C E A M H F U L A H  
G M J E A R H N P E A G U C S  
H Y N C L A N A E A M H T R A  
A C Y M H S H B L K I M F I R  
R H S T A O H E R D N Y A F A  
G D R F R I S H M A E L L I H  
C V U L A U P Y T A L A I C R  
A L N H N Y H E I K I M N E V

ABRAHAM  
SARAH  
ISAAC  
ALTAR

CHALDEA  
LOT  
FATHER  
SACRIFICE

ASTRONOMY  
CANAAN  
ISHMAEL  
ANGELS

HARAN  
FAMINE  
EGYPT