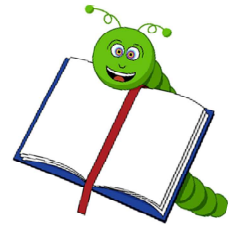


Sunday 27th September



The Family Tree

The story today is all about a man, his wife and his family. During his life this man had two names. At the beginning of the story his name is Abram. The story takes up a large part of the book of Genesis which is in the Old Testament part of the Bible. You can find the whole story by looking up these chapters and verses in firstly Genesis 15:1-12, then Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, followed by Chapter 18:1-15, 15-16 and finally Chapter 21:1-7. So it is a long story! It is also in the Spark Story Bible in the Chapters called God's Promise to Abram and Abraham and Sarah's Visitors.

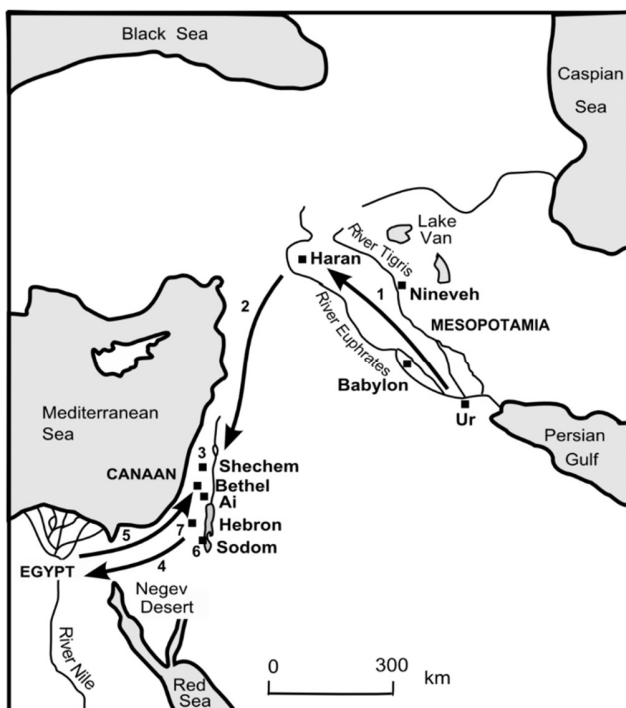
The link below gives you the outline of Abram's story. If you listen carefully you will hear mention of creation and the flood in Noah's time and then how God was still looking for someone to help make the world a better place.

Watch out for promises made by God and if they happened,

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zNSZ22QKDUE>

What a journey Abram had!

Abram was an old man yet he, his wife Sarai travelled hundreds of miles to follow God's instructions.

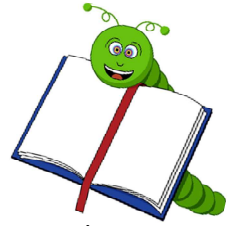


You can see from the map that the journey began in a place called Ur by the Persian Gulf and ended near the Mediterranean Sea. They travelled in a curve, looking for the best way to go. After staying in Canaan for a while they travelled on to Egypt to escape famine but then the old couple and those with them, returned to Canaan to finally settle in the fertile valley of the river Jordan. They had travelled all that way not probably really fully understanding what God was up to. What trust and faith there was shown in following God's instructions.



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What promises were made!



Abram was promised a land for his family to settle in and that he would have children and there would be grandchildren and great grandchildren on through the generations after him.

During his journey Abram was promised by God that there would be as many people in his family as stars in the sky. Abram thought that it could not be possible as he and Sarai were so old. The promises or covenants that God made were kept by God

What name changing!

Can you find the changes or meanings?

Abram = _____ ?

Sarai = _____ ?

Issac = _____ ?

Ways of explaining 'keeping a promise'

Keep – to do what you said you would do

Deliver – to do something that you have promised to do

Fulfil – to do what you have said you will do

Hold to - to do what you have promised or decided

Abram was 99 years old when God made a covenant promise that Abram would have a family with generations to follow and he would be the ancestor of a multitude of many nations. In recognition of this, God changed Abram's name to Abraham which means 'Father of many nations'. Sarai his wife, became Sarah which means 'princess'

When Abraham and Sarah finally had a son he was called Issac. Issac means 'laughter' because both his parents laughed when God said that they would have a son, because it seemed so unlikely.

What a family tree resulted!

<https://www.biblestudy.org/maps/lineage-of-abraham-large-chart.html>

When you record generations of families you often put them in a family tree so you can see who everyone is and how they are related. Here is one family tree of Abraham. They can be very much more complicated than this!



Why not try making a family tree of your own with help from members of your family or maybe you can look at one your family already has.

<https://freefamilytreetemplates.com/>

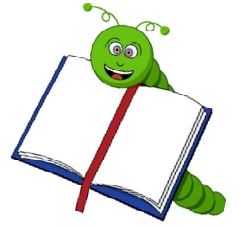


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If you love live trees that grow outside, why not find out a bit more about them? You can measure the height of a tree using a stick by following this link

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ry1e1Hb-w-c>

Or measure the height of a tree looking between your legs or how big it's trunk is with a bit of string

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/How-tall-is-that-tree>



Prayer

God of promises

We give you thanks for all your promises including the ones that seem impossible

We are so glad to be part of your family, part of your promise to Abraham and Sarah. Amen



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