



Abram and Sarai Went

(based on Genesis 12:1–8)

Long, long ago, God kept trying to be friends with humans, but people wanted to try things their own way. After several tries with everyone, God focused in on one couple. At that time, their names were Abram (A-brum) and Sarai (SAY-rai). (Later God would change their names to Abraham and Sarah, but that's another story.) Maybe, God thought, working together with one or two people would be easier than the whole world, and the whole world could receive the blessings God had for everyone through these two.

God said to Abram and Sarai, “Go! Take all your family, your brothers and sisters and cousins and second-cousins—everyone—and go to the land I will show you.” Before they could even ask a question, God said, “I will make of you a great nation.” Abram and Sarai probably wondered how that could be since they were old, they didn't have any children, and it would take lots of descendants to make a great nation. But they didn't say anything. God continued, “I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing to many others.”

God promised them three things:

- 1) a land to live on;
- 2) children, and their children's children, and so on and so on; and
- 3) a blessing so that they would bless the rest of the world.

God didn't even ask for anything in return! There was no discussion about “if you do this, then I will do this.” God just asked them to go and trust that God would keep these promises.

Even though God's promise was just some words at this point, Abram and Sarai trusted and obeyed God. They, and all their family, packed up their tents and pots and pans, and loaded their donkeys and camels, and herded their sheep and goats, and set forth for the land God would show them.

When they arrived, God said, “To your children, and your children's children, and so on and so on, I give this land.” Even though it was a bit of sandy desert, no children yet, and blessings to come, Abram and Sarai trusted God. They built an altar—stones placed upon stones—to remember what God had said and done for them and their family. And they praised God.



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Wonder together what conversation might have taken place between Abram and Sarai and their family when Abram and Sarai said they were packing up everything and moving far away to a place where God would lead them.
- God promised Abram and Sarai three things. What were they? Wonder together what promises God has for your family. Choose three and make a poster of God's promises for your family.



Responding to God's Grace

- Use a map or a GPS and plot a route to a destination far away. Who all would go with you? How would you get there? What modes of transportation might you take? How long would it take to get there? Where would you stay along the way? What would you take with you?
- Go to bit.ly/AbrahamMap and look at the map of Abram and Sarai's family's journey from Haran to Beersheba. Wonder together using the same questions as above for Abram and Sarai's trip.
- Go on a family scavenger hunt. Look for or do the following things:
 - Say hello to someone.
 - Find a road or street sign.
 - Point out a landmark by your home.
 - Point out an animal.
 - Tell a story using a place on your outing.
 - Get something to eat.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Play a game together. One person begins by saying, "My name is (*name that begins with A*). I'm going to (*place that begins with A*) and I'm bringing (*items that begin with A*). Each person takes a turn, repeating the person(s) before them and adding their own sentences with the next letter of the alphabet. Make it easier with younger children by saying, "I'm going on a trip and I'm bringing (*items that begin with A*)," and continuing with letters of the alphabet.
- Make an acrostic using the letters from the words TRUST and OBEY. Write each letter (skipping "and") down the left side of a piece of paper. Jot down a word or sentence describing how you can trust and obey God.
- Pray this prayer each day this week:

Dear God, thank you for leading us in your ways. May we trust and obey you each day. Amen.

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.