

# Kids' Chronicle

## The Lord visits Abraham

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Abraham was sitting in his tent looking out. It had been a hot morning, and the sun was still climbing. The afternoon promised to be hotter still. Then Abraham saw three men approaching. He left the shade his tent provided and ran out to meet his visitors. He bowed to them and said to the man in front, "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring you a little food. Afterward you may go on your way."

The three men looked at each other and nodded. The first man said, "Very well, do as you have said."

Abraham rushed back to the tent and told Sarah, his wife, to get some flour. "Knead it and make rolls." Without waiting for an answer, Abraham went out to the field and selected one of his best steers and ordered one of his servants to prepare it. He wanted his visitors to have the best he could offer them. When the meat was ready, Abraham served it to his guests with soft cheese and fresh milk.

The men talked with Abraham while they ate. Then one of them asked, "Where is your wife, Sarah?" Abraham gave the man a puzzled look. He had

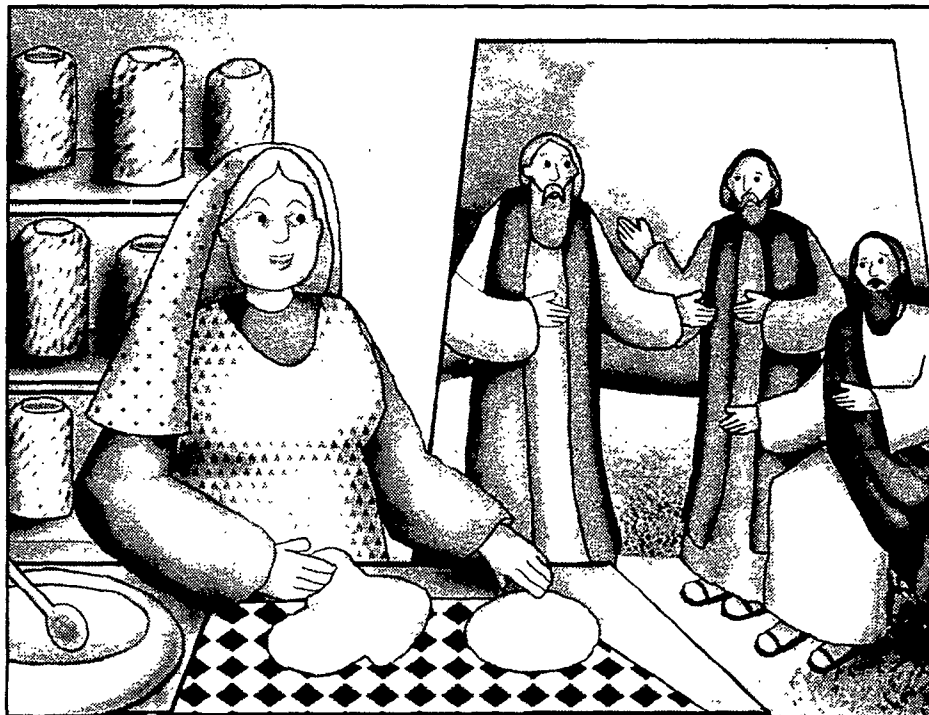


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

never met any of them before, yet they knew his wife's name. So he replied with a simple answer. "There, in the tent."

Then the man said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." Abraham and Sarah were both very old, well beyond

the age when most people have children. Yet they had always wanted a child of their own. But Sarah was in the doorway of the tent listening, and she heard what the man had said. She laughed and said, "Now that my husband and I are so old, are we still to have a child?"

Then one of the men, who was actually the Lord in disguise, asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too marvelous for the Lord to do? At the appointed time, about this time next year, I will return to you, and Sarah will have a son."

When Sarah realized it was the Lord who had said she would have a son, and that he had heard her, she became afraid. "I didn't laugh," she lied.

"Yes, you did," the Lord replied.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

### Genesis 18 Q&A

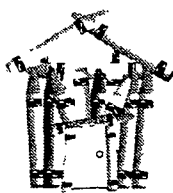
1. How did Abraham greet his visitors?
2. Why did Sarah laugh?

### Bible Accent

The word angel comes from "angelos," the Greek word for messenger. We believe angels to be God's messengers. There are many references to and stories about angels in the Bible. Sometimes they bring good news and sometimes they warn people what might happen if they do not obey God. The most important work that angels do is to praise God. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Angels are spiritual creatures who glorify God without ceasing and who serve his saving plans for other creatures. In the Bible, one of the most exciting accounts of angels is in Luke 2 when, after an angel announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds, 'suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God.' Also, the two men with the Lord when he visited Abraham were angels."

### The Martyrs of Gorkum

Nicholas Pieck and 19 of his religious companions were captured by Calvinist forces in Gorkum in the summer of 1572. The soldiers, because they did not respect the religion of the clergymen, were very cruel to them. They also hoped the priests would disclose the hiding place of valuable church vessels. The priests were forced to march to their prison while singing the Litany of the Saints. They were told they could go free under one condition: They had to renounce their faith. Every one of them refused to do so. Although magistrates and two brothers of Nicholas appealed to the captors to let the men go, the Calvinists refused. All 19 men became martyrs for their faith and their God. We honor their sacrifice on July 9.



### Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:  
**Abraham was kind to the strangers. What can we do to demonstrate kindness to others?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is July 19, 2001. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner is Molly Gutschow, a sixth-grader at St. Michael School, Lyons. In answer to "Why is baptism so important to our faith?" she wrote: "Baptism is an important sacrament. It has been around since Jesus' time. It unites us with God, and shows we believe in him. It is important we show that we are baptized, believe, and stand for our Catholic faith. It is also important to remember that since we are baptized, we are members of the church and God's family."

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### Puzzle

Circle T if the statement is true, and F if false. The questions are based on the Book of Genesis, and the hint is the number of the chapter where the answer can be found. *Answers on page 9*

			Hint
1. In the beginning, God created morning and night.	T	F	1
2. Cain and Abel were brothers.	T	F	4
3. Noah built a large boat.	T	F	6
4. There was a great tower in Babel.	T	F	11
5. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by disease.	T	F	19
6. Abraham was prepared to kill Isaac.	T	F	22
7. Jacob was also called Israel.	T	F	32
8. Joseph interpreted Solomon's dreams	T	F	40