

Genesis 11 and 12

There once was a man named Abram who lived with his wife Sarai in a big, beautiful city called UR. That's a funny name, isn't it? The city of UR was built along a big river and it had many buildings and tall, beautiful temples to all kinds of gods. The people of UR didn't



believe in one mighty, powerful Creator like we do, they believed in a god of the moon, a god of the sun, a god of flies or birds, and many other things. Each god would

One night Abram had a dream and in the dream the one powerful Creator of everything, our God who takes care of us and hears our prayers, He spoke to Abram in the dream. He told Abram to pack up his family and leave this wicked city of Ur. Abram was to go to a land God would show him...but God didn't tell him where, how far away it was or anything. It was up to Abram to trust in God to lead him in the right way. We can trust in God too, for He is there to love us, take care of us, and to lead us in the right way to go, also.

The next day Abram probably talked over his dream with his father Terah and his brothers and also with his wife Sarai. Abram believed God and soon they had their belongings packed on camels and donkeys and off they started on a long, long journey.

Their friends and neighbors must have thought it very strange for Abram and Sarai and their father and brothers to just take off and not even know where they were going! Perhaps they laughed at



Abram and thought he was acting crazy! But Abram believed in God and he knew God would take care of him and guide them to the land God promised to give him. Abram had lots of faith in God!

Do you know what "FAITH" is? If your mother or father tell you that you can have two friends over for your birthday party, do you believe them? If they say next summer you can go to the mountains for a vacation, or maybe go to Disneyland, do you believe them? We know that our parents won't lie to us. Something may happen to change their plans, but if at all possible your parents will keep their promises. If you believe them, this is "Faith."

God ALWAYS keeps His promises, so when we read something God promises in the Bible, we know for sure that God will do what He promised, don't we?

One most important thing for us to know about and have faith in, is Jesus, the son of God. Jesus taughts many people about God but he was killed by wicked men. God raised Jesus from the dead and he is with God now. However, just like your parents promise a vacation or a reward for good grades, Jesus promised to come back and become a leader here on earth. Jesus promised that those who are baptised and follow the commandments will also be raised to live on a beautiful earth where there will be no more sadness or hurts or death. Jesus will become a good and righteous King of all the earth. The earth will be beautiful again like it was in the garden of Eden. Because this was promised by God and also promised by God's son, we know this is true and we can have faith that it will truly happen, just as the Bible tells us.

Your memory verse is: **"God will wipe every tear from the eyes. There will be no more death or crying or pain, for the old order of things will pass away."** Rev.21:4 This will be when Jesus comes back. Say this verse over several times; when you have learned it have your parents put a check in the box.

Abram and his family traveled a long way until they came to a city called Haran. Here they stopped for his father was too old to travel any further . Abram's brother decided to live in Haran but one night God spoke to Abram again. He told Abram he should leave his family in Haran and travel further. God would show him the land he was to go to. Then God gave some important promises to Abram.

****** God said Abram's children, grandchildren and great, grandchildren would one day become a great nation. At this time Abram and Sarai didn't have any children, but God promised and Abram believed.



****** God promised that Abram's name would be great he would be well known and many people would be blessed because they came in contact with Abram and his promises. God said those who were good to Abram would be blessed and those who treated Abram badly would be punished.

****** God said that because of Abram all nations and peoples on earth would one day be blessed.

Do you think any of these promises came to pass in Abram's lifetime? No, we are told that Abram will receive these promises only after Jesus returns. Men and women like Abram and Sarai are waiting to receive the promises when they are resurrected - then they, along with us who are living now will be blessed forever by God. (Heb.11:39-40)

When Abram and Sarai left the town of Haran, they took their young nephew Lot with them. Lot probably enjoyed all this traveling. He would be interested in the different kinds of animals they would see, like lizards, snakes, rabbits and wild donkeys. Once in awhile they might also see a lion or bear, as those animals lived in that area too. Lot was probably a big help in taking care of Abram's sheep and cattle.

Finally Abram and Sarai and Lot arrived in the Land God had promised them.



This was called the land of Canaan at that time. It's called the land of Israel today. The people of the land had different customs and they spoke a different language. It probably was hard at first to get used to this new, strange land but it was the land



God loved and wanted his people to have. God said that here he would put his name and always watch over his people in this land. However when Abram and Sarai and Lot first entered the land it was full of false idols. Do you know what an idol is? It's a statue made out of wood or carved out of stone. Sometimes the idol is covered over with silver or gold or has expensive jewels put on it. The people say this piece of wood or stone is a god and they take presents to this idol. They give it plates of food or put money in front of the idols then have a party. Of course these are only a chunk of wood or a piece of rock so they can't eat the food or spend the money. The priests who take care of the idol are the ones who get the food and the money...so of course the priests want everyone to believe in the idols and give them even more gifts!



Would you think a statue like these would be able to create the world and give wise laws for the people and make rain or snow or sunshine? Abram didn't believe they would either. Abram believed in the invisible Creator of the universe. God can be seen by all the wonderful things he made and by the miracles he does in nature. We worship God, not by giving him presents or money, but by obeying his good laws we find in the Bible. One of the laws God gave us is to love each other. To do good to others and help everyone as much as we can. These are good laws, aren't they? Today we have a lot of different churches and beliefs, but by following God's words in the Bible we'll find what's right to believe and how to please God.

Abram and Sarai found a place to stay and set up tents for themselves, their servants and Lot. They soon learned the different languages of their neighbors and they found good pasture land for their cattle and sheep. One night God appeared to Abram again. He told Abram that the land he was living in would one day belong to all of Abram's descendants. Do you know who Abram's descendants are? They are a large group of people known by several names. They were Hebrews, also called Jews and today they are called Israelites. You can remember these three names by going **H-I-J**...the **H**ebrews called **I**sraelites, are **J**ews. You could almost make up a song about that, couldn't you? 😊

After several years a famine struck the land that Abram, Sarai and Lot lived in. Do you know what a famine is? It's a time when there isn't any rain for weeks and months. The plants all die and there isn't enough food for the animals to eat, so they die also. This means there isn't enough food for the people to eat either. When the famine got so bad, Abram told Sarai that they would have to do something or they would starve to death. There was a country nearby



called Egypt. They had the huge Nile River to water the land, so they had lots of vegetables and grain and fruit trees growing there. Abram decided to move there with Sarai and Lot, who would probably be a grown man by now. However, Sarai was a very beautiful woman and

Abram was afraid the people in Egypt might kill him in order to marry Sarai. Abram told her to say she was his sister, not his wife. He thought he would be safe and could take care of her if she said this. Is it ever right to tell a lie, even if it's a half lie?

So they moved to Egypt and were getting along fine until one day when some men saw Sarai and were surprised at how beautiful she was. The men told the king of Egypt, who was called Pharaoh. Pharaoh liked to have lots of beautiful women around him, so when he heard about Sarai, he decided he wanted her in his palace, and maybe he would even marry her if he was pleased with her. He sent his men to get Sarai and bring her to his palace. Sarai would be doing some housework when there would be a pounding at the door. She must have been very frightened to open the door and see Pharaoh's guards. They seized her and took her away to the palace where she was put in with a bunch of Egyptian women and shut away. She wouldn't have any chance to get word to Abram and she had no idea if she would ever see him again. Abram must have been very frightened too. How would he ever get his beautiful Sarai back? What could he do? He couldn't fight Pharaoh and his army and he would certainly be killed if he tried to get Sarai out of the palace. What do you think he did?

What would you do when you couldn't find any solution to a terribly important problem?

Abram did the most important thing he could do...he prayed and prayed to God for help. Do you know that you can talk to God and he will listen and answer your prayers? Sometimes he might say "no" for the answer, or say "wait awhile" for the answer, but God always hears us and if it's for our good, he will immediately help us.

God sent a disease on Pharoah and his household of servants and wives. Pharoah finally realized it was because of Sarai that everyone was so sick. He called for Abram and said "why didn't you tell me Sarai was your wife? I could have married her and made God very angry!" Pharoah was afraid of God after seeing how sick all his people had been, so Pharoah told Abram he was to leave his country. Pharoah saw to it that Abram had lots of servants, cattle and sheep and goats and camels though. When Abram left Egypt he was a rich man and his nephew Lot also had received lots of livestock, so even though things looked very bad for awhile, God rescued Sarai and Abram and Lot. They traveled back to the land promised to them by God. The famine was now over and Abram built an altar there and gave many prayers of thanks to God. We'll learn more about Abram and Sarai and Lot in our next lesson.

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 How many of these words can you find in the puzzle below? You'll find them going sideways, up and down or diagonal. Circle as many as you can.



- WIFE
- JEWS
- TRIP
- ISRAEL
- UR
- PHAROAH
- LIE
- PROMISE
- LOT
- ABRAM
- SARAI
- GOD
- EGYPT
- LAND

Answers are on the back

K I H I L Y O D X A B
 H Z A C R I B H M P E
 G I P H Y E I A T Y K
 A W I O T O L X I I G
 C O O Y Y E W I T K I
 I H X J Z V B V I I E
 H B H Y X O V H C V Z
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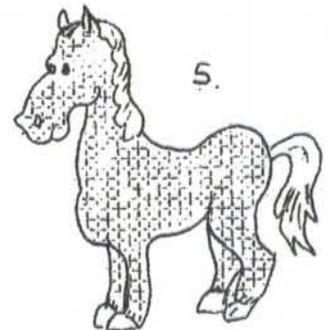
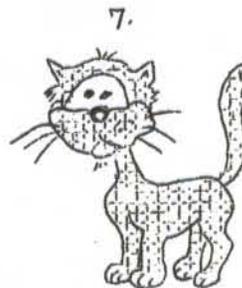
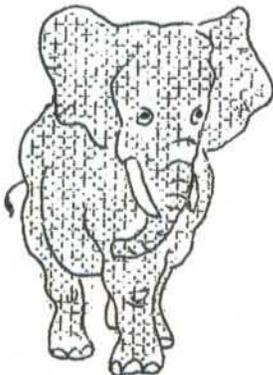
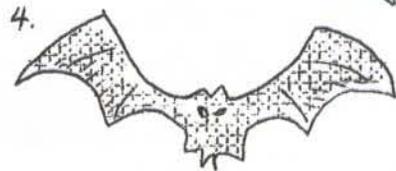
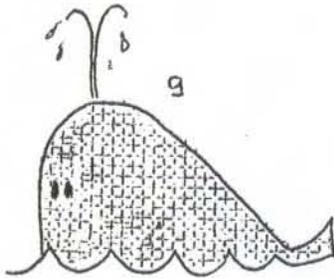
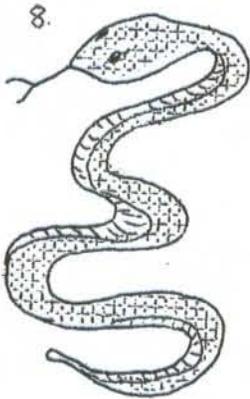
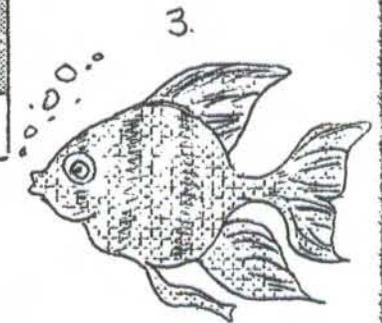
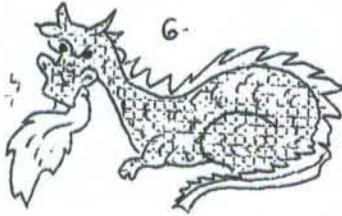
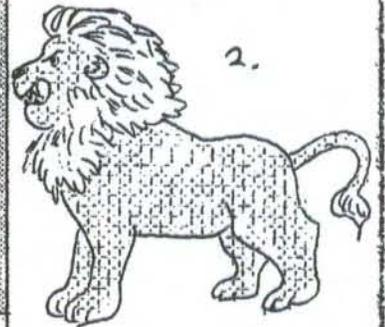
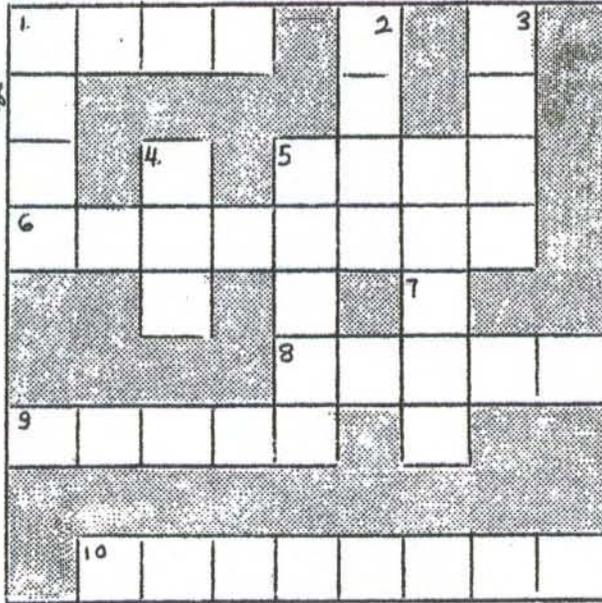
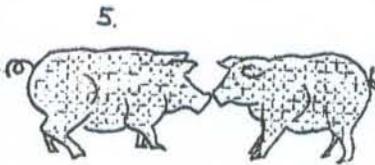
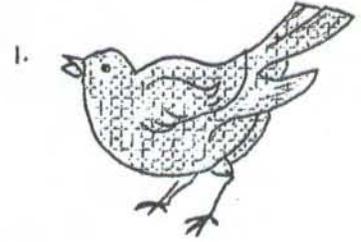
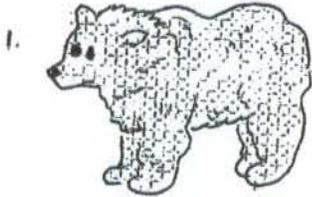
P H A U J E W S A R E
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 V M P O L O T X I U L
 L I S R A E L V E A K
 B S V T R I P H N U I
 K E W I F E C D Z Y P

1. Why did Abram, Sarai and Lot leave their home in Ur?
2. Abram had a lot of "Faith" - can you explain what faith is?
3. Did God promise Abram that his descendants would live forever in heaven or on the land?
4. Abram's descendants were called Hebrews...what other names were they given?
(remember H-I-J) Hebrews - I _____ and J _____
5. Why did Abram leave the promised land and travel to Egypt?
8. What is a famine?
7. When they reached Egypt why did Abram ask Sarai to say she was his sister, not his wife?
8. The king of Egypt was called a name other than "king" what was he called? P _____
9. When the Egyptians saw how beautiful Sarai was, who did they tell?
10. When Sarai was taken to Pharaoh's palace, what was the most important thing Abram could do to help Sarai?
11. What can we do when we have trouble and don't know what to do?
12. Abram didn't receive God's promises during his lifetime. He lived to an old age and then died. When will he receive the promises?
13. When Jesus lived and died did he stay dead? What happened to him?
14. True or False? Jesus was raised from the dead; this is called a resurrection. Abram is still asleep in the grave, but he will be resurrected when Jesus returns. We who follow God's laws, are baptised and try to live right will also be raised from the dead when Jesus returns. True _____ or False _____

2 of the animals in this puzzle are not found in the Bible. Guess which 2

ACROSS

DOWN



Bear-1 Sam.17:34, hogs (swine)-Lev.11:7, dragon-Psalms 140:7, bird-Amos 3: snake (serpent)-Matt.7:10, Whale Matt. 12:40, lion-1 Sam.17:34, fish-Ex.7:1



Draw a line along the right path to find the way to Israel, God's promised land and special people