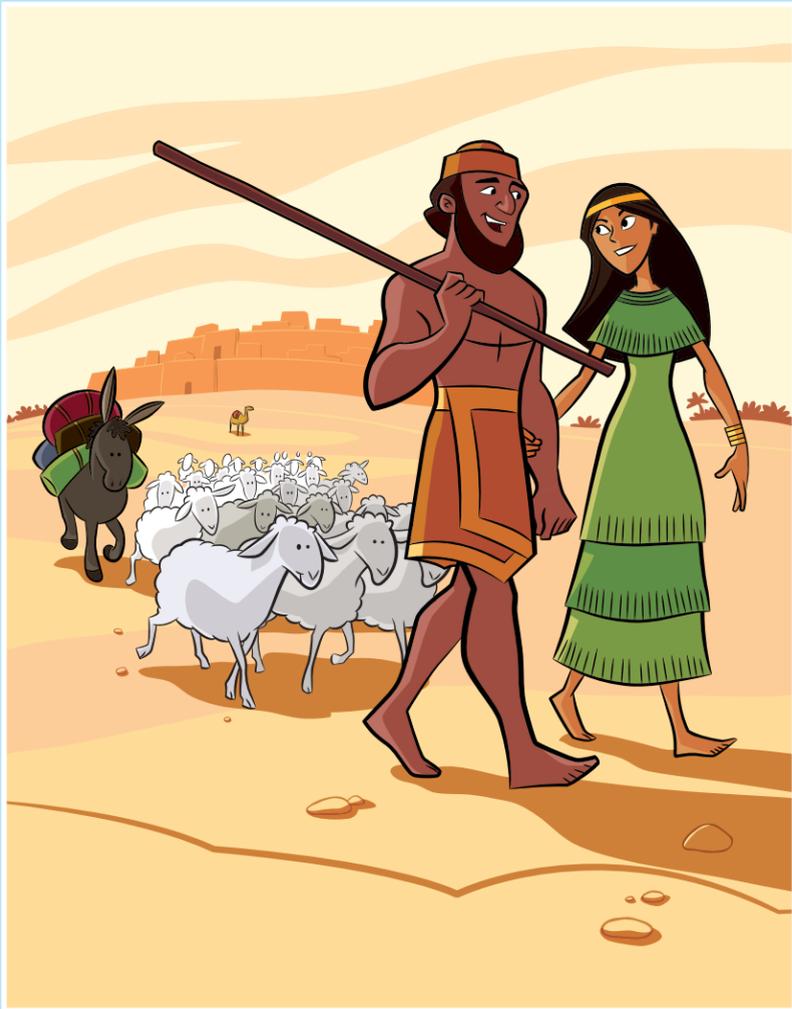




God calls Abraham to follow Him.

Genesis 11:27-12:5



There was nothing really special about Abraham. He didn't grow up in a good family that loved God. He lived in a wicked city like the one the tower builders had lived in.

Still, God wanted to show how much He loved Abraham. One day God came to Abraham and said, "Abraham, I want you to take your wife, Sarah, leave your home, and follow Me to a land I will show you."

The city of Ur was home to Abraham and Sarah. They were safe inside its strong walls. They didn't have to worry about scary animals or scary people.

However, God wanted to teach Abraham something special. He wanted Abraham to know that God, not strong walls, would keep Abraham safe. God had commanded Abraham to leave his home, and because Abraham believed and trusted God, he led his family to the land called Canaan.

God also made Abraham a very special promise, "Look up, Abraham. Do you see all those stars? I will give you more children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren than the stars in the sky."

Abraham said, "But, Lord, Sarah and I don't have any children, and we are too old to have children now. How will we have a huge family?"

What seemed impossible to Abraham was no problem for the Lord. God had made a promise to Abraham, and God always keeps His promises. Abraham would have to be patient. God said, "Abraham, I will make you into a great nation, and through your family, I will bless all the peoples of the earth."

Remember the sinful people who had built the tower? God was not finished with them. Through Abraham's family, God would show all the people of the world how much He still loved them.



God sends Moses back to Egypt.

Exodus 1:6-11; 3:1-4:17



Many years had gone by since Joseph's family had moved to Egypt. A new king, who didn't remember Joseph and didn't love God, sat on the throne. In fact, he thought he was a god. Each day he looked out at the people of Israel living in his land and frowned. These twelve tribes, one for each of Jacob's sons, were getting bigger all the time—too big. Soon they might even take over Egypt, he thought.

Then the king had an idea. I could make these people my slaves. I could tell them what to do, and they would belong to me forever.

The king's plan was evil, but the Lord had a different plan—a plan to rescue His people. He started by speaking to an Israelite named Moses. "Moses, I am the one true God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Israelites think I have forgotten them, but I have heard My people crying out for help."

"What are you going to do, Lord?" asked Moses. "The king of Egypt is strong and thinks Your people are his."

"Moses, that little king is no problem for Me. I will show him how much I love Abraham's family. They are My people, and I want them to be near Me. I am going to bring them out of Egypt, and you are going to help me."

"Me?" sputtered Moses.

"Yes, you, Moses."

"But I am not very good at speaking to people. I wouldn't know what to say," said Moses.

"Don't worry," the Lord told him. "I will help you and tell you what to say."





Lesson 24: Disciples

Jesus provides a huge catch of fish.

Luke 5:1-7

A large crowd of people gathered by the Sea of Galilee to hear Jesus teach. As they pushed each other to get closer and closer to Jesus, He got closer and closer to the water.

Jesus looked around and saw two fishing boats nearby. He climbed into one of them and asked its owner, Peter, to row a short way from the beach. He and his brother, Andrew, worked with two other brothers, James and John. All of them were fishermen.

As Peter rowed the small boat away from the crowds, Jesus began to teach once more. His voice echoed loudly across the water so everyone—even the people standing on tiptoe at the back—could hear Him.

When Jesus finished teaching, He turned to Peter and asked, “How many fish did you catch last night?”

Peter shook his head and answered, “We didn’t catch a single fish. Not one.” This was strange because nighttime was when they caught the most fish, the big ones.

Jesus commanded Peter, “Row out a little further from the shore, put your nets back in the water, and see what you catch.”

Peter knew what would happen. He’d been a fisherman all his life. They wouldn’t catch anything—not in the daytime—but Peter did what Jesus had said.

When he did, the nets sunk beneath the surface then exploded with fish! There were hundreds of them! Peter and Andrew couldn’t believe it. They called James and John to help. Fish filled the boat till it was so full that it started to sink.





Lesson 32: Transfigured

The disciples should listen to Jesus.

Matthew 17:4-8; Luke 9:33-36

On the mountaintop, Peter, James, and John stared as Jesus revealed His glory. He shone with a blinding light: the mighty and powerful Son of God.

While the three disciples watched in amazement, Jesus talked with Moses and Elijah, two of Israel's most important teachers.

Of course, Jesus' disciples knew the right way to treat important teachers like this. They should listen carefully to them and obey them.

This gave Peter a sudden thought, What an amazing team of teachers—Moses, Elijah, and Jesus!

Peter said, "It is good that we are all here. I don't want it to end. Let's build three tents you could teach in. One for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Jesus!"

But Peter wasn't thinking about what he was saying. He had forgotten that Jesus was more than a great teacher like Moses and Elijah. While he was still speaking, a cloud came down and covered the disciples. They heard a voice coming from the cloud. God the Father Himself was talking to the disciples about Jesus.

He said, "This is My Son, whom I dearly love. Listen carefully to Him."

Only Jesus is God's Son. There is no one else like Him; He alone is the Savior!



Jesus commissions His disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:8-11

Jesus was alive! He spent the next forty days with his followers, but soon it was time for Him to go back to heaven. Before He left, Jesus gave the disciples a job to do while He was gone.

Jesus said, "Go to every part of this earth. Make other people into My disciples. Baptize them and teach them to obey Me. I will send the Holy Spirit to give you power to do all I have commanded."

As soon as Jesus blessed His disciples, He began to ascend into the air. His disciples watched in amazement as Jesus disappeared high into the clouds. He was going back to the Father in heaven to prepare a place for His followers.

While the disciples stood gazing into the sky, two angels appeared beside them. The angels asked, "Why are you looking for Jesus? He has returned to heaven, but He will one day come to earth again."

For the rest of their lives, the disciples told other people about God's great plan of love. The ones who believed in Jesus began telling others too! Before long the news of God's forgiveness had spread all over the world!

Jesus' followers always want other people to hear and believe this message of God's love. They tell friends, family members, neighbors, and even enemies.

I have told you the good news about God's love. Now it's your turn to tell other people about our loving God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

