

# Abraham: The Father of the Great Family

## Genesis 11:24–25:11

**This lesson comes from** Volume 6 of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*. The lessons in Volume 6 are all Old Testament Extension Lessons. We generally introduce these lessons to children who have spent at least three years working with the Core Lessons in Volume 2 and are now developmentally ready for more.

In the early years of Godly Play, the children meet Abraham in the story of “The Great Family.” They hear the story of how the Great Family has become as many as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand in the desert. But there is still an original mother and father to remember, honor, and learn from. This story extends the story of “The Great Family” (*The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Volume 2, Lesson 7) by telling more about Abraham, the father of the Great Family. It includes how God tested Abraham and Abraham tested God.

### How to Use This Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense relives—the experience of today’s lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today’s story?

Just listen. This is not a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had meaning, and yet another talk about their own

creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to listen in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today’s presentation offered below. Whether you read the lesson or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today’s lesson, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the presentation can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

## The Presentation

God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would be the mother and father of a great family. The family would be as many as there are grains of sand in the desert and the stars in the sky. But Abraham and Sarah had no children. Then three strangers came out of the desert and told them that they would have a child. They laughed, and they named the baby laughter, which in their language is Isaac.

Isaac grew. And when he was a boy, God appeared to Abraham and said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain” (Genesis 22:2). Isaac carried the wood for the offering. Abraham carried the bowl of fire and the knife.

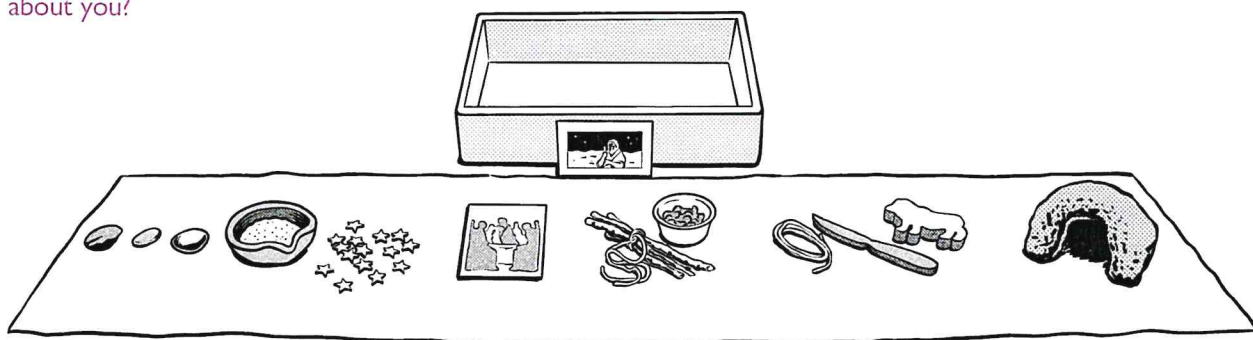
# Wondering

- **I wonder** what part of this story you like the best?
- **I wonder** what part of this story is the most important?
- **I wonder** where you are in the story and what part is about you?

Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide." When they came to the place for the sacrifice, Abraham tied up Isaac. He picked up the knife and was about to kill him for the sacrifice when an angel came and said, "No. You do not need to do this."

Then Abraham looked, and there was a ram caught in the bushes. God provided the ram for the sacrifice. Abraham untied Isaac. The angel called to Abraham again and said, "God says, 'I will bless you, and you and your family will be a blessing, because you obeyed me.'"

They all returned home where Sarah had been watching for them. Sometime later, Sarah, full of years, died. Abraham buried her in the cave near the Oaks of Mamre. After Abraham helped find a wife for Isaac, he died and was buried in the cave beside Sarah.



## Godly Play Defining the Types of Lessons, Part II

**In every Parent Page**, we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose. Today we will continue our discussion of the different types of lessons in the Godly Play curriculum: Core Lessons, Extension Lessons, Enrichment Lessons, Afterwards Lessons, and Synthesis Lessons.

■ **Enrichment Lessons** do not extend so much as enrich or deepen a Core

Lesson. This kind of lesson goes over the same material in a Core Lesson but from a different angle or in more detailed way. These lessons are also placed on the lower shelves, under the Core Lesson they enrich.

■ **Afterwards Lessons** involve events and symbols that are not part of the biblical era, such as the stories about the saints/ heroes of the faith.