

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

Abraham answers God's call with faith

I've always been close to my Uncle Abraham. Maybe it's because he and Aunt Sara never had any children of their own. My father died when I was very young. Uncle Abraham was easy to talk to and I went to see him often.

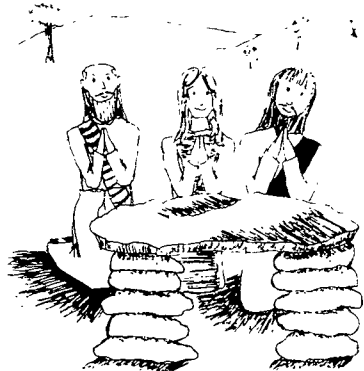
No one in Haran where we both lived could ever say that my uncle hadn't made a success of his life. He lived in one of the nicest houses in town with many servants to help him. His house was surrounded by much land and he had large herds of cattle and sheep.

Most of the people in Haran worshipped the moon and the stars. Uncle Abraham thought this to be foolishness and he made it a point to tell them. "It doesn't make sense to worship things that God made."

Even though he was very outspoken, there was talk about making Uncle Abraham the head chieftain when our leader died. I thought that was what my uncle was going to tell me when he asked me to come to see him.

"Aunt Sara and I are leaving town for good in a few days," Uncle Abraham said as matter-of-factly as if he were talking about the weather.

"Why?" I finally managed to blurt out. "You have everything you need in Haran."



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

"If I go, God will fulfill the great promise he has made to me," he said, smiling.

"Where are you going?"

"First we'll head west along the river," Uncle Abraham said. "Then south toward Bethel."

"But that will take you right through the desert! Uncle, I mean no disrespect, but you're 75 years old. That trip would be almost impossible for someone half your age!"

Uncle Abraham waited patiently until I'd given him all of my reasons why he shouldn't go. Then he said, "Lot, my mind is set on going. We'll be taking our animals and everything with us. But this house is yours, unless..." he stopped in mid sentence.

"Unless what?"

"There's another choice for you, too, Lot. But it is your decision alone

to make."

Whenever Uncle Abraham gave advice, he left the final choice up to me. "God's like that, too, Lot," he always said. "Each person must decide for himself what to do."

The sun was just coming up a couple of days later as I made my way back to Uncle Abraham's house. As I helped him pack up for the trip, I said, "You never told me about God's promise."

"If I go, God has promised me land and many descendants," Abraham said. "And I believe in his promise."

There were times during the hard trip across the desert when our food and water were so low I didn't think we would make it.

But one day, we came to a great tree just outside of Canaan. It was here that Uncle Abraham built an altar and we all knelt and worshipped God. We were in sight of the land that God had promised.

Read More About It: Genesis, Chapter 12:1-9.

Q & A

1. Why did Abraham agree to leave his home?

2. What promise has God made to all followers of Jesus Christ?

The Bible Times

A.D. 1992

Rochester — Dedication ceremonies were held yesterday at St. John's, a new church in the city.

The bishop blessed the altar and recalled for the large crowd a story from the Old Testament about one of the very first altars. Abraham erected that altar over 4000 years ago as a sign of his faith in God.

In the dedication Mass, lectors read from Matthew's Gospel, which lists Jesus Christ in Abraham's family line. During the homily, the bishop said, "All followers of Jesus Christ are descendants of Abraham. Remember when we worship at this altar that we make our own faith journey as we prepare to enter our eternal home in heaven someday."

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

CANAAN

Bethel

Babylon

UR

Congratulations to Lalani Lenhard, a fifth-grade student at St. Theodore's. She is the winner of a \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the September Kids' Club contest. Her essay is reprinted below.

September essay question: Are you supposed to take care of others or just be responsible for yourself?

I think you are supposed to take care of others and yourself. God made us to be kind, loving and helpful to everyone, including people you dislike. Live each day the golden rule: "do unto others as you want them to do unto you." If you help people, people will help you in return. By helping others, you'll feel something great inside your heart. I must also be responsible and accountable for my own actions. So I feel we must both help others and ourselves!

King Solomon's Wisdom



"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be highly regarded is better than silver or gold."

Proverbs 22:1.

Talking to God

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

He remembers his covenant forever, the covenant he made with Abraham."

Psalms 105:1, 8-9.

Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!

Abraham told Lot that God spoke to him in his daily life. How does God speak to us today? Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone; the essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of *Kids' Chronicle*. Send your entry to: Cindy Bassett, c/o *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Deadline for entries is Oct. 22, 1992.



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God's Covenant with Abraham

God made a promise to Abraham. Because Abraham believed and had faith in God's promise, he left his home and went on a long journey. The agreement between God and Abraham is called a COVENANT. Unscramble the quote from Genesis to see what God promised Abraham. Answer on p. 16.

"I LIWL AKEM OUY OTNI A EAGTR IONTAN
DNA I LLWI LESBS UYO; I LWIL EKMA RYOU
MEAN TRGAE ADN UOY LILW EB A
INGSBELS."

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