

The LORD carried out just what he had promised. (Genesis 21:1)

Abraham and Sarah – Genesis 12:1-9

Prepare to Wonder

Genesis 12:1-9 begins our introduction to the story of Abraham. Abraham is old and is asked by God to take a journey. Abraham does not speak in this passage, but God does. This story continues God's promises to the Israel's ancestors, including Abraham. God's promise is a blessing. God will bless Abraham and all of his descendants.

In this passage we hear a story of Abraham and his wife, Sarah, accepting God's call and taking all their things to a new land. They travel through major urban areas in the Canaanite mountains. This area will be the homeland of Israel.

Abraham and Sarah's journey could not have been easy. It was likely very hard. But their willingness to follow God, demonstrates their great faith and hope in the future that God promises them.

Children can sometimes have this kind of faith. Children are often filled with hope, and their eagerness can be inspiring. This lesson can help children explore what their faith can be and, as adults, we can learn a lot by paying close attention to a child's hope-filled faith. Such faith can remind us of Abraham and Sarah, and also serves as a reminder that we too can embrace faith in God's blessings and promises.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week pay attention. When you are feeling anxious, nervous, or overwhelmed, stop and notice. This can be done by refocusing your attention to the small things around you. When you need to change your focus, begin by naming things around you, three things you see, hear, smell, taste, and feel. You can do this anytime that you need to slow down. This practice helps recenter our daily life so that we can begin to focus on the bigger things at hand such as teaching children and being a faithful follower of God.

Welcome to Wonder

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

WONDER together:

- Is it hard or easy to have faith? Why?
- Do you know someone who has a strong faith?

CONTINUE to Wonder:

- What are some things in the world that need our attention and care?
- What are ways that you see people helping and making a difference?

PRAY together

- Dear God, help me have faith in you all the days of my life. Amen.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download "Reason to Believe" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Reason to Believe."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional, CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Genesis 12:1-9.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>) to download and watch today's Bible story.

SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: FAITH - Faith is to believe in God's presence and hope.

WONDER: What does faith mean to you?

Imagining a Future (Creative Writing)

Supplies: colored pencils or crayons; plain paper

- Trace one hand on a piece of paper. Number your fingers 1–5, starting with the pinkie finger.
- In the palm of the paper hand draw a self-portrait. Then answer the following questions on each finger. Draw or write their answers.
 1. I want the world to be...
 2. God is leading me to...
 3. If I could change one thing about the world, it would be...
 4. In the future I want to...
 5. I know God is with me because...
- Share your writing with each other.

Spiritual Practice—Exploring faith through God’s promises

Supplies: Celebration Chart, Family Activity Book, (optional)

WONDER: Have you ever moved? What is it like to move to a new place?

SAY: God sent Abraham and Sarah on a long journey. But, they had faith in God and God provided them a wonderful life and future.

- Go on a prayer walk with you.
- Go outside and walk around. Think about where God might be leading you. Consider ways God is asking you to serve, or how to be kind, or how to have faith in all that God is doing in your life.
- This is meant to be a silent walk, so be centered by calming your bodies and quieten your voice.
- After you have walked for a few minutes, say a prayer.

PRAY: God of guidance, help us to always have faith in you. Thank you for guiding and leading us to new and exciting places. Amen.