

Bible Study - Abraham and Sarah

Life Lessons from Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and Sarah teach us about waiting upon God. "Wait, I say, on the Lord!" Psalm 27:14. NKJV.

In Genesis 12:1-3 God is instructing Abram (his name before God changed it) to leave the country he is now living in and go to a land that He will show to him. At this time God also makes him many promises. God is not asking Abram to let go of everything he knows without being willing to give him many blessings in return. God is a giver not a taker!

Now the Lord said to Abram:

"Get out of your country,
from your kindred
and from your father's house,
to a land that I will show you.
I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
and make your name great;
and you shall be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and I will curse him who curses you;
and in you all the families of the earth
shall be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3. NKJV.

Abram Obeys

Read Genesis 12:1-5 and fill in the missing words and answer the questions from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. So Abram _____ as the Lord had _____ to him. (Genesis 12:4)
2. Name the two people Abram took with him when he departed. (Genesis 12:5)

3. Who was Sarai? (Genesis 12:5) _____
4. Who was Lot? (Genesis 12:5) _____
5. What land did Abram go to? (Genesis 12:5) _____

Reflective Thoughts ...

Abram didn't argue with God when He told him what He wanted him to do; he immediately obeyed God's instructions. This is a great lesson for us – don't argue with God when He tells us to do something, just do what He says because He knows what is best for us.

Abram Builds Altars to God

Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. Genesis 12:6. NKJV.

Read Genesis 12:7-8 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Then the Lord _____ to Abram and said, "To _____ descendants I will give this _____." And there he built an _____ to the Lord, who _____ appeared to him. (Genesis 12:7)

And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel ...

2. He pitched his _____ with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; _____ he built an _____ to the Lord and _____ on the name of the _____. (Genesis 12:8)

Reflective Thoughts ...

An altar is a special place you make where you can go to be alone with God and communicate with Him. Abram uses his altar to offer up praises and thanksgivings to God. How often do we take the time to talk with God and give Him praises and thanks for what He has done for us or for what He has promised to do for us. Psalm 100 tells us to enter His gates with thanksgiving, and to come into His courts with praise. Later on you will see another way Abram used his altar.

Abram Goes to Egypt

Read Genesis 12:10-20 and answer the questions from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. What caused Abram to go to Egypt? (Genesis 12:10) _____
2. What lie does Abram ask his wife, Sarai, to tell? (Genesis 12:12-13) _____
3. Who took a liking to Sarai? (Genesis 12:15) _____
4. How did the Pharaoh treat Abram because of Sarai? (Genesis 12:16) _____
5. What five things does Pharaoh give to Abram? (Genesis 12:16) _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
6. How did the Lord treat Pharaoh because of Sarai? (Genesis 12:17) _____
7. What does Pharaoh tell Abram to do once he learns that Sarai is Abram's wife? (Genesis 12:19)

Answer the following statements with True or False based on Genesis 12:10-20. (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. _____ Abram asked God what he should do in regards to the famine.
2. _____ Abram takes matters into his own hands.
3. _____ Abram asks Sarai to tell a lie when they arrive in Egypt.
4. _____ Abram was thinking only of Sarai not himself.
5. _____ It was a harmless lie that would not cause trouble for anyone.
6. _____ The Lord sent plagues on Pharaoh's household because of the lie.

Reflective Thoughts ...

The Scriptures do not tell us anything about Abram consulting with God about the famine and what he should do because of it. Instead it seems that he took matters into his own hands. And in doing this he has to ask Sarai to lie for him. The lie ends up causing trouble for him and others. Abram was willing to obey God when He told him to leave his country and go to a new one. But when he got there and saw there was a famine, he seems to have forgotten the promises that God had made to him. We usually do the same thing, God ask us to do something and we agree but then we become afraid when things don't turn out the way we thought they would. Abram runs back to the world for help, and that is often what we do too.

We need to remember the advice given to us in Nahum 1:7 – NIV: "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him." This is good advice. We need to remember that God is a better refuge for us than the world.

Abram Returns to God

Read Genesis 13:1-4 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Then Abram went _____ from Egypt, he and his _____ and all that he _____ ... (Genesis 13:1)
2. And he went on his _____ from the South as far as Bethel, to the _____ where his tent had been at the _____, between Bethel and Ai, to the place of the _____ which he had made _____ at first. And there Abram _____ on the name of the _____. (Genesis 13:3,4)

Reflective Thoughts ...

With God, new beginnings are always possible. Abram must have been ashamed of what he had done and he knew he needed to get back to God and make things right with Him. So he returns to an altar that

he had built earlier where he can humble himself before God in repentance for his sins and seek God's forgiveness. So an altar can be used not only for praise and thanksgiving but also for seeking forgiveness. God is always willing to forgive us if we repent of our wrong actions and return to Him. Abram is quick to do this and we should follow his example.

God's Promise to Abraham

Read Genesis 15:1-4 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. ... the _____ of the Lord came to Abram in a _____, saying, "Do be afraid, Abram. I am your _____, your exceedingly great _____." (Genesis 15:1)
2. But Abram said, "_____ God, what will You _____ me, seeing I go _____ ..." (Genesis 15:2)
3. "... Look, You have given me no _____; indeed one _____ in my house is my _____!" (Genesis 15:3)
4. And behold, the word of the _____ came to him saying, "This one shall _____ be your heir, but one who will _____ from your own _____ shall be your _____." (Genesis 15:4)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Abram was probably sad that he had not had any children of his own. He longs for an heir. God wants Abram to talk to Him about this – so God starts the conversation. Abram bares his heart to God and God promises him that he will have an heir of his own, one from his own body. God always wants us to talk to Him about the things that bother us. He knows the plans He has for us, and they are good plans that will bless us and glorify Him.

Sarai's Plan

Genesis 16:1 says, "Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar." Sarai was disappointed that she had not been able to have any children, so she decides on a plan which she hopes will correct this. Her plan includes her maidservant, Hagar.

Read Genesis 16:2-5 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. ... Sarai said to _____, "See now, the Lord has restrained _____ from bearing _____. Please, go in to my _____; perhaps I shall obtain children by _____." And Abram _____ the voice of Sarai. (Genesis 16:2)

2. So he went in to _____, and she _____. And when she saw that she _____ conceived, her mistress became _____ in her eyes. (Genesis 16:4)

3. Then Sarai _____ to Abram, "My _____ be upon you! I gave my _____ into your embrace; and when she _____ that she had conceived, I _____ despised in her _____. The Lord _____ between you and me." (Genesis 16:5)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Sarai has decided to do something about being barren without talking it over with God. Her maidservant is from Egypt, a result of their going to Egypt during the famine. Now Sarai is going to compound one wrong upon another. Of course, Abram could have said, "NO" and not heeded the voice of Sarai. He should have asked God what He thought about Sarai's plan. Abram and Sarai keep getting into trouble because they fail to consult God as to what is best to do. God would have told them that this was "not" a good plan.

We must keep in mind that God always has a better plan than we can ever come up with on our own. Proverbs 3:5-6 has some great advice for us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Sarai Mistreats Hagar

Read Genesis 16:6-15 and fill in the missing words and answer the questions from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. What did Sarai do to Hagar? (Genesis 16:6) _____
2. How did Hagar respond to what Sarai did? (Genesis 16:6) _____
3. Who came to help Hagar? (Genesis 16:7) _____
4. She was told: " _____ to your mistress, and _____ yourself under her hand." (Genesis 16:9)
5. She was given the promise: "I will _____ your descendants exceedingly ..." (Genesis 16:10)
6. What was Hagar told to name her son? (Genesis 16:11) _____
7. Who heard Hagar's affliction? (Genesis 16:11) _____
8. Then she called the _____ of the Lord who to her, You-Are-The-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen _____ who sees _____?" (Genesis 16:13)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Sarai realizes she has made a mistake but instead of repenting and asking God to work all this together for good as only He can do. She chooses to deal harshly with Hagar. God is all seeing and all knowing so He is very much aware of what is going on. Abram has washed his hands of the whole matter by telling Sarai to do as she pleases with her maid. So Hagar has no one who is willing to help her. But God feels compassion for Hagar who has been mistreated by both Abram and Sarai. So He comes to her aid. Hagar has learned something we all need to learn – when there is no one else there for us; God will always be there for us. He will make a way for us where there doesn't seem to be a way.

God Visits Abram

Read Genesis 17:1-27 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. When Abram was _____ years old, the _____ appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am _____ God; walk before Me and be _____. And I will make _____ covenant between Me, and _____, and will _____ you exceedingly." (Genesis 17:1-2)
2. Then Abram fell on his _____, and God _____ with him, saying: "As for Me, behold, My _____ is with _____, and you shall be a _____ of many nations. No _____ shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be _____; for I have _____ you a father of many nations." (Genesis 17:3-5)
3. "This is My _____ which you shall _____, between Me and _____ and your _____ after you: Every _____ child among you shall be _____; and you _____ be circumcised in the flesh of foreskin, and it shall be a _____ of the covenant between _____ and you." (Genesis 17:10-11)
4. Then God _____ to Abraham, "As for _____ your wife, you shall _____ call her name Sarai, but _____ shall be her name. And I will _____ her and also give you a _____ by her; then I will _____ her, and she shall be a _____ of nations ..." (Genesis 17:15-16)
5. Then _____ fell on his face and _____, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a _____ who is one hundred years old? And shall _____, who is ninety years old, bear a _____?" (Genesis 17:17)

6. And Abraham _____ to God, "Oh, that _____ might live before _____!" Then God said:
"_____, Sarah your wife shall _____ you a son, and you shall call his name _____; I will establish
_____ covenant with him for an _____ covenant, and with his _____ after
him." (Genesis 17:18-19)
7. "... My _____ I will establish with _____, whom Sarah shall _____ to you at this _____
time next year." (Genesis 17:21)

Reflective Thoughts ...

No matter what our circumstances may be they cannot hinder God from doing what He wants to do in our lives. What looks impossible to us can be possible through God because all things are possible through God Almighty. When God makes a covenant agreement, He will honor that agreement. But we do see that God has asked Abraham to walk before Him and be blameless. God is telling Abraham to leave everything up to Him this time and not try to take matters into his own hands as he has done in the past. Good advice for us too.

God Appears to Abraham and Sarah

Read Genesis 18:1-15 and fill in the missing words, answer the questions, and the True or False statements (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Where was Abraham sitting when the Lord appeared to him? (Genesis 18:1) _____
2. _____ True or False: Abraham was not excited to see the Lord. (Genesis 18:2-4)
3. _____ True or False: The Lord appeared with two of His angels. (Genesis 18:1-2;22)
4. _____ True or False: Abraham prepared a feast for the Lord and his angels.(Genesis 18:5-8)
5. Then they _____ to him, "Where is _____ your wife?" And he said, "Here, in the _____ ." And He said, "I will certainly _____ to you according to the _____ of life, and behold, _____ your wife shall have a _____." (Genesis 18:9-10)
6. _____ True or False: Sarah was not listening at the tent door. (Genesis 18:10)
7. Now Abraham and Sarah were _____, well-advanced in age; and _____ had passed the _____ of childbearing. (Genesis 18:11)

8. How did Sarah react upon hearing what the Lord had said? (Genesis 18:12) _____

9. And the Lord said to _____, "Why did Sarah _____, saying, Shall I surely _____ a child, since I old?" "Is _____ too hard for the _____? At the appointed time I _____ return to you, according to the _____ of life, and Sarah _____ have a son." (Genesis 18:13,14)

10. Why did Sarah deny laughing at what the Lord had said? (Genesis 18:15) _____

Reflective Thoughts ...

It is always exciting to feel God's presence. He enjoys spending time with us and He hopes we will invite Him to come and fellowship with us. He has so much He wants to share with us if we will just take the time to listen to what He wants to tell us. When God tells us something we can trust and believe in it, no matter how impossible it might seem to us. God is Truth and He will never tell us anything but the truth.

Abraham Intercedes for Lot

Read Genesis 18:16-33 and then answer the following questions. (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Where were the two angels going? (Genesis 18:16,22) _____

2. What caused them to go to Sodom? (Genesis 18:20) _____

3. Who stayed behind to talk with Abraham? (Genesis 18:22) _____

4. What was the Lord planning to do to Sodom and Gomorrah because of their grievous sins? (Genesis 18:20-23) _____

5. What question does Abraham ask the Lord? (Genesis 18:23) _____

6. What does the Lord give Abraham an opportunity to do? (Genesis 18:17-33) _____

7. How many righteous people have Abraham and the Lord agreed upon to save Sodom from destruction? (Genesis 18:24-32) _____

8. Who does Abraham know that lives in Sodom? (Genesis 19:1) _____

Reflective Thoughts ...

Matthew 18:14 tells us that it is not God's Will that any should perish. And God knew that Abraham

would intercede for Lot if he knew he was in danger. So God lets Abraham know what is going on and what He will have to do about it. God is a Holy God and He cannot let sin go unchecked. Lot had made the choice himself to go to Sodom and even though he has found out how wicked the men of Sodom are, he still remains there. But he is Abraham's nephew and God wants to give him a chance to intercede for him. James 5:16 tells us that the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. And Abraham is definitely fervent in praying for the people of Sodom. And he keeps at it until he and God can come to an agreement in the matter. Some Bible scholars say that Abraham was satisfied when God agreed to save the city for ten righteous people because that was the number of family members he had in Sodom.

We can learn from this that God can let us know about a situation that is going to happen, so we can pray and intercede. God doesn't want to have to bring judgment on anyone, He would rather the people repent. God likes giving us an opportunity to intercede and He wants us to be like Abraham and pray fervently. This is also how Jesus is praying and interceding for all of us. He is our faithful Intercessor!

God Keeps His Promise

Read Genesis 21:1-8 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. And the Lord _____ Sarah as He had _____, and the Lord _____ for Sarah as He had spoken. (Genesis 21:1)

2. For Sarah _____ and bore Abraham a _____ in his old age, at the set _____ of which God had spoken to _____. (Genesis 21:2)

3. And Abraham called the _____ of his son who was _____ to him – whom _____ bore to him – _____. (Genesis 21:3)

4. Then Abraham circumcised his son _____ when he was eight days _____, as God had _____ him. (Genesis 21:4)

5. Now Abraham was _____ years old when his _____ Isaac was born to _____. (Genesis 21:5)

6. And Sarah _____, "God has made me _____, so that all who hear will _____ with me." (Genesis 21:6)

7. She _____ said, "Who would have said to Abraham that _____ would nurse _____? For I have _____ him a _____ in his _____ age." (Genesis 21:7)

8. So the _____ grew and was _____. And Abraham made a great _____ on the same day that _____ was weaned. (Genesis 21:8)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Abraham and Sarah are rejoicing that the one thing they wanted the most has been given to them – a child. God kept the promise that He had made to them. They knew that only God could make this possible and He has done for them what they could never do for themselves. They are two happy people and celebrate this wonderful event in their lives. When God does what we can never do for ourselves, we want to rejoice and praise Him for making it possible for us to have the desire of our heart. Abraham and Sarah thought that they were physically too old to have a child but age was not a problem for God. He had a set time for this to happen so that there would never be any doubt that this child was a gift from Him.

Sometimes we may wonder why God is taking so long to fulfill a promise He has made to us. But we can learn from Abraham and Sarah that God has a set time to do things. So we should trust Him to do it when He knows it is best. For Abraham and Sarah it came at a time when they knew without any doubt that God did this and everyone else knew this too.

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!" Psalm 27:14. NKJV.