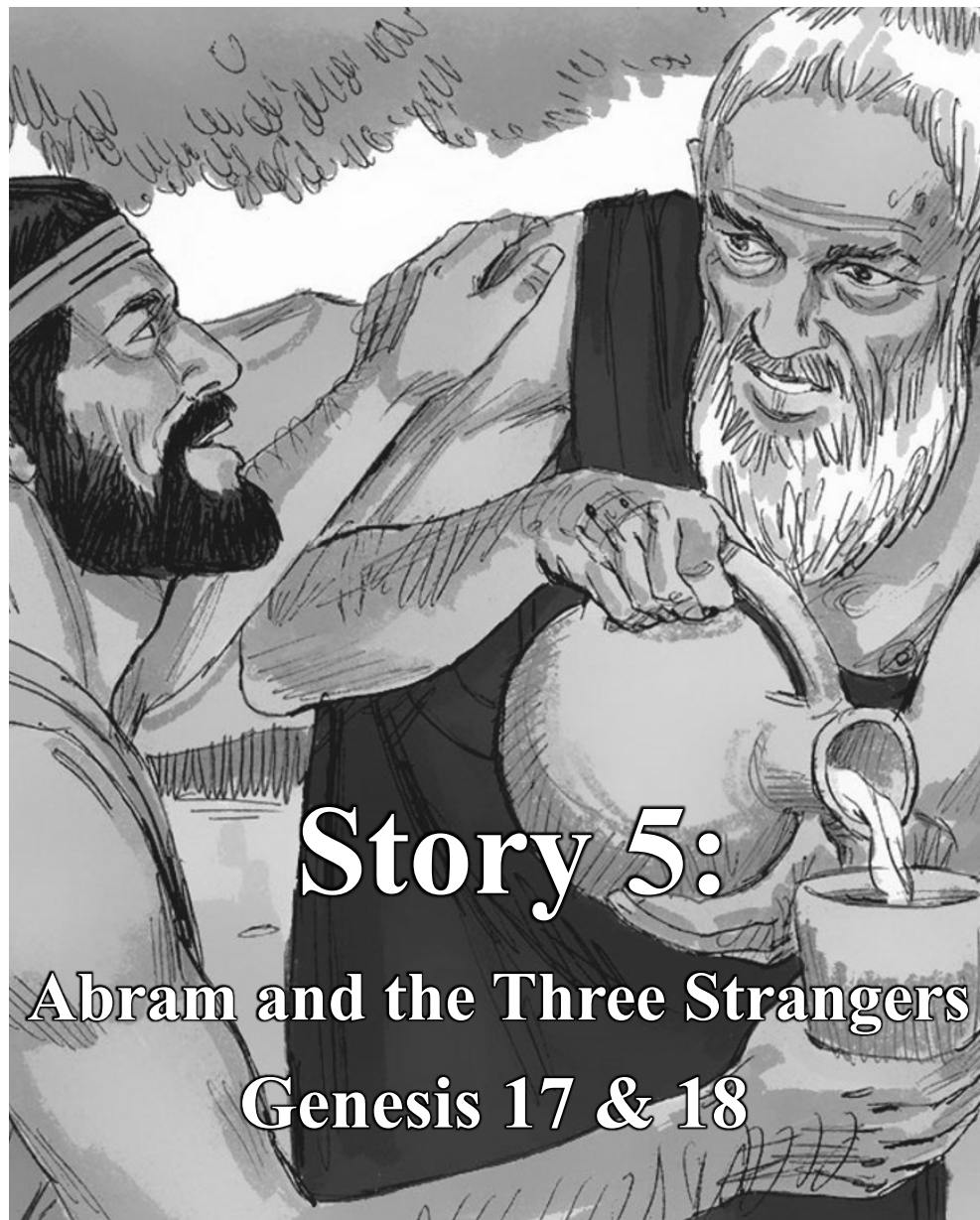


Story 5:

Abram and the Three Strangers

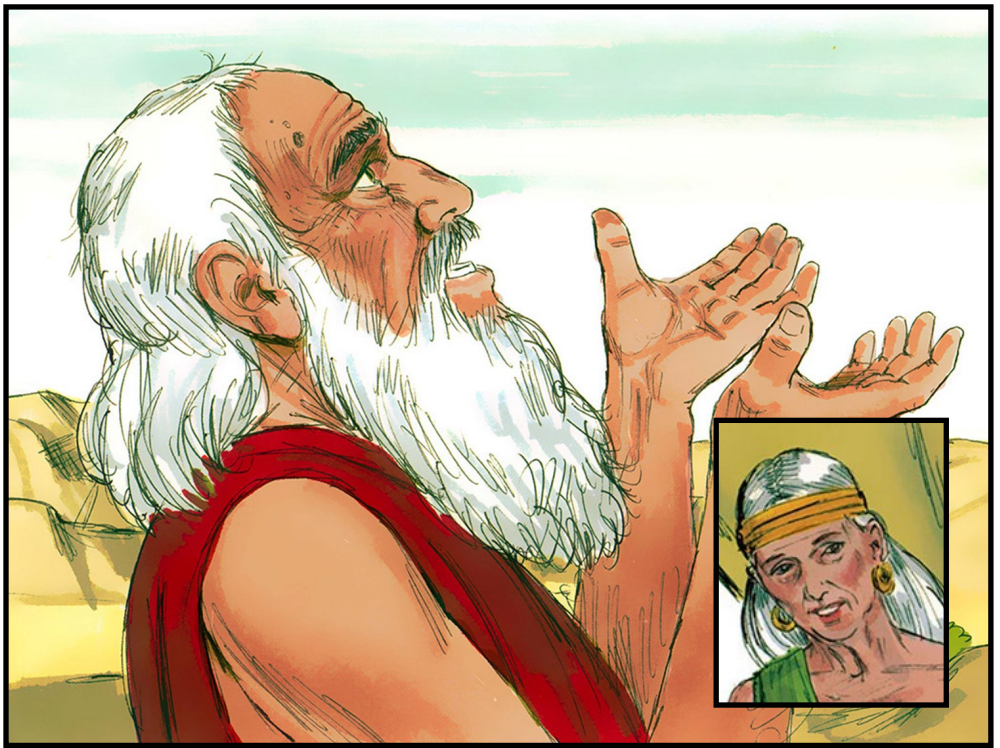
Genesis 17 & 18



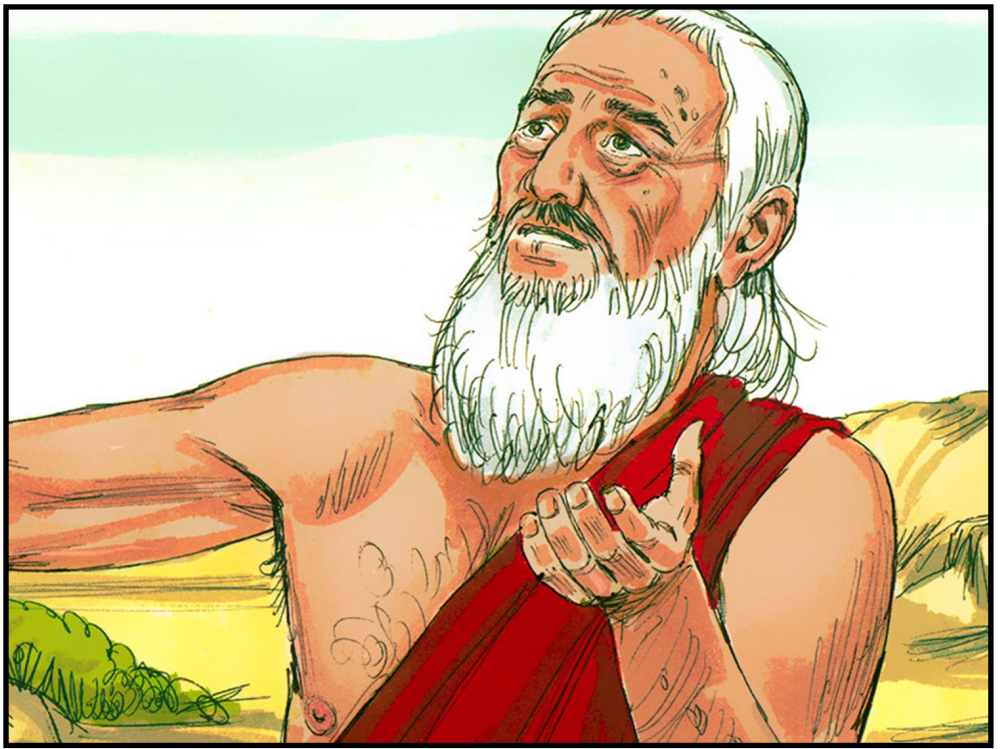
Story 5:

Abram and the Three Strangers

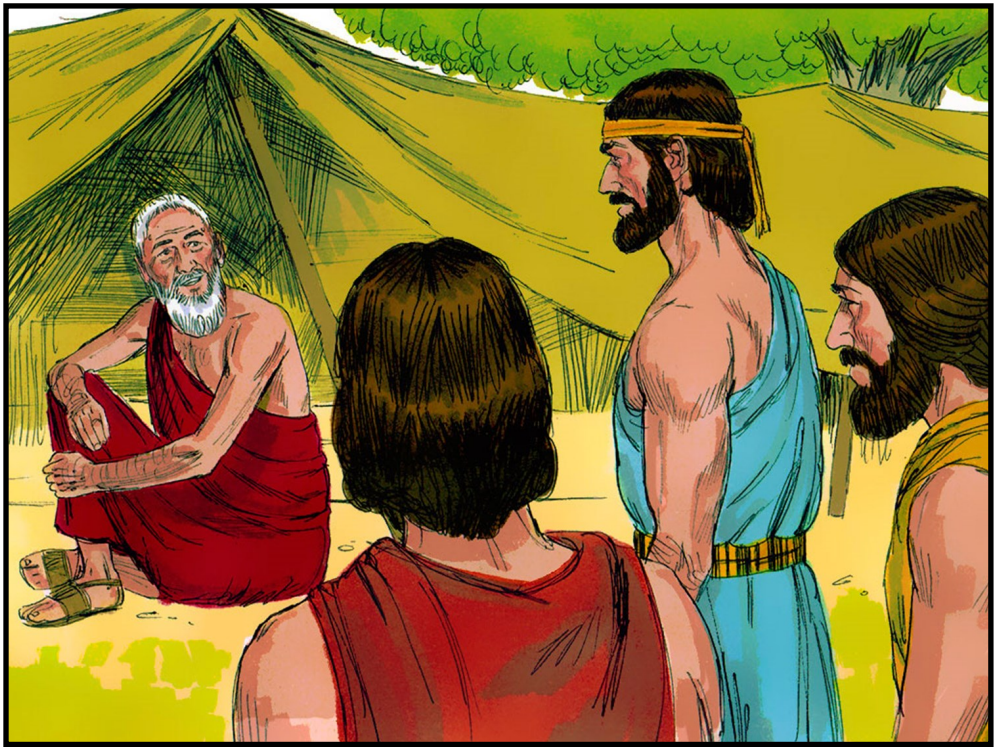
Genesis 17 & 18



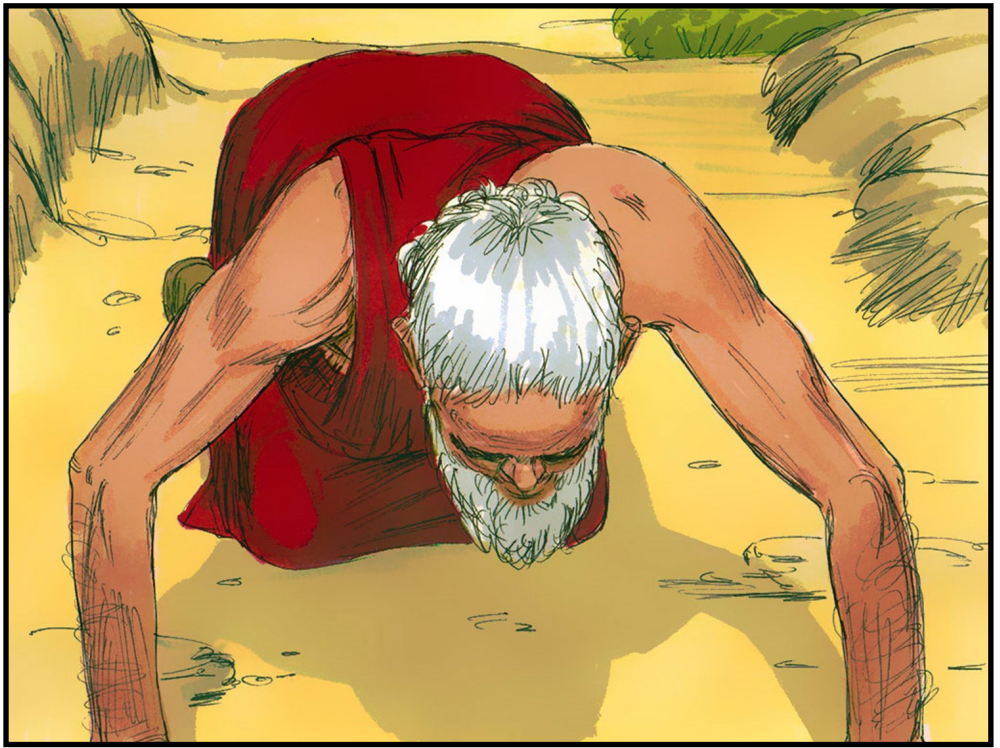
God spoke to Abram when he was 99 years old and said, “I am going to change your name. No longer will your name be *Abram* (which means honored father). From now on your name will be *Abraham* (which means father of many people). Also, I am going to change Sarai’s name to Sarah.



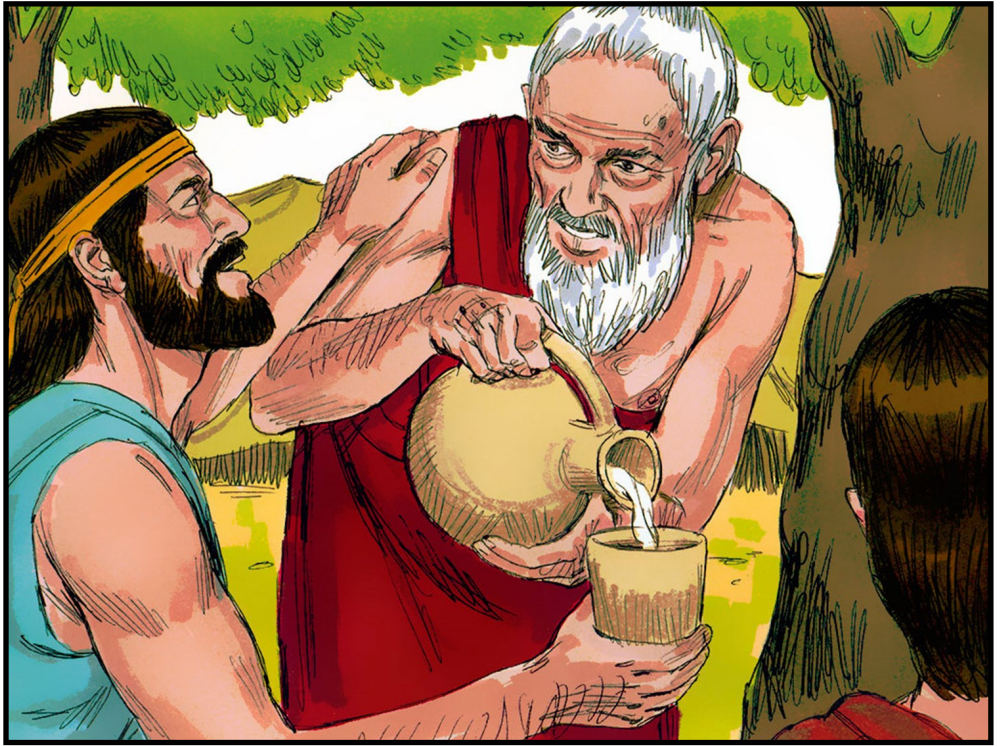
God told Abraham that many nations and kings would come through the child he would have with Sarah. God also made an agreement (called a covenant) with Abraham—Abraham would circumcise all the sons in his family line. This would be a sign for the generations to come that they belonged to God.



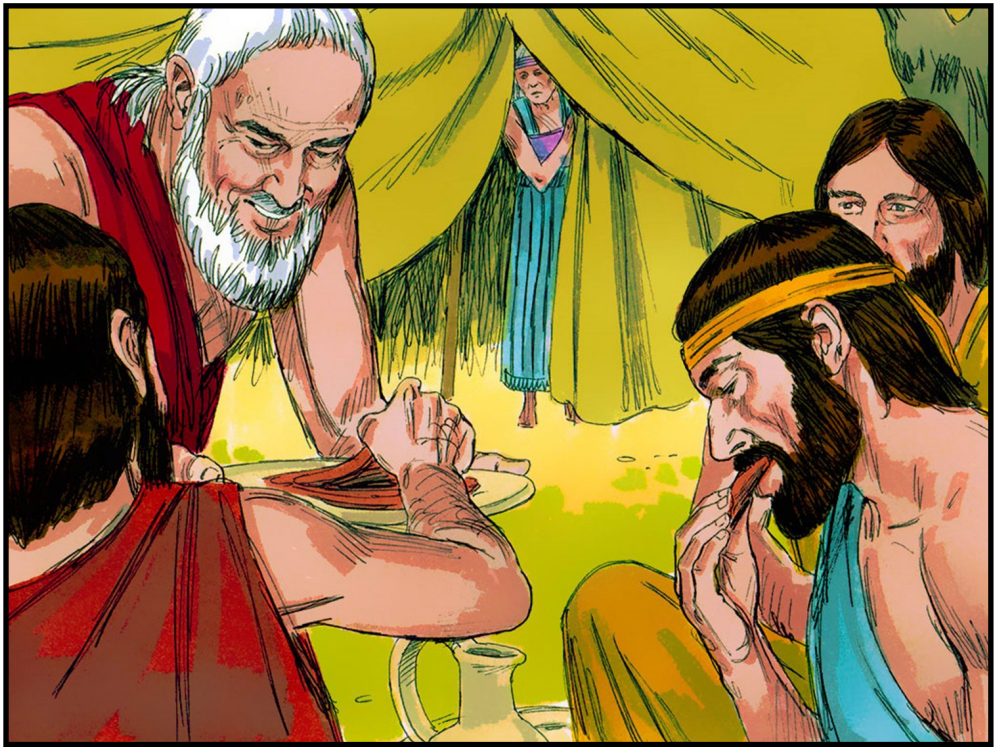
One day, while Abraham was sitting in the entrance of his tent, he looked up and saw three men standing nearby. The Bible tells us that one of these men was the LORD.



Abraham bowed down before them and said, “Please do not pass me by. Let me bring you some water to wash your feet and some food for you to eat. Then you will be refreshed and you may go on your way.”



Abraham hurried over to Sarah and asked her to bake some fresh bread for their guests. Next, he picked out a calf from the herd and gave it to his servant to cook. Then, he brought the men some butter and milk to have with their meal.



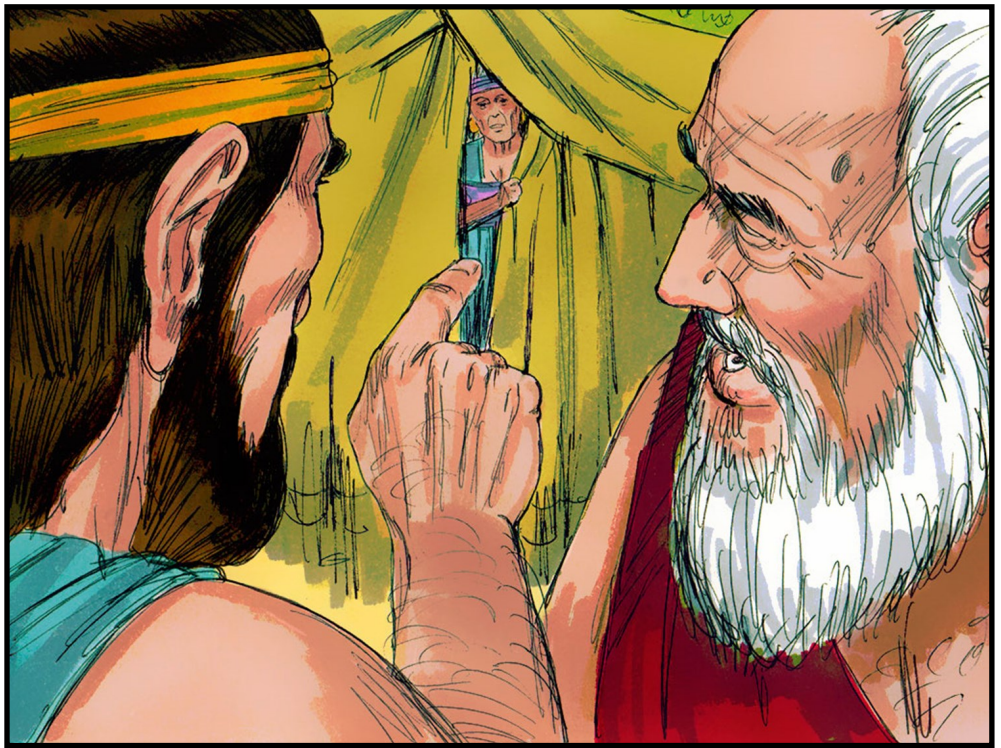
“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked.

“She is in the tent,” Abraham said.

Then one of them said, “I am going to return to you about this time next year and your wife Sarah will have had a son.”



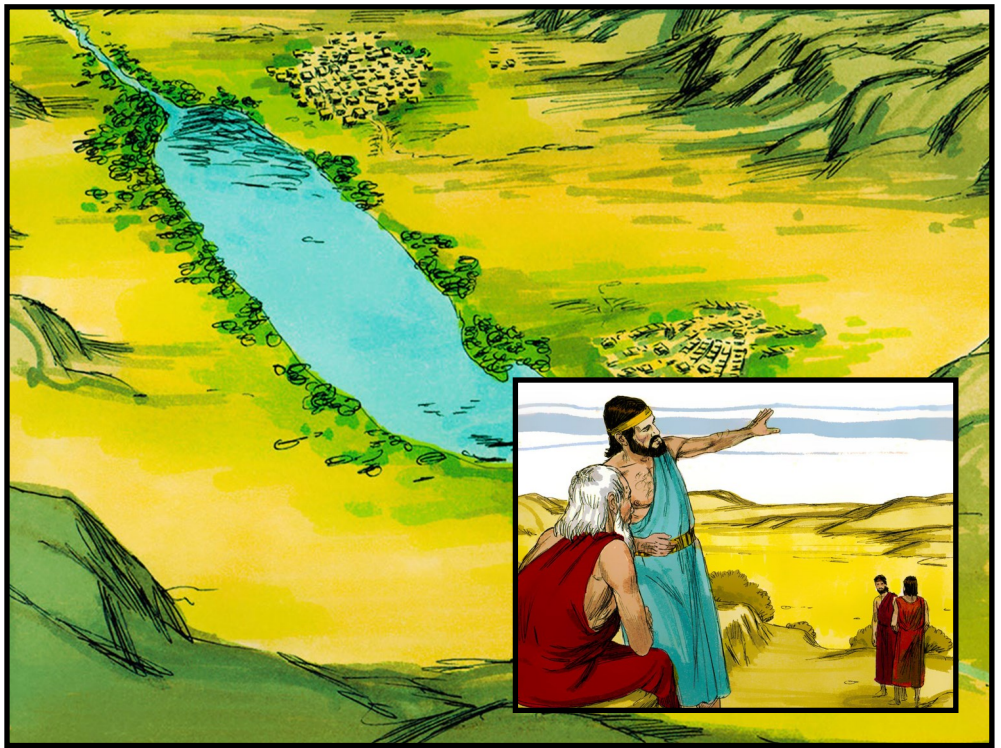
Sarah was at the front of the tent secretly listening to the men talk. When she heard what the man said, she laughed to herself. She thought, “My husband and I are so old. Can I really know what it’s like to have a baby?”



The LORD asked Abraham, “Why did Sarah just laugh? Is anything too hard for God to do? Without a doubt, I’m going to return next year and you will have had a son.” Sarah was scared, so she lied about having laughed. But the LORD said, “Yes, you did laugh.”



The men got up to leave, so Abraham went to see them on their way. As they were walking, the LORD said, “I cannot hide from Abraham what I am about to do. He must guide his family in doing what is right and fair.”

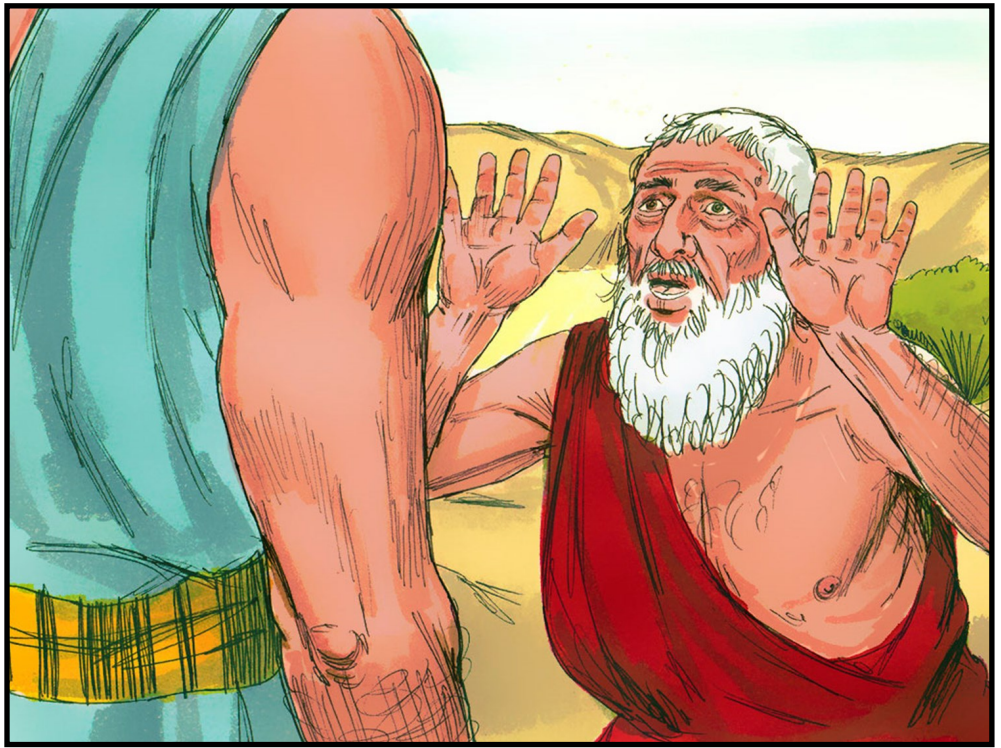


The men looked down toward the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The LORD said, “I have heard many bad things about the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. They are very evil. I will go down and see if they are as bad as I have heard.” The men turned and went toward Sodom. But Abraham stood there with the LORD.



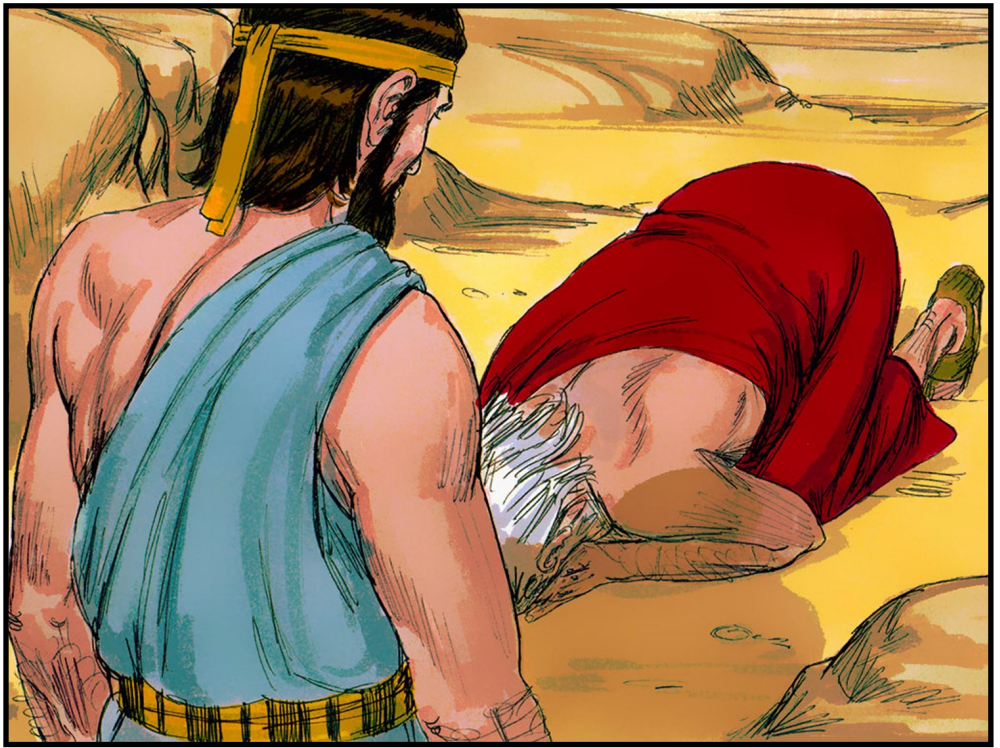
As Abraham talked with the LORD and begged him, “Will you destroy *all* the people in the city? What if you can find 50 good and righteous people? Would you still destroy the city?”

The LORD said, “If there are 50 people doing what is right, I will spare the city.”



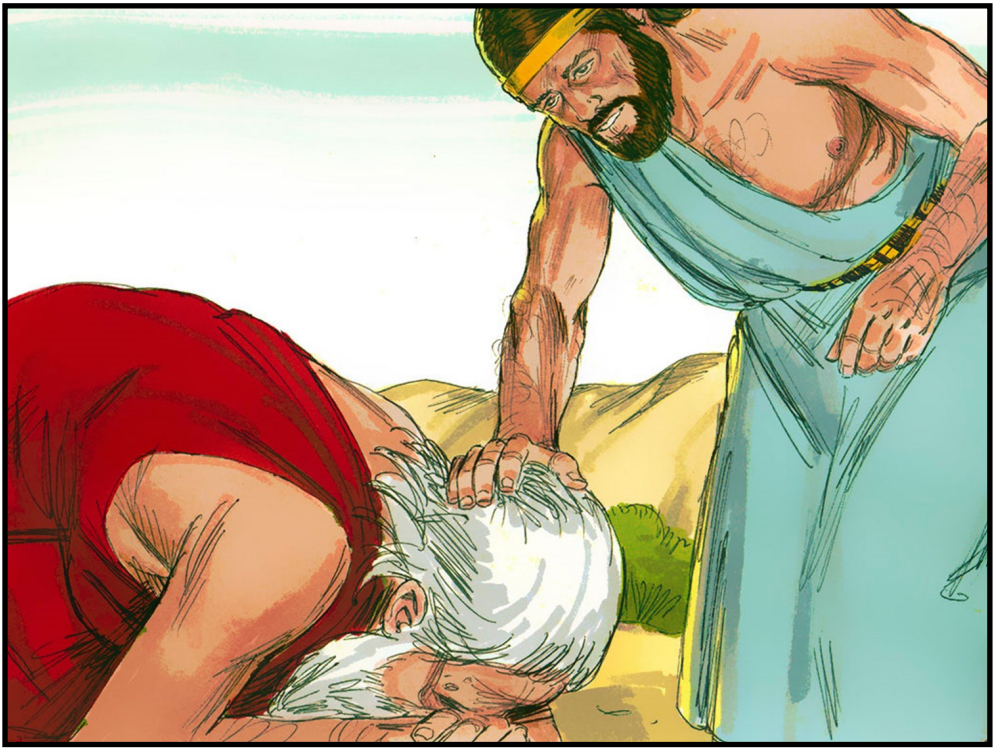
Then Abraham spoke again. He said, “I have been very bold to speak to you. After all, I’m only dust and ashes. What if the number of people doing what is right is only 45?”

So the LORD answered, “If there are only 45 good people, I will not destroy the city.”



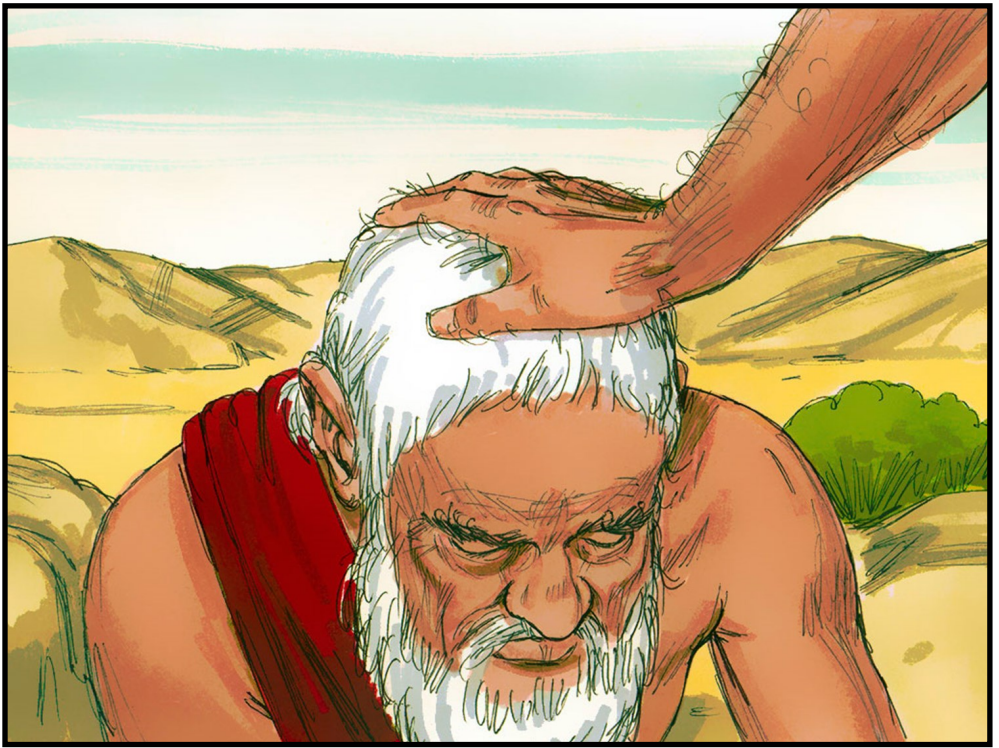
Abraham said. “What if there are only 40 righteous people?”

The LORD replied, “If there are only 40, I will spare the city.”



“Please do not be angry with me,” Abraham pleaded. “What if there are only 30 good and righteous people that can be found?”

The LORD said, if there are 30 righteous people in the city I will not destroy it.”



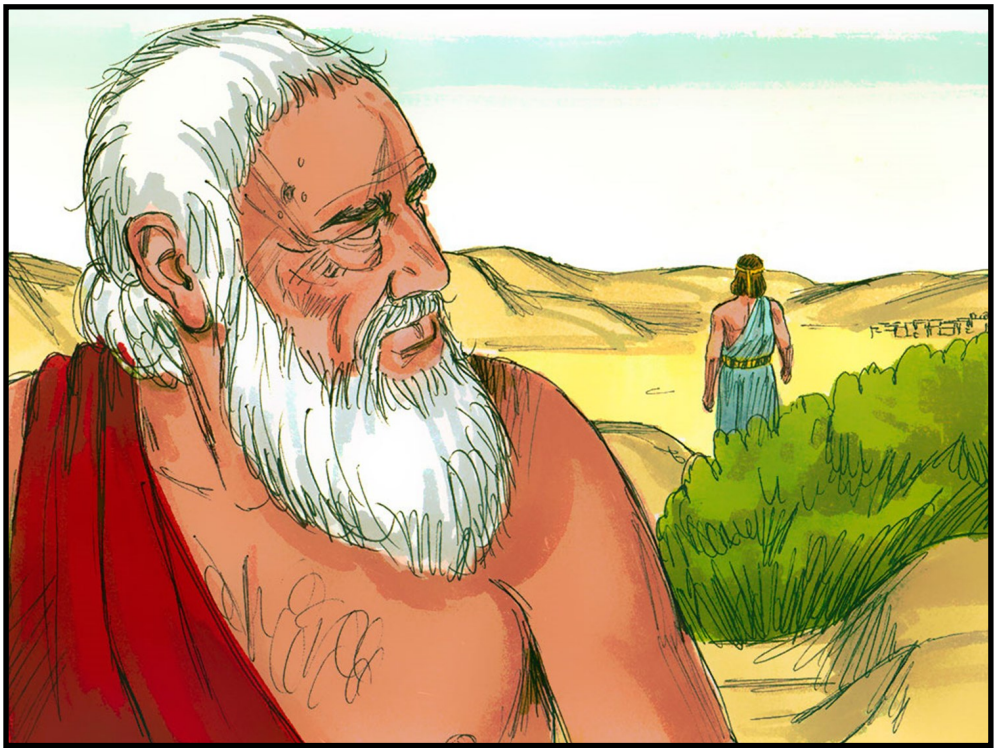
Abraham said, “I have been very bold to speak to you Lord. What if only 20 can be found there?”

The LORD said, “If I find 20, I will not destroy it.”



Then Abraham said, “Lord, please do not be angry with me because I keep asking. Can I speak just one more time? What if only 10 righteous people can be found there?”

So the LORD answered, “If I find 10, I will not destroy it.”



When the LORD had finished talking with Abraham, he left. Then, Abraham went back to his tent.

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kids

wants to thank American illustrator Jim Pagett and Sweet Publishing for their free distribution of the pictures used in this book.

