

ABRAHAM—GOD'S OBEDIENT SERVANT

Many **generations** after Shem (a son of Noah), there was a man who became well-known for his obedience to God. This man's name was Abram, and his wife's name was Sarai. Later, we will learn that God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah.

When Abram was 75 years old, God spoke to him and told him to leave his home in Haran and to go to a land that he would show him. Abram did not question God as to why he was to go. He just obeyed. He packed up his belongings and took his wife, Sarai, and his **nephew**, Lot, with him. They settled in the land of Canaan.

Because Abram obeyed, God blessed him greatly. As the years went by, Abram became a rich man. He owned many sheep and cattle. But there was not enough room in the place where they were living for both the animals of Abram and the animals of Lot. When their shepherds began to fight, Abram decided that he and Lot should live apart from each other.

Being a kind and **generous** man, Abram allowed Lot to choose whether he would stay where they were, or move on. Lot chose to move to the plains near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

After Lot was gone, God spoke to Abram and told him to look in all directions from where he was. God said that he would give all the land that Abram could see to him and his **descendants.** He promised to bless Abram and make his descendants as many as the specks of dust on the earth.

It was hard for Abram and Sarai to understand how God was going to give them so many descendants. They were both getting older and they had no children. It took a great deal of trust for them to believe God's promises.

When Abram was 99 years old, God spoke to him and changed his name to Abraham, which means "a father of many nations." At this time, God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah, which means "princess." God told them that they would have a son and were to call him Isaac.

Some time later, the one who later became Jesus Christ came to Abraham's tent along with two angels. All three looked like men. He told Abraham that Sarah would soon give birth to a son. He also told Abraham that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah would be **destroyed** because of the **evil** the people were doing in these cities.

Abraham begged God not to destroy these cities if there were just a few **righteous** people living there. Remember, his nephew Lot and his family were living in the city of Sodom. God finally told Abraham that he would not destroy the cities if only 10 righteous people were there. But not even 10 righteous people could be found!

God then sent the two angels to Sodom to tell Lot and his family to get out of the city. It was going to be destroyed. Lot and his family did not want to go at first, but finally went.

Lot and his family were warned not to look back at the city as they left. But Lot's wife disobeyed by turning back to look at her home. As punishment for her **disobedience**, God turned her into a pillar of salt. It is important that we obey God and do what we are told! When Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah had a son whom they named Isaac. God had kept his promise!

Up to this time, Abraham had done all that God asked him to do. However, God wanted to be sure that Abraham would obey him by doing whatever he told him to do. So God decided to give Abraham a **difficult** test.

One day, God told Abraham to take his son Isaac and give him as a **burnt offering**. Abraham started toward the mountains early the next morning. He was going to obey God. Abraham knew that if God did want him to **sacrifice** Isaac, God could also **resurrect** Isaac. He also knew that God had promised to give him many children through Isaac.

After a three-day **journey**, Abraham finally reached the place where God told him to go. He then tied Isaac and placed him on the altar they had built. Abraham was about to take the life of his son Isaac when he heard a voice ordering him to stop! It was God speaking to him through an angel. Now God knew Abraham feared him and would do anything he asked him to do. Isaac was a happy young man! He and his father then saw a ram caught in a nearby bush and used it for the offering.

Because Abraham was willing to obey God, God again promised him that his descendants would be blessed. This is why the nations of Israel are so blessed today.

When Sarah was 127 years old she died. Later, Abraham married again. His wife's name was Keturah. Abraham continued to obey God the rest of his life. He was 175 years old when he died.

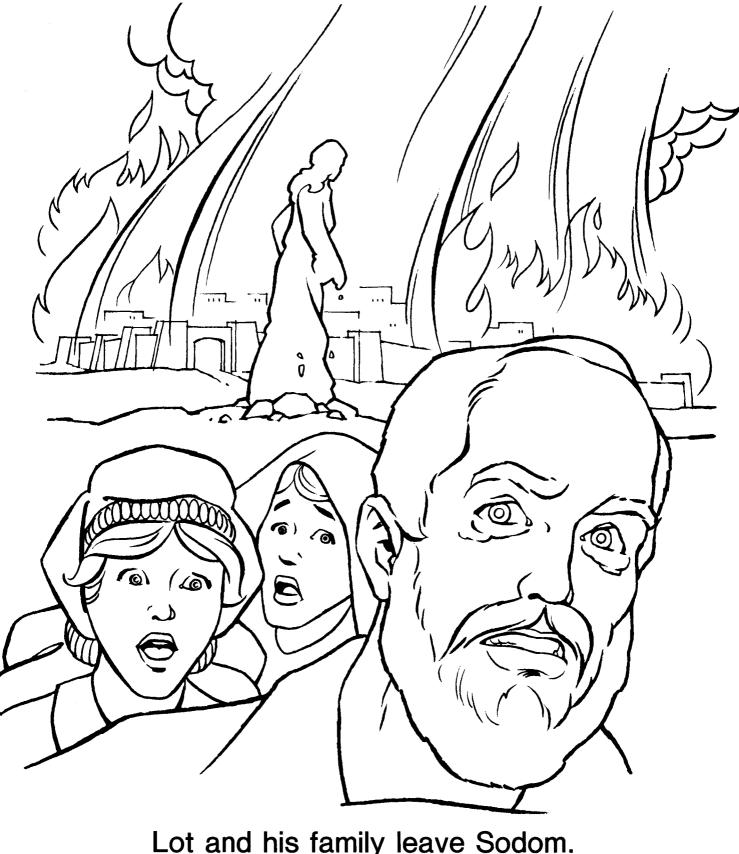
Parents: Explain all the **boldface** words. You may wish to prompt further discussion by asking your child some of the following questions: Why did God promise to bless Abraham and his descendants? Does God ever test us? Why? Why did God tell Lot and his family not to look back? Why did Lot's wife turn into a pillar of salt?



Abraham and Lot go their separate ways.



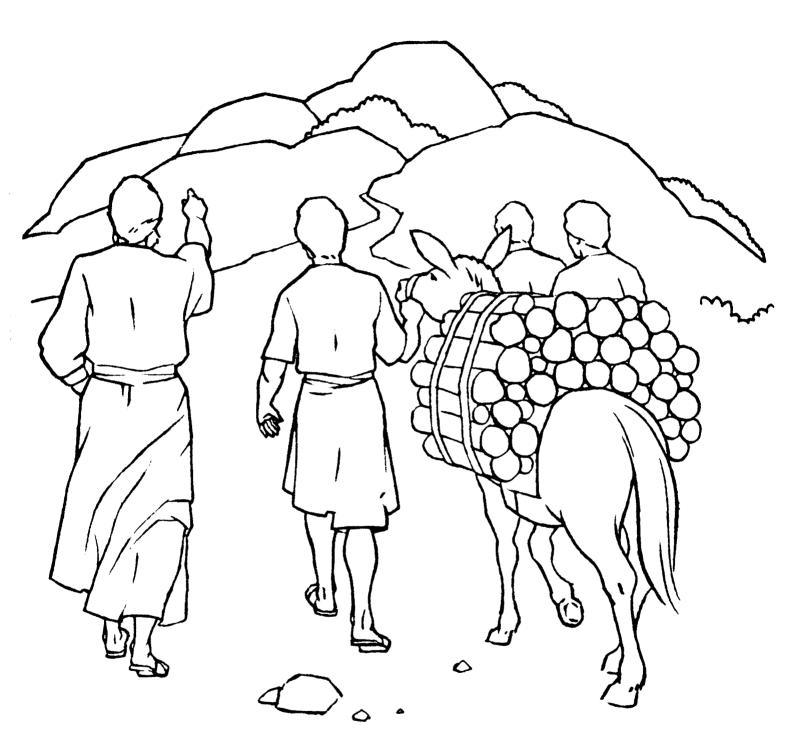
Abraham learns that God will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and that Sarah will soon have a son.



Lot and his family leave Sodom. Lot's wife disobeys by looking back and becomes a pillar of salt.



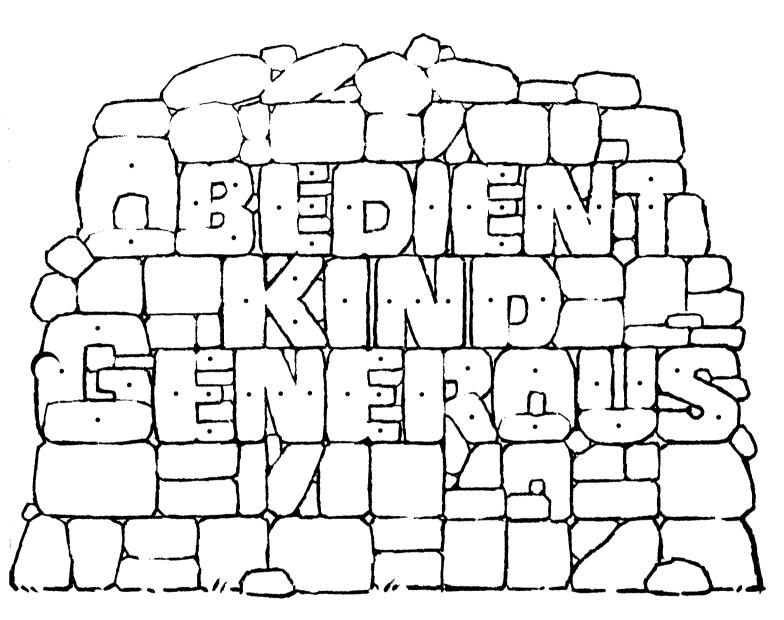
As God promised, Abraham and Sarah did have a son whom they named Isaac.



Abraham left early in the morning to offer Isaac, as God told him to do.



When God knew that Abraham would obey him, God provided a ram in the place of Isaac for the burnt offering.

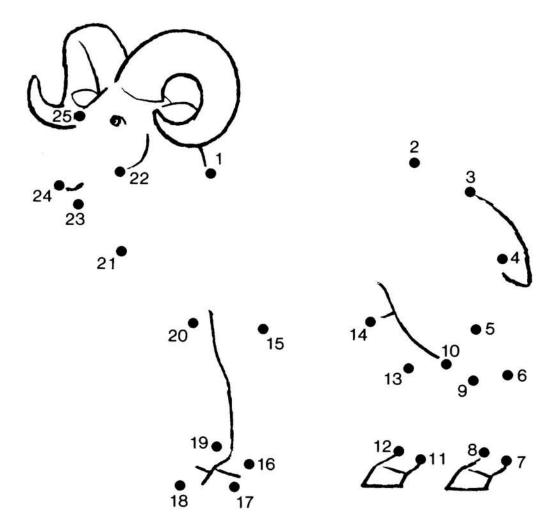


Color the dotted rocks one color and all other rocks another color, to see the words that describe Abraham's character. FOUNDER: HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG (1892-1986) PASTOR GENERAL: JOSEPH W. TKACH Published by the Worldwide Church of God and produced in cooperation with Imperial Schools. Copyright © 1983. All rights reserved.



BIBLE MEMORY Gene

Genesis 17:5



Connect the dots to find out what took Isaac's place as a burnt offering.