

## **ENRICHMENT LESSON 2**

# **THE STORY OF ABRAHAM**

### **LESSON NOTES**

**FOCUS: THE FATHER OF THE GREAT FAMILY (GENESIS 12:24-25:11)**

- **SACRED STORY**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

### **THE MATERIAL**

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, UNDER "THE GREAT FAMILY"**
- **PIECES: ROCKS FOR ALTARS (THREE), 3 CLEAR BOXES (ONE WITH SAND, ONE DUST, ONE STARS), STATUE OF 3 STRANGERS, WOOD FOR THE OFFERING WRAPPED IN TWINE, BOWL OF FIRE, KNIFE, LONG PIECE OF TWINE, RAM, CAVE**
- **CONTROL**
- **UNDERLAY: TAN FELT STRIP, 42" X 11"**

### **BACKGROUND**

"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 a father to remember, honor and learn from. This story enriches the story of "the Great Family" (*Volume 2*, p. 57) by telling more about Abraham, the father of "the Great Family." It includes how God tested Abraham and Abraham tested God.

### **NOTES ON THE MATERIAL**

Abraham's story sits in a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is a drawing of Abraham looking out at the stars. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is a strip of tan felt, 42" x 11". Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects: three rocks to remind the children of the three places in the desert where Abraham came close to God; three clear boxes (one filled with sand, one dust, and one stars), a statue of the three strangers, wood for the offering

wrapped in twine, a bowl of fire (a small clay bowl with clay painted red on the inside to represent the fire), a long piece of twine, a ram and a cave.

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

### **SPECIAL NOTES**

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

Abraham's story enriches the lesson on "The Great Family" (*Volume 2*, p. 57). When you introduce the stories in this volume, take care to set them in the larger context of the sacred story of which they are a part. You can accomplish this by:

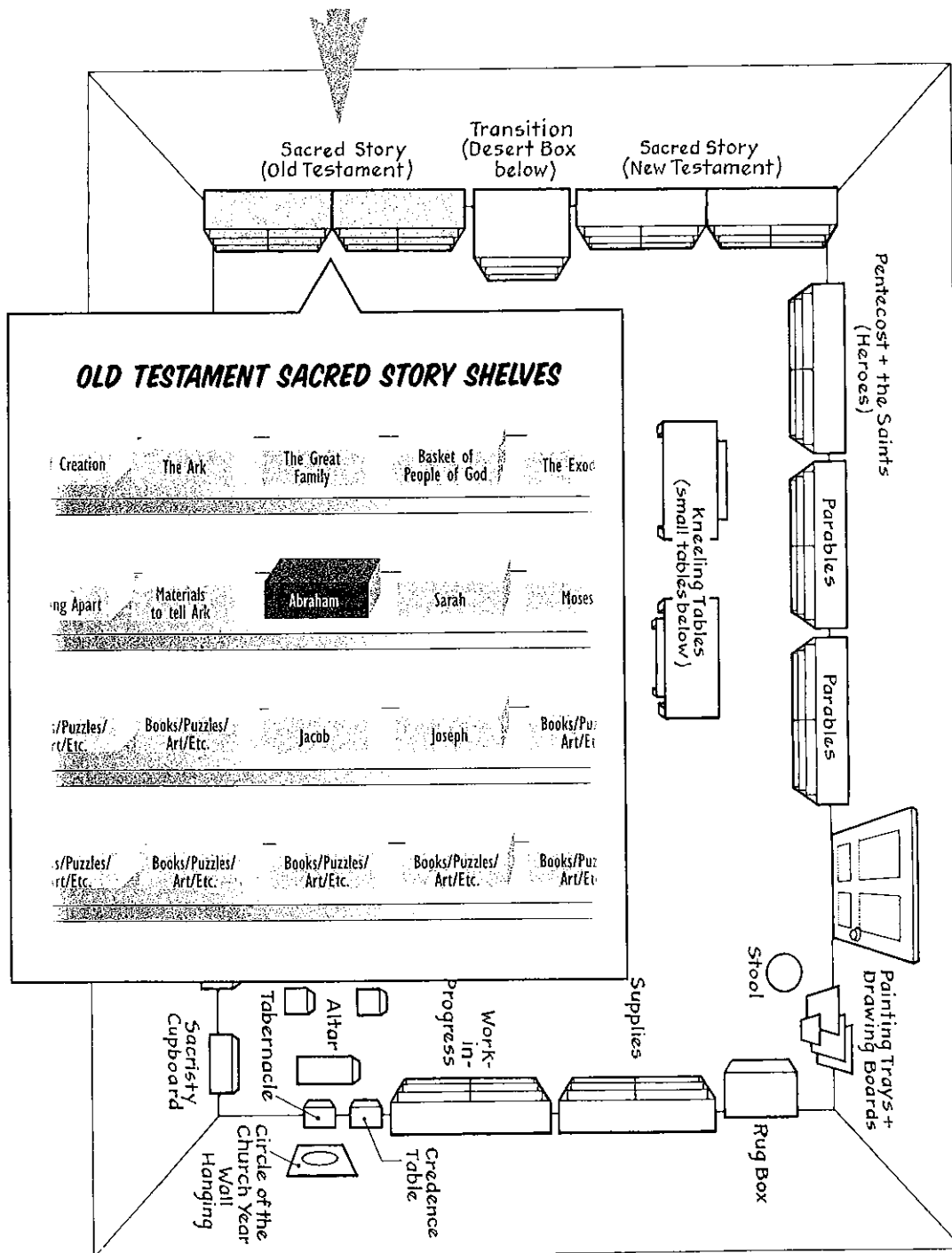
- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

As you tell the story of Abraham's life, place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event. Unroll the underlay slowly, providing just enough space for the next object, as if you are unrolling a life.

At the end of the wondering, show the children the control card and then carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, "Here is the knife for the sacrifice," and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



**STORY ICON FOR THE STORY OF ABRAHAM**



**WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS (TEACHING OBJECTS)**

## MOVEMENTS

*Move with deliberation to the shelf where the material waits.*

*Pick up Abraham's tray and return to the circle.*

*As you return to the circle you may need to say...*

*Take the underlay from the tray and begin to unroll it—just enough to place the first object—right to left (storyteller's perspective).*

*Place **Object #1** (the three rocks representing the altars at Shechem, Bethel and Hebron) on the underlay as you say "God was there" in each place.*

*Place **Object #2** (three clear boxes containing sand, stars and dust) on the underlay as you say what each box represents.*

*Place **Object #3** (statue of three strangers) on the underlay.*

*Place **Object #4** (wood for the offering wrapped in twine) on the underlay.*

*Place **Object #5** (bowl of fire and a knife) on the underlay.*

## WORDS

Watch. Watch where I go.

We need to be ready.

This is the story of Abraham, the father of the Great Family. He and Sarah went from Ur to Haran and then on into a new land.

And when they came into the new land, Abraham went up on a hill at Shechem to pray and God was there. He prayed to God at Bethel, and God was there. Then they pitched their tents in Hebron, and God was there too.

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, stars in the sky and dust in the land.

But Abraham and Sarah had no children

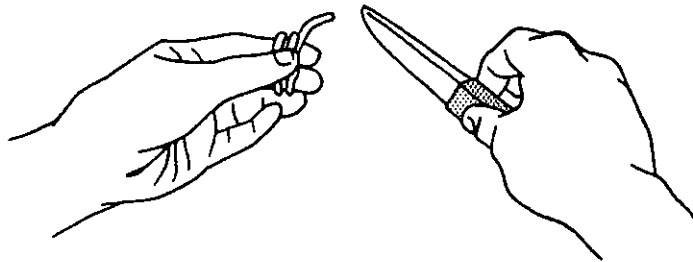
Then three strangers came out of the desert and told them that they would have a child. They laughed. The child was born. And they named him "laughter."

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 upon the mountain." The next day he cut the wood and took a donkey, two helpers and his son, and began to walk towards the mountain. On the third day they could see it.

Abraham told his helpers to stay there with the donkey, and he and Isaac went on alone. Isaac carried the wood for the offering. And Abraham carried a bowl of fire and the knife.

## MOVEMENTS

Wrap **Object #6** (piece of twine) around your fingers as you talk about tying up Isaac. Place the twine and the knife on the underlay.



**TWINE WRAPPED AROUND FINGERS (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)**

## WORDS

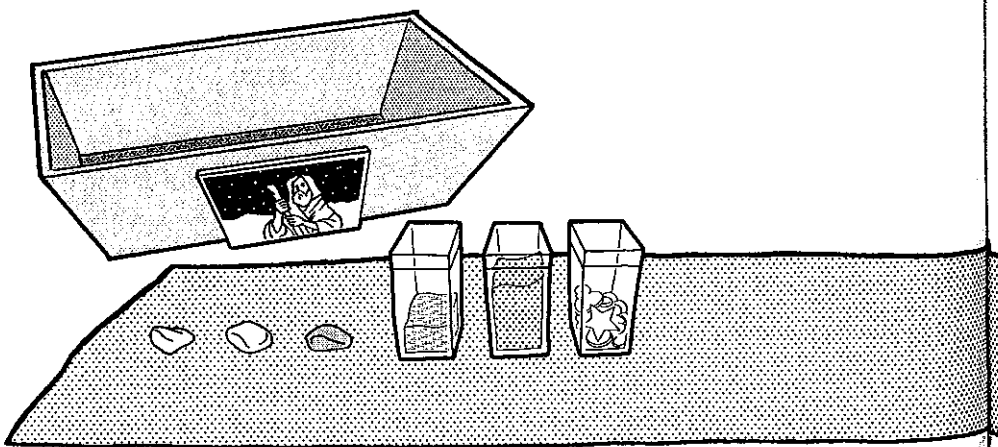
Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide."

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."

Place **Object #7** (ram) on the underlay when you speak of the ram appearing.

Then Abraham looked, and there was a ram caught in the bushes. God provided the ram for the sacrifice.

Abraham untied Isaac and they went down the mountain. The angel called to him again and said, "God says, 'I will make you the father of a great family...as many as the grains of sand in the desert and the stars in the sky. And I will make of you a great blessing, because you obeyed me.'"



## MOVEMENTS

Place **Object #8 (cave)** on the underlay.

*Sit for a moment and look at the lesson from beginning to end to let the story rest. Then begin the wondering.*

*After the wondering is over, show the children the control card for them to use to check their own telling of the story. Then put the story away carefully. Pick up each object in reverse order and remind the children what the object is, saying for example, "Here is the cave where Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried." After all of the objects are back in the tray, carefully model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray as well. Return the lesson to its place on the shelf. Then return to your spot in the circle and dismiss the children one by one to their work.*

## WORDS

Then Sarah, Abraham's beloved wife, died, and he buried her in a cave at the end of the field near the Oaks of Mamre. After Abraham helped find a wife for Isaac, he died, and was buried in the cave beside Sarah. Isaac and his wife Rebekah had twins, Esau and Jacob, so the Great Family grew.

I wonder what part of this story you liked the best?

I wonder what part of this story was the most important?

I wonder what part was about you or what part you were in?

I wonder if we could leave any of the story out and still have all that we need?

FINAL LAYOUT OF THE STORY OF ABRAHAM (CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE)

