

THE NOTIONS:

The Story of Abraham & Sarah



LESSON THREE

The Notions: Abraham and Sarah

- Unit Memory Verse:** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:27)*
- Biblical References:** **Genesis 12:1-8, Genesis 13:1-17, Genesis 15:1-6, Genesis 17:1-7, Genesis 17:15-17, Genesis 18:11-15, Genesis 21:1-3**
- Key Verse:** *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. (Psalms 27:14)*

© Copyright 2023 Parable Patch Productions. All rights reserved.

Bible Story Images used with permission from The Glory Story @ theglorystory.com.

No images from any part of this file are to be downloaded, reproduced,
or used separately from these story cards.



2.

“Oh, boy,” exclaimed Izzy. “Look, Liam. Honey Gram has her box of notions out.” Izzy hopped onto the bed in her grandmother’s sewing room. “Can I play with this stuff today?”

With a wedding dress draped across her arm, their grandmother greeted Izzy and Liam. She kissed Izzy on the top of her head and replied, “Sure, enjoy yourself. I had to pull this box down because my little bride just loves buttons, and I was looking for a few extra ones.”

“I realize I’m a genius and all, but I admit I don’t have a clue about what notions are,” teased Liam.

Gram affectionately poked her grandson in the ribs and explained. “When a seamstress is making a garment, notions are what holds the piece together, you know, things like thread, zippers, and—”

“Buttons!” finished Izzy.

“Notions are vital to any sewing project,” added Gram.

“And I’ve got a ‘notion’ that now you are reminded of a Bible story. So I’m gonna grab your Bible and laptop and wait for my assignment,” said Liam.

Gram smiled. “Okay, here’s your first assignment. Look up Genesis chapter twelve, verses one through three.”



3.

“Got it.” Liam began reading. “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.”

“Good job,” said Gram. “Abraham, and his wife Sarah are going to be God’s partners in marriage for today’s story. Their union is the thread that connects God’s promise to send a Rescuer to save mankind from their sins. I also want you to notice that at the time God made this promise, Abram, whose name God later changed to Abraham was seventy-five years old.”

Gram gathered up a bunch of buttons in her hand and heaved a big sigh. “Before I continue with the story, I need to take a button break. I’m going to sew some buttonholes for our button-loving bride while you do your next assignment, Liam.”

Liam saluted his grandmother and laughed. “I’m on it. Whatcha need, Grams?”

“I want you to design another chart showing the generations from Noah to Abram. You’ll find the information in the eleventh chapter of Genesis.”

Izzy continued to occupy herself with Gram’s box of notions while Liam and their grandmother worked on their tasks.



Noah

Shem

Reu

Arphaxed

Serug

Saleh

Nahor

Eber

Terah

Peleg

Abraham

begat

ASUS

4.

After several minutes, Gram cut the threads from her final buttonhole, and Liam presented his findings.

“Here it is!” Liam proudly displayed his work on the computer. “As you can see, there are ten generations between Noah’s son, Shem, and Abram.”

“Ten? That’s the same as the generations between Adam and Noah,” Izzy noted.

Liam smirked. “The math wizard strikes again.”

He ducked just in time to avoid being pelted by a handful of assorted buttons flying through the air.

“Alright, you clowns, knock it off,” Gram scolded playfully. “I’ve got a story to tell.”

“Sorry, Honey Gram, but you have to admit, he had it coming,” laughed Izzy. “We’re ready to listen now.”

Gram continued. “God was laying the groundwork to prepare the world for Jesus to come to earth as our Rescuer. He chose to bless all mankind through Abram and his wife.”



5.

“But He wasn’t asking Abram to do a small thing. Leaving behind everything that had been familiar to him had to have been scary,” said Gram.

“I know trying new things or going to a new place with people I don’t know is a little bit creepy,” said Izzy.

Liam agreed with his sister. “Yeah, I don’t like new stuff either, unless I get to be in charge, that is.”

“Well, Abram didn’t get to be in charge in this new adventure,” said Gram. “He had to trust God and obey Him. They took everything they owned, including servants and animals on this journey. He also brought his nephew, Lot, and all of his possessions.”

“I’m guessing that was a pile of people, animals, and lots of stuff,” Izzy remarked.



6.

“It was. After their long journey, God appeared to Abram and again made a promise that He would give Abram this land. Then Abram built an altar to God.”

Izzy looked puzzled. “Why did he do that? Build an altar, I mean? What’s it for?”

“Remember how I’ve told you that God and the Bible often use symbols to represent other things,” reminded Gram.

Liam looked up from the computer screen. “Yeah, like the rainbow, God’s symbol that He’d never flood the whole earth again. Or all the names for Jesus we’ve talked about: ‘the Bread of Life,’ ‘the Living Water—’”

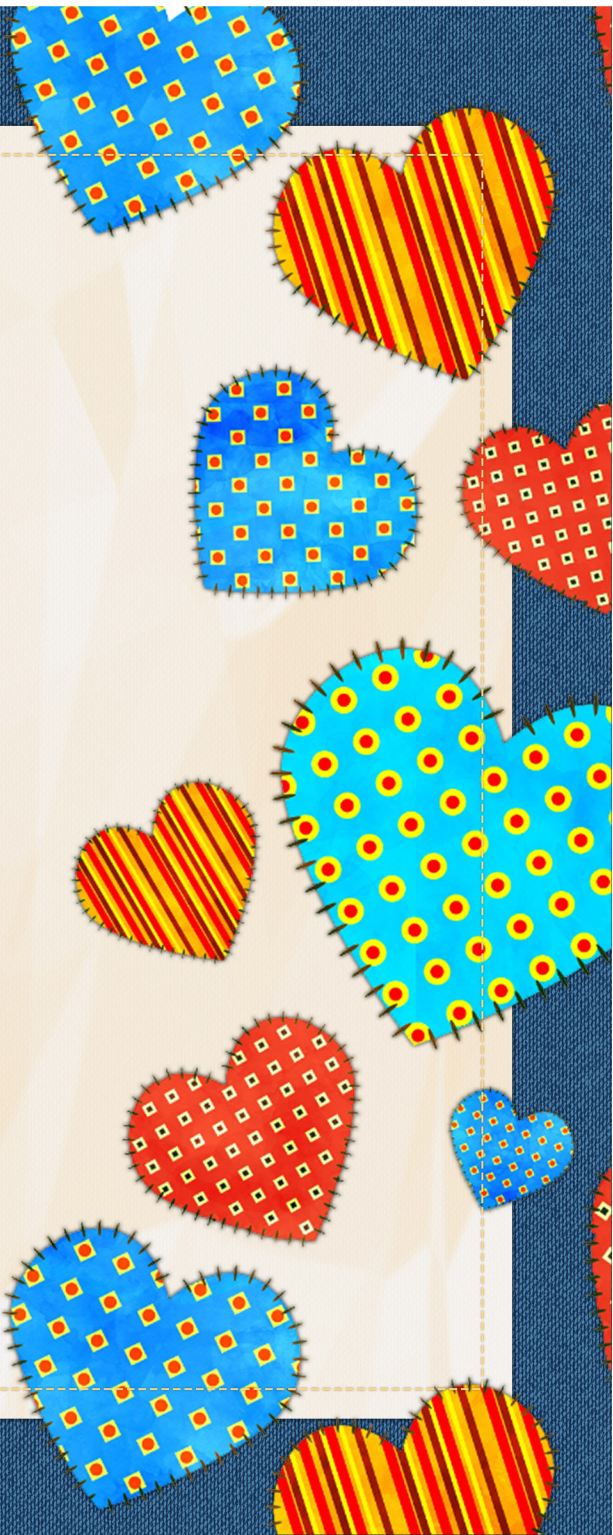
“And He’s the Bridegroom, the Church, His bride,” sang Izzy. “Like in that song you made up, Honey Gram.”

“Right. All of those things you mentioned are symbols. The altar Abram built was his symbol of honoring God, of dedicating that place to God,” answered Gram.

Suggested Activity

This would be a good place to insert the **Building An Altar** activity. Instructions are included in the downloadable file.

Note: After game is completed, use a “Call to Order” technique to settle the children.



7.

Izzy got busy with the notions she was playing with and stacked the spools of thread into a little tower. “Look,” she said, “I built an altar.”

Liam rolled his eyes. “Oh, Izzy, you’re such a goof.”

“But you’re such a cute goof, aren’t you Izzy?”

Izzy smiled at her grandmother.

“And goof-ups happen to all of us,” said Gram. “I wish I could say that Abram didn’t make any mistakes while he was waiting for God to keep His promise.”



8.

“There are lots of pieces to this story, but it would take too long to tell you all of them. One situation that you may find interesting is that Abram’s servants and Lot’s servants didn’t get along that well.”

“Was there a war?” asked Liam. “That would be interesting.”

“Not a war, exactly. Abram didn’t want there to be any more anger between their herdsman, and he sure didn’t want to have disagreement with his nephew. He allowed Lot to pick the land in whatever direction he wanted to settle, and Abram would go the other way.”

“Lot probably picked the best place for himself, didn’t he?” accused Liam.

“Well as a matter of fact, he did,” answered Gram. “Why would you guess that, Liam?”

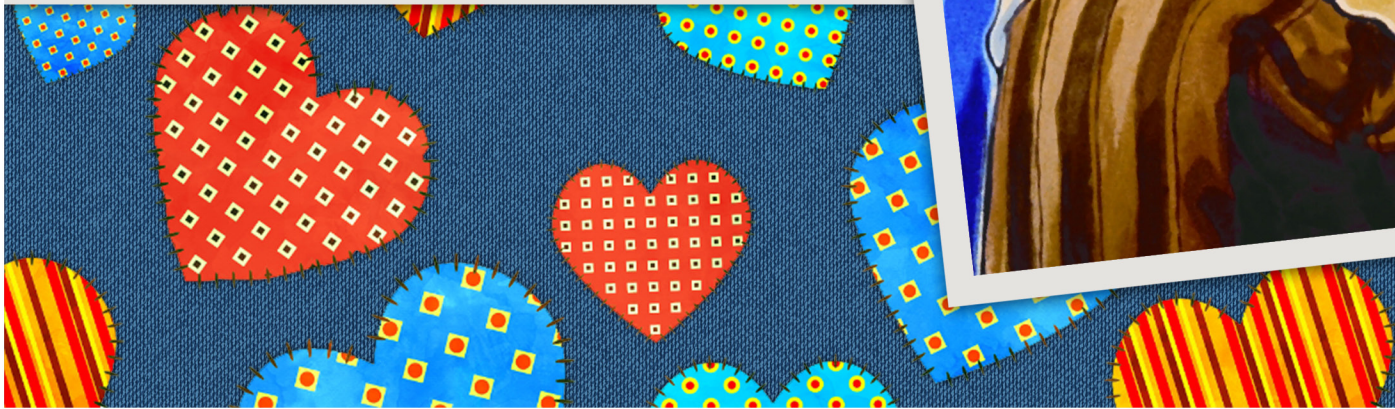
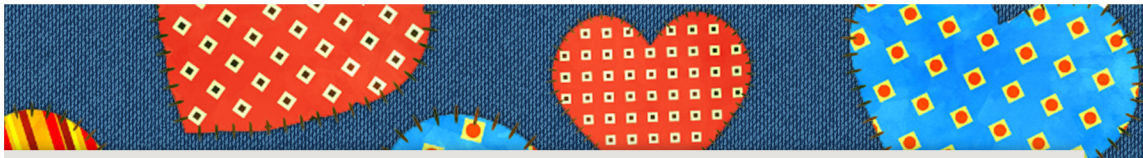
“His name was Lot, wasn’t it? Naturally, he wanted a lot.” Liam grinned at his joke.

Izzy groaned. “That joke was bad, Liam. Really bad. That’s all I’m saying.”

“Lot may have gotten the greenest, most plush land for himself, but Abram had something far more valuable,” said Gram.

“What was that, Honey Gram?” quizzed Izzy.

“Abram had the promise of God.”



9.

“After the separation from Lot, God reminded Abram that his **descendants** would be like the dust of the earth. ✦ That’s a lot of branches and twigs for his family tree,” said Gram.

“But I don’t understand that.” Izzy stopped playing with the notions on the bed and looked seriously at Gram. “God kept making that promise to Abram over and over and he and his wife didn’t have any children, right? How was he going to be the father of all the nations in the future if he didn’t have any kids?”

“Abram was struggling with that question himself,” answered Gram. “He asked God if He meant that one of his servants would have to become like a son to him. So God, in His loving fashion, answered Abram in a special way.”

“What did He do?” asked Izzy.

✦ DEFINE THE WORD

Define the word **descendants**.



10.

“God told Abram to look at the stars and number them. That would be the number of his descendants. The Bible tells us that Abram believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

“That’s a lot of stars,” remarked Izzy. “I wonder how many there are.”

Liam started clicking away at the computer keys. “I’m on it. According to this web site, there are about septillion stars. A septillion is a number one with twenty-four zeros behind it.”

“Liam, you interrupted Honey Gram’s story!” scolded Izzy.

“I’m star-ry, Gram. I mean, I’m sorry.”

“I accept both your apology for the interruption and the terrible joke as well,” laughed Gram. “Do either of you remember how old Abram was when God promised him that he would be a blessing to all nations?”

Izzy answered, “Seventy-five years, right?”

“Right,” said Gram. “And now twenty-four years have passed.”

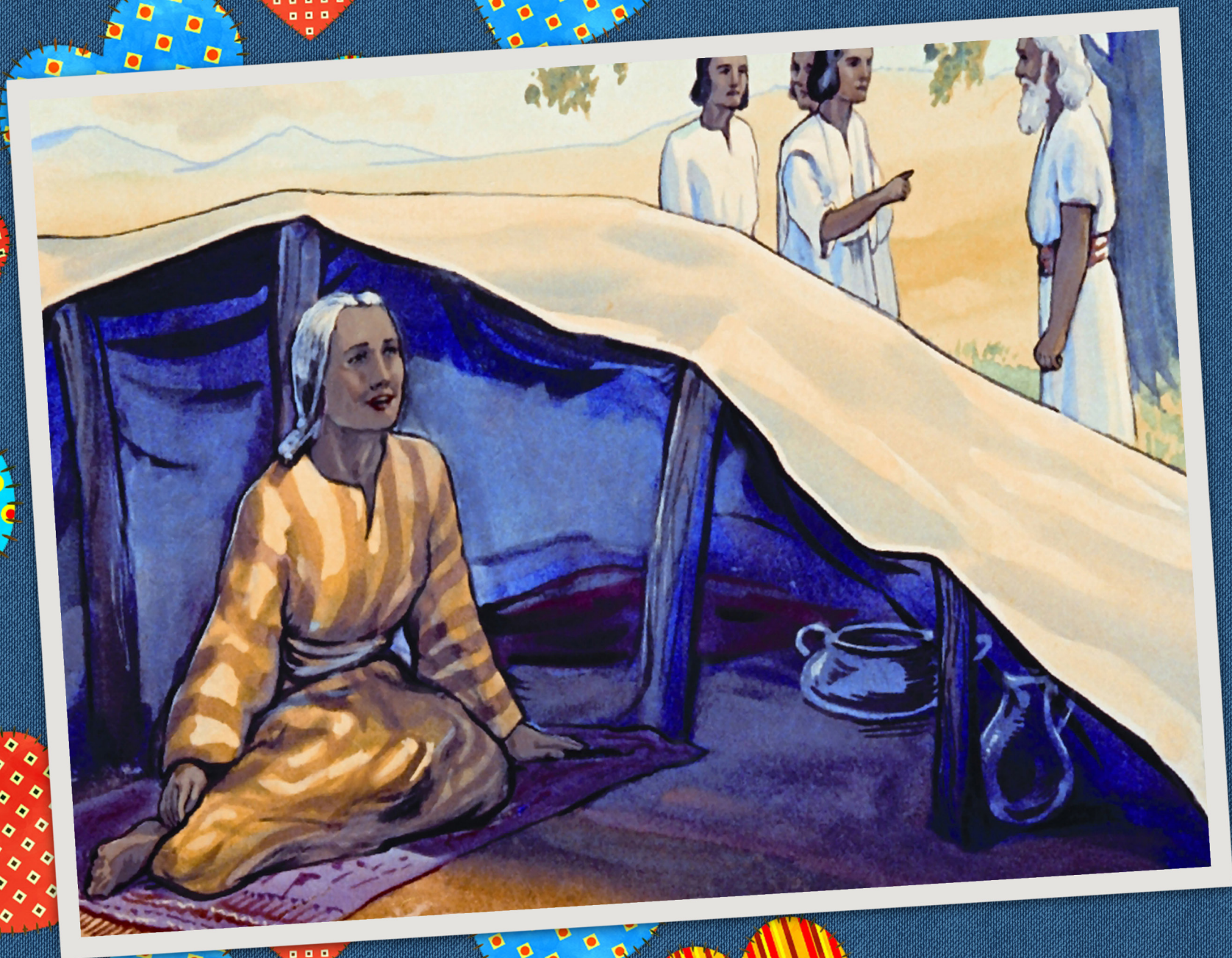


11.

Abram was ninety-nine years old by this time, and his wife was eighty-nine years old. No child had been born to Abram and his wife, yet God made His promise to Abram once again. This time, though, He changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning 'father of many nations.' Then He told Abraham that Sarah, his wife, would have a son."

"What did Abraham do?" asked Liam. "If I was a hundred years old and found out I was gonna be a dad, I'd fall over laughing."

"That's exactly what Abraham did. He laughed."



12.

“And he wasn’t the only one who laughed. When Sarah overheard some visitors making this same promise to Abraham, she laughed also,” explained Gram.

“Did Sarah have the baby? What did they name him?” asked Izzy.

“Yes, she did,” answered Gram. “God told Abraham to name the baby Isaac. The name Isaac actually means laughter.”

“Wow. By my calculations, Abraham and Sarah waited twenty-five years for God to keep His promise,” said Liam. “I might have been tempted to name that baby Sun Dial or Wristwatch.”

“Sun Dial? What kind of silly name is that?” asked Izzy.

“Abraham and Sarah waited so long for a son. Sun Dial is an appropriate name. Translated, it means ‘it’s about time.’” Liam laughed at his own ridiculous joke.

Gram playfully bopped Liam on the head with a pillow. “What am I going to do with you, my oddball joke machine?”

Liam tried to duck, but failed.



13.

“Actually, you’re more correct than you think. So much in the Bible is about time and waiting. A Bible verse I like about waiting says, ‘Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.’”

“That’s a good verse, Honey Gram,” said Izzy. “I’m not very good at waiting so I’m going to memorize that one to help me be a better waiter.”

“I think you mean a better waitress,” Liam teased.

Gram grinned at her grandson’s silliness, but added a final thought. “Over a dozen times in the Bible, the LORD is referred to as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Abraham was the beginning of this long line of people of Israel, God’s chosen people. From this nation, our Rescuer, Jesus Christ would come. The whole world would be waiting for Him.”

“Will we be learning about them too?” asked Izzy.

Liam pointed to Gram’s blue box of zippers, buttons, and thread. “I’ve a notion we will!”



NOTIONS

Overall Buckles with buttons

Le Bouton
B. BLUMENTHAL & CO., INC.
A SUBSIDIARY OF BELMONT HEMANN CO., INC.
CARLSTADT, NJ 07012
Lansing, IA 52151
blumenthalansing.com

Le Bouton
B. BLUMENTHAL & CO., INC.
A SUBSIDIARY OF BELMONT HEMANN CO., INC.
CARLSTADT, NJ 07012
Lansing, IA 52151
blumenthalansing.com

Le Bouton
4609

14.

End of Story Review

Answers from the Bible

(4th-6th graders)

1. According to Galatians 3:7, who are the sons of Abraham? (Galatians 3:7)
2. Locate a Bible passage where God identifies Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Exodus 3:6)
3. Locate a Bible verse where Jesus references Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Matthew 22:32)
4. Locate a Bible verse where the Apostle Peter references the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Acts 3:13)
5. Locate a Bible verse declaring that Isaac and Jacob are also to receive the promise God made to Abraham.
(Hebrews 11:9)

Review Questions

(1st-3rd graders)

1. Which close relative traveled with Abraham and Sarah to God's new land of promise? (Lot, Abraham's nephew)
2. How old was Abraham when his son Isaac was born? (One hundred years old)
3. Jesus was a descendant of which son of Jacob? (Judah)