

ABRAHAM



Read Genesis 12:1-4 and complete the activities below.

GENESIS 12

15

the father of Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the city of Ur in Babylonia, the land where he was born. Haran died while his father Terah was still alive. ²⁹ Abram and Nahor both got married. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai. The name of Nahor’s wife was Milkah, the daughter of Haran. Haran was the father of Milkah and Iscah. ³⁰ But Sarai wasn’t able to have children.

³¹ Terah left Ur in Babylon. He took with him his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran. Terah also took his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram. All of them left together to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they made their home there.

³² Terah lived for 205 years. And then he died in Harran.

God Chooses Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you.

I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others.

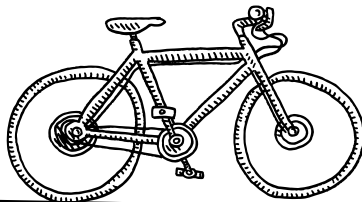
³ I will bless those who bless you.

I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you.

All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.”

Start Reading Here

End Reading Here



FRIDAY

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you” (Genesis 12:1).

TODAY’S BIBLE READING: Genesis 12:1–4

DOING WHAT GOD WANTS

Doing what God wants will make a BIG change in your life—and the lives of others too.

Abram did what God wanted. He followed God’s directions. When Abram was 75 years old, God told him to go to a new land. Abram obeyed. So God made him the father of the nation of Israel. God blessed the Israelites. He led them into the promised land. He promised to keep blessing them as long as they followed him.

God will bless you too. In fact, he already has! He sent Jesus. And God promises to bless you when you love and follow him.

ASK YOURSELF

How has God blessed you?
How can you show God that you love him and want to follow him?

I have read this devotion.

For your next reading, turn to page 19. If you want to read more, see Psalm 119:1–4 on page 725.

Read Genesis 12:1-2 and complete the activities on the next page.

16

GENESIS 11

mix up their language. Then they will not be able to understand one another.”

⁸So the LORD scattered them from there over the whole earth. And they stopped building the city. ⁹There the LORD mixed up the language of the whole world. That’s why the city was called Babel. From there the LORD scattered them over the whole earth.

THE FAMILY LINE OF SHEM

¹⁰Here is the story of Shem’s family line.

It was two years after the flood. When Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arphaxad. ¹¹After Arphaxad was born, Shem lived 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹²When Arphaxad had lived 35 years, he became the father of Shelah.

¹³After Shelah was born, Arphaxad lived 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴When Shelah had lived 30 years, he became the father of Eber. ¹⁵After Eber was born, Shelah lived 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶When Eber had lived 34 years, he became the father of Peleg. ¹⁷After Peleg was born, Eber lived 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸When Peleg had lived 30 years, he became the father of Reu. ¹⁹After Reu was born, Peleg lived 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰When Reu had lived 32 years, he became the father of Serug. ²¹After Serug was born, Reu lived 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

²²When Serug had lived 30 years, he became the father of Nahor. ²³After Nahor was born, Serug lived 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁴When Nahor had lived 29 years, he became the father of Terah. ²⁵After Terah was born, Nahor lived 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁶After Terah was 70 years old, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

THE FAMILY LINE OF ABRAM

²⁷Here is the story of Terah’s family line.

Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. ²⁸Haran died in the city of Ur in Babylonia, the land where he was born. Haran died while his father Terah was still alive. ²⁹Abram and Nahor both got married. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai. The name of Nahor’s wife was Milkah, the daughter of Haran. Haran was the father of Milkah and Iscah. ³⁰But Sarai wasn’t able to have children.

³¹Terah left Ur in Babylon. He took with him his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran. Terah also took his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram. All of them left together to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they made their home there.

³²Terah lived for 205 years. And then he died in Harran.

GOD CHOOSES ABRAM

12 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation.

And I will bless you.

I will make your name great.

You will be a blessing to others.

³I will bless those who bless you.

I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you.

All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.”

⁴So Abram went, just as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. They took all the people and possessions they had acquired in Harran. They started out for the land of Canaan. And they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land. He went as far as the large tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were living in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram at Shechem. He said,



GENESIS 13

17

“I will give this land to your family who comes after you.” So Abram built an altar there to honor the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there, Abram went on toward the hills east of Bethel. He set up his tent there. Bethel was to the west, and Ai was to the east. Abram built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD.

⁹Then Abram left and continued south toward the Negev Desert.

ABRAM GOES TO EGYPT

¹⁰At that time there was not enough food in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while. ¹¹As he was about to enter Egypt, he spoke to his wife Sarai. He said, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹²The people of Egypt will see you and say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me. But they will let you live. ¹³Tell them you are my sister. Then I’ll be treated well and my life will be spared because of you.”

¹⁴Abram arrived in Egypt. The Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. ¹⁵When Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they told Pharaoh how beautiful she was. So she was taken into his palace. ¹⁶Pharaoh treated Abram well because of her. So Abram gained more sheep and cattle and male and female donkeys. He

also gained more male and female servants and some camels.

¹⁷But the LORD sent terrible sicknesses on Pharaoh and everyone in his palace. The LORD did it because of Abram’s wife Sarai. ¹⁸So Pharaoh sent for Abram. “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say she was your sister? That’s why I took her to be my wife. Now then, here’s your wife. Take her and go!” ²⁰Then Pharaoh gave orders to his men about Abram. They sent him on his way. So he left with his wife and everything he had.

ABRAM AND LOT SEPARATE

13 Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev Desert. He took his wife and everything he had. Lot went with him. ²Abram had become very rich. He had a lot of livestock and silver and gold.

³Abram left the Negev Desert. He went from place to place until he came to Bethel. Then he came to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier. ⁴There he called on the name of the LORD at the altar he had built.

⁵Lot was moving around with Abram. Lot also had flocks and herds and tents.



WHY DID GOD CHOOSE ABRAM TO LEAVE HIS HOMELAND AND MOVE TO A NEW LAND INSTEAD OF SOMEONE ELSE?

The Bible does not give us God’s reasons for choosing Abram. It was not that Abram was better than everyone else. God chose Abram because he was the right person for the job. Only God knows exactly why he chose Abram. God does not always tell us why he does what he does, but he knows everything and only does what is good. That much we know for sure.

CHECKOUT
Genesis 12:1–2



Read Genesis 24:1-21 and complete the activities on the next page.

Genesis 22—24

26

¹⁹ Then Abraham returned to his servants. They started out together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

Words to Treasure
 Genesis 22:17–18
I will certainly bless you . . . because you have obeyed me.

Nahor's Sons

²⁰ Some time later Abraham was told, "Milkah has become a mother. She has had sons by your brother Nahor.

²¹ Uz was born first. Then came his brother Buz.

Kemuel was born next. He became the father of Aram.

²² Milkah's other sons are Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph and Bethuel."

²³ Bethuel became the father of Rebekah.

Milkah had the eight sons by Abraham's brother Nahor.

²⁴ Nahor had a concubine named Reumah. She also had sons.

They were Tebah, Gaham, Tahash and Maakah.

Sarah Dies

23 Sarah lived to be 127 years old. ² She died at Kiriath Arba. Kiriath Arba is also called Hebron. It's in the land of Canaan. Sarah's death made Abraham very sad. He went to the place where her body was lying. There he wept over her.

³ Then Abraham got up from beside his wife's body. He said to the Hittites, ⁴ "I'm an outsider. I'm a stranger among you. Sell me some property where I can bury those in my family who die. Then I can bury my wife."

⁵ The Hittites replied to Abraham, ⁶ "Sir, listen to us. You are a mighty prince among us. Bury your wife in the best place

we have to bury our dead. None of us will refuse to sell you a place to bury her."

⁷ Then Abraham bowed down in front of the Hittites, the people of the land. ⁸ He said to them, "If you are willing to let me bury my wife, then listen to me. Speak to Zohar's son Ephron for me. ⁹ Ask him to sell me the cave of Machpelah. It belongs to him and is at the end of his field. Ask him to sell it to me for the full price. I want it as a place to bury my dead wife among you."

¹⁰ Ephron the Hittite was sitting there among his people. He replied to Abraham. All of the Hittites who had come to the gate of his city heard him. ¹¹ "No, sir," Ephron said. "Listen to me. I will give you the field. I'll also give you the cave that's in the field. I will give it to you in front of my people. Bury your wife."

¹² Again Abraham bowed down in front of the people of the land. ¹³ He spoke to Ephron so they could hear him. He said, "Please listen to me. I'll pay the price of the field. Accept it from me. Then I can bury my wife there."

¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵ "Sir, listen to me. The land is worth ten pounds of silver. But what's that between the two of us? Bury your wife."

¹⁶ Abraham agreed to Ephron's offer. He weighed out for Ephron the price he had named. The Hittites there had heard the amount. The price was ten pounds of silver. Abraham measured it by the weights that were used by merchants.

¹⁷ So Ephron sold his field to Abraham. The field was in Machpelah near Mamre. Abraham bought the field and the cave that was in it. He also bought all the trees that were inside the borders of the field. Everything was sold ¹⁸ to Abraham as his property. He bought it in front of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of the city. ¹⁹ Then Abraham buried his wife Sarah. He buried her in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre in the land of Canaan. Mamre is at Hebron. ²⁰ So the field and the cave that was in it were sold to Abraham by the Hittites. The property became a place to bury those who died in his family.

Abraham's Servant Finds a Wife for Isaac

24 By that time Abraham was very old. The LORD had blessed Abra-



ham in every way. ²The best servant in his house was in charge of everything Abraham had. Abraham said to him, "Put your hand under my thigh. ³The LORD is the God of heaven and the God of earth. I want you to make a promise to me in his name. I'm living among the people of Canaan. But I want you to promise me that you won't get a wife for my son from their daughters. ⁴Instead, promise me that you will go to my country and to my own relatives. Get a wife for my son Isaac from there."

⁵The servant asked Abraham, "What if the woman doesn't want to come back with me to this land? Then should I take your son back to the country you came from?"

⁶"Make sure you don't take my son back there," Abraham said. ⁷"The LORD, the God of heaven, took me away from my father's family. He brought me out of my own land. He made me a promise. He said, 'I will give this land to your family after you.' The LORD will send his angel ahead of you. So you will be able to get a wife for my son from there. ⁸The woman may not want to come back with you. If she doesn't, you will be free from your promise. But don't take my son back there." ⁹So the servant put his hand under Abraham's thigh. He promised to do what his master wanted.

¹⁰The servant chose ten of his master's camels and left. He loaded the camels with all kinds of good things from his master. He started out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of

Nahor. ¹¹He stopped near the well outside the town. There he made the camels get down on their knees. It was almost evening, the time when women go out to get water.

¹²Then he prayed, "LORD, you are the God of my master Abraham. Make me successful today. Be kind to my master Abraham. ¹³I'm standing beside this spring. The daughters of the people who live in the town are coming out here to get water. ¹⁴I will speak to a young woman. I'll say to her, 'Please lower your jar so I can have a drink.' Suppose she says, 'Have a drink of water, and I'll get some for your camels too.' Then let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. That's how I'll know you have been kind to my master."

¹⁵Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out. She was carrying a jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Milkah's son Bethuel. Milkah was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. ¹⁶The young woman was very beautiful. No man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring. She filled her jar and came up again.

¹⁷The servant hurried to meet her. He said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

¹⁸"Have a drink, sir," she said. She quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

¹⁹After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll get water for your camels too. I'll keep doing it until they have had enough to drink." ²⁰So she quickly emp-

Praying in Your Heart

Praying in your heart means praying to God without saying anything out loud. In Genesis 24:1-21 Abraham's servant may have prayed in his heart.

Here are some times when you might want to pray in your heart:

1. In school when you are about to take a test.
2. When you are about to cross a busy street.
3. On the school bus if bigger kids tease you.

Draw pictures of three other places where you might want to pray in your heart.

Live It!

GENESIS 24:1-21



End Reading Here

Genesis 24

28

tied her jar into the stone tub. Then she ran back to the well to get more water. She got enough for all his camels. ²¹ The man didn't say a word. He watched her closely. He wanted to learn whether the LORD had given him success on the journey he had made.

People Bible in Times
Rebekah

Rebekah was a beautiful girl. She was kind too. She agreed to leave her family to marry Isaac. She moved to a country called Canaan. Isaac loved her very much. Rebekah comforted him when his mother died.

²² The camels finished drinking. Then the man took out a gold nose ring. It weighed about a fifth of an ounce. He also took out two gold bracelets. They weighed about four ounces. ²³ Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? And please tell me something else. Is there room in your father's house for us? Can we spend the night there?"

²⁴ She answered, "I'm the daughter of Bethuel. He's the son Milkah had by Nahor." ²⁵ She continued, "We have plenty of straw and feed for your camels. We also have room for you to spend the night."

²⁶ Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD. ²⁷ He said, "I praise the LORD, the God of my master Abraham. The LORD hasn't stopped being kind and faithful to my master. The LORD has led me on this journey. He has brought me to the house of my master's relatives."

²⁸ The young woman ran home. She told her mother's family what had happened. ²⁹ Rebekah had a brother named Laban. He hurried out to the spring to meet the man. ³⁰ Laban had seen the nose ring. He had seen the bracelets on his sister's arms. And he had heard Rebekah tell what the man had said to her. So Laban went out to the man. He found him standing by the camels near

the spring. ³¹ "The LORD has given you his blessing," he said. "So come with me. Why are you standing out here? I've prepared my house for you. I also have a place for the camels."

³² So the man went to the house. The camels were unloaded. Straw and feed were brought for the camels. And water was brought for him and his men to wash their feet. ³³ Then food was placed in front of him. But he said, "I won't eat until I've told you what I have to say."

"Then tell us," Laban said.

³⁴ So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become rich. The LORD has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold. He has also given him male and female servants, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ My master's wife Sarah had a son by him when she was old. He has given that son everything he owns. ³⁷ My master made me promise him. He said, 'I'm living in the land of the people of Canaan. But promise me that you won't get a wife for my son from their daughters. ³⁸ Instead, go to my father's family and to my own relatives. Get a wife for my son there.'

³⁹ "Then I asked my master, 'What if the woman won't come back with me?'

⁴⁰ "He replied, 'I have walked faithfully with the LORD. He will send his angel with you. He will give you success on your journey. So you will be able to get a wife for my son. She will be from my own relatives and from my father's family. ⁴¹ When you go to my relatives, suppose they refuse to give her to you. Then you will be free from the promise you made to me.'

⁴² "Today I came to the spring. I said, 'LORD, you are the God of my master Abraham. Please make me successful on this journey I've made. ⁴³ I'm standing beside this spring. A young woman will come out to get water. I'll say to her, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar.' ⁴⁴ Suppose she says, 'Have a drink of water, and I'll get some for your camels too.' Then let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'

⁴⁵ "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out. She was carrying a jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and got water. I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'

Read Genesis 15:5-6 and complete the activities below.

¹⁷ After Abram won the battle over Kedorlaomer and the kings who helped him, he returned home. The king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh. It was also called the King’s Valley.

¹⁸ Melchizedek was the king of Jerusalem. He brought out bread and wine. He was the priest of the Most High God. ¹⁹ He gave a blessing to Abram. He said,

“May the Most High God bless Abram.
May the Creator of heaven and earth bless him.

²⁰ Give praise to the Most High God.
He gave your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

²¹ The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people. Keep everything else for yourself.”

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised my hand to make a promise to the LORD. He is the Most High God. He is the Creator of heaven and earth. ²³ I’ve said I will not accept anything that belongs to you. I will not take even a thread or the strap of a sandal. You will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’ ²⁴ I’ll accept only what my men have eaten and what belongs to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. These three men went with me. Let them have their share.”

God Makes a Covenant With Abram

15 Some time later, Abram had a vision. The LORD said to him,

“Abram, do not be afraid.
I am like a shield to you.
I am your very great reward.”

² But Abram said, “LORD and King, what can you give me? I still don’t have any children. My servant Eliezer comes from Damascus. When I die, he will get everything I own.” ³ Abram continued, “You haven’t given me any children. So this servant of mine will get everything I own.”

⁴ Then a message from the LORD came to Abram. The LORD said, “When you die, what you have will not go to this man. You will have a son of your own. He will get everything you have.”


⁵ The LORD took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Then he said to him, “That’s how many children will be born into your family.”

Genesis 15:1–7

Abram had been living in Canaan for a long time. But he still didn’t have a child. Maybe the Lord had forgotten his promise?

No, the Lord doesn’t forget. One day the Lord told Abram that his children will be as the stars in the sky. Abram believed the Lord.

Then the Lord gave his second promise. He was going to give the land of Canaan to Abram’s family forever.



Start Reading Here



Genesis 15:5–6



Arty loves to look up at the stars.
Draw a picture of Abram looking at the stars. Color the picture in.
Then write the words of Genesis 15:5–6 on your picture.
You can use it as a bookmark. Or put your picture somewhere you will often see it.
It will remind you that God keeps his promises.

End Reading Here

⁶ Abram believed the LORD. The LORD was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's faith made him right with the LORD.

⁷ He also said to Abram, "I am the LORD. I brought you out of Ur in the land of Babylon. I will give you this land to have as your very own."

⁸ But Abram said, "LORD and King, how can I know I will have this land as my own?"

⁹ So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a young cow, a goat and a ram. Each must be three years old. Bring a dove and a young pigeon along with them."

¹⁰ Abram brought all of them to the LORD. Abram cut them in two and placed the halves opposite each other. But he didn't cut the birds in half. ¹¹ Then large birds came down to eat the dead bodies of the animals and birds. But Abram chased the large birds away.

¹² As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep. A thick and scary darkness covered him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to him, "You can be sure of what I am about to tell you. For 400 years, your family who comes after you will be strangers in another country. They will become slaves there and will be treated badly. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation that makes them slaves. After that, they will leave with many possessions. ¹⁵ But you will die in peace. You will join the members of your family who have already died. And you will be buried when you are very old. ¹⁶ Your children's grandchildren will come back here. That's because the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached the point where I must punish them."

¹⁷ The sun set and it became dark. Then a burning torch and a pot filled with smoking coals appeared. They passed between the pieces of the animals that had been cut in two.

¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram. He said, "I am giving this land to your family who comes after you. It reaches from the River of Egypt to the great Euphrates River. ¹⁹ It includes the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites and Rephaites. ²¹ The Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites also live there."

Hagar and Ishmael



16 Abram's wife Sarai had never had any children by him. But she had a female slave from Egypt named Hagar. ² So she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go and sleep with my slave. Maybe I can have a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai had said. ³ His wife Sarai gave him her slave Hagar to be his wife. That was after he had been living in Canaan for ten years. ⁴ Then he slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant.

When Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to look down on the woman who owned her.

Genesis 16:1-2

In those times men sometimes had more than one wife. If a wife didn't have children, she sometimes gave her slave to her husband as a wife. The slave's children became the husband and wife's children. Sarai did this when she thought that she wouldn't ever have children of her own.





Genesis 16:2

The Lord had promised to give Sarai a child of her own. But she was tired of waiting for him to keep his promise. So she made her own plans.

Inny knows that it's often difficult to wait for something. Do you find it difficult to wait for the things you want? What about waiting for the holidays or your birthday?

Have you ever had to wait a long time for the answer to a prayer? Just like Sarai, you may find it hard to wait patiently until God answers your prayers. God always hears and answers prayers. But sometimes his answers aren't what we expect.



GENESIS 16:4 | 43