

Do you like to have company coming to visit? Sometimes your parents have people come to visit with them and they bring their children to play with you. Sometimes someone will come to visit and bring you a little present. Grandparents are good at bringing little presents, aren't they?

In today's story we are going to learn about three visitors who came to see Abraham and Sarah. These visitors didn't bring a present but they did bring something important. They brought good news! I'll tell you a story from the Bible and let's see if you can tell what the good news was.

One day long ago Abraham was sitting by his tent door. He and Sarah lived in tents because they had to move often to take their sheep and cows to new pasture.

Suddenly Abraham looked up and he saw three strangers traveling toward his home.



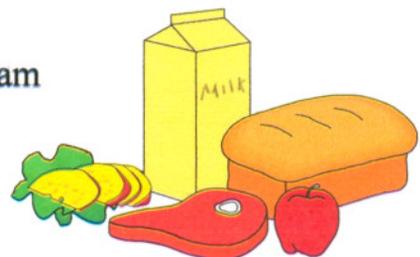
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Sarah was inside the tent thinking about what to have for supper when she heard Abraham shout, "Sarah, we have company! I see three men coming this way."

When your parents have company do they sometimes offer the guests some coffee or some pop or cookies? That's a nice thing to do when people come to visit, isn't it? Well Abraham and Sarah were like that too. Abraham invited the three visitors in and gave them a drink of cool water and washed their feet. Does that sound funny? In those days everyone wore sandals and they often had to walk for miles because there were no cars. Their feet would get hot and swollen and dusty, so the nice thing to do was to offer to wash them with cool, clean water when they arrived.

Then Sarah quickly began to prepare food for the company. What do you think they gave their guests? Sarah cooked a lovely meal with meat and cheese and warm bread fresh from the oven and milk.

The guests were very happy with this fine meal. Abraham and Sarah were anxious to hear all the news the travelers would tell them.



Now I'll tell you a secret. Something Abraham and Sarah didn't know. These visitors were not men, they were angels sent from God to tell Abraham and Sarah something special! They didn't have big wings or wear bright shiny clothes or have lights around them...they just looked like ordinary men but God had sent them with a message. What do you think God wanted to tell Abraham and Sarah?

Sarah had taken the dishes inside and was cleaning them when one of the angels asked Abraham, "Where is your wife?" Abraham said "She is in the tent." Then the angel said, "Sarah shall have a baby boy." This was a big surprise! Both Abraham and Sarah were too old to have a baby...how could this be?"

Now Sarah was inside the tent and she heard what the men said. She thought to herself, "How can I have a baby? I'm way too old!" and Sarah laughed. She didn't laugh out loud but the angels still knew what she was thinking.

"Why did Sarah laugh?" he asked. "Nothing is impossible for God to do."



Sarah was afraid...how did these men know she had laughed? She hurried to the tent door and quickly said, "I didn't laugh!"

Now this was a lie, wasn't it? Do you sometimes tell lies and then feel bad about it? It's pretty easy to say "I didn't do it," when you are afraid of being punished. It's hard to admit we did something wrong and sometimes we might tell a lie thinking no one will know, but someone DOES know.

Who knows everything we do? God knows, doesn't he? It makes God very sad when we do bad things and when we tell lies, but if we ask God to forgive us he will.

God is like a loving, father. Your Father and Mother will forgive you when you do something wrong, won't they? God will forgive us too.

We should always try to tell the truth and make God happy, shouldn't we?



The angels told Sarah "You really WILL have a son, he will be born about this time next year." Abraham believed the men and he and Sarah hugged each other and danced around and laughed. How wonderful it would be to have a little baby boy. How long they had waited to have a son. They were very, very happy!

They wanted the three men to stay longer but the angels had another job to do for God, so they said goodbye and went on their way. Meanwhile Sarah started to make some little baby clothes and Abraham went around with a proud smile on his face.

Abraham and Sarah thought of a perfect name for the little boy they would have. They would name their little boy "Isaac" which means "Laughing."
That's a good name, isn't it?



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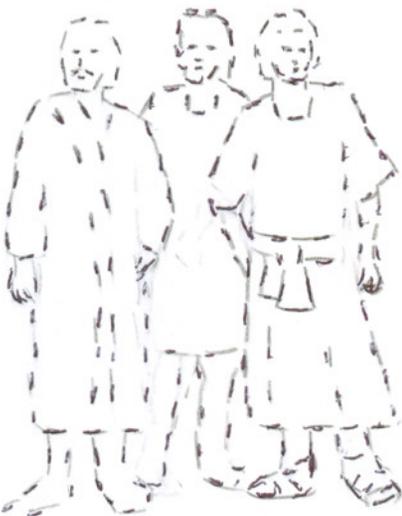
Can you answer some of these questions about our story today?

1. How many visitors came to see Abraham?
2. Who were the visitors...men or angels?
3. What did Abraham do to make the visitors comfortable?
4. What did Abraham give the visitors to eat?
5. Where was Sarah when the visitors told Abraham about the baby boy?
6. When Sarah hear she would have a baby did she believe or did she laugh?
7. What did Sarah do that was wrong?
8. Is it okay to tell lies if no one catches you?
9. Who knows when we do something wrong?
10. Is God happy or sad if we do wrong things?
11. How can we show God that we love him?
12. What did Abraham and Sarah decide to name their baby when he was born?

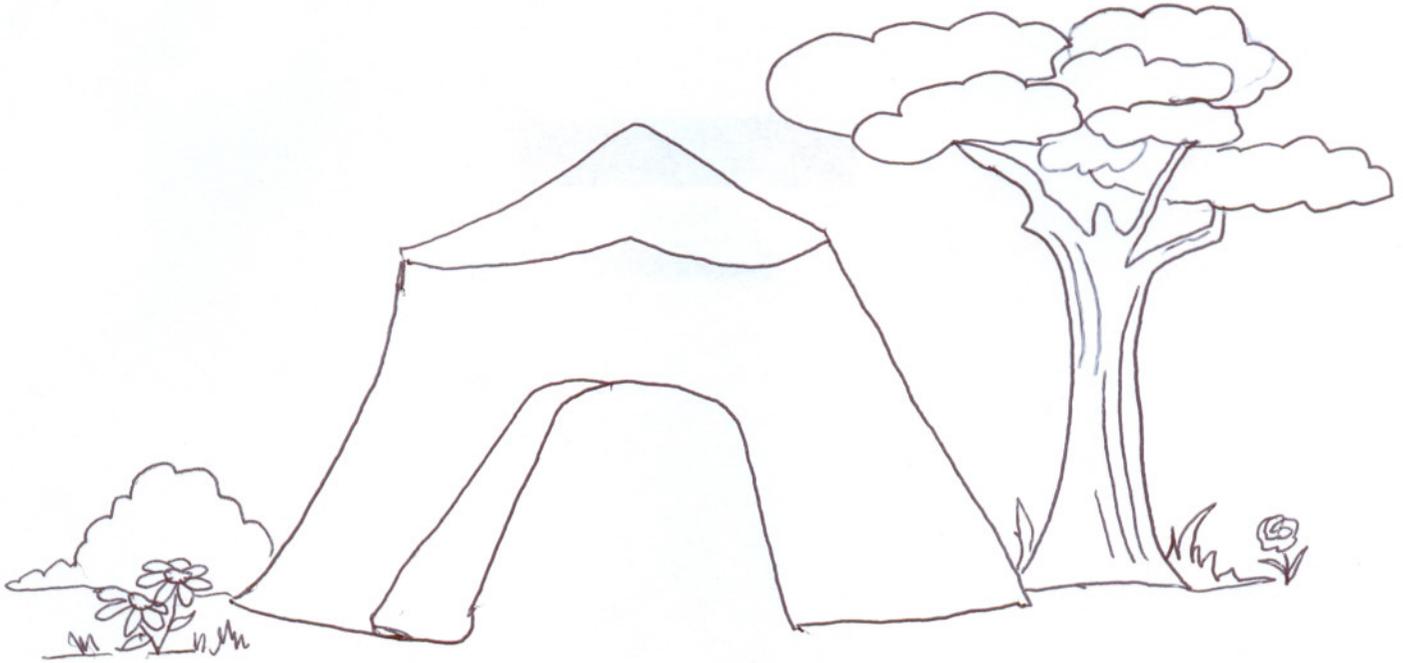
Draw a happy face for Abraham and give him a nice white beard to go with his white hair



Three angels came to visit Abraham and Sarah - what do you think they looked like? Connect the lines with your pencil, then guess which angel they probably looked like.



Draw Abraham sitting in his tent door, make pretty stripes on the tent and color the picture



Circle which kind of foods Abraham gave his three visitors

