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An introduction to the *Introducing the Bible* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'Introducing the Bible intro.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Introducing the Bible* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Introducing the Bible* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au.

Abraham leaves his country

Bible reference... Genesis 12:1-7

Lesson aim... To introduce the children to Abraham, focussing on the promises that God made to Abraham, and how God wants Abraham to leave his country.

Main message... God made some promises to Abraham. When God told Abraham to go to a new country, Abraham did what God said and God looked after him.

Story preparation... Print pages 63 and 64 (you may wish to print page 63 more than once), cut out the pictures and back them onto cardboard rolls so that they are stand-up models. Make a bag which can stand up out of a cardboard roll or box. Have some pieces of fabric and paper which can represent Abraham's things and which can be put in the bag during the story. Have an area where the models can stand as you tell the story and allow room for them to move (when they move countries). One possibility is to use a tabletop or the floor and have pieces of paper or fabric to represent the different countries. You will need some stickers (or something else) to give one to each child after the story.

People in the Bible: Cut out the rectangle on page 67 to add to the 'People in the Bible' chart.

Introduction...

Talk about the country you live in. Please remember that the children may not understand the idea of 'country' so it may need some explaining, especially as 'country' is referred to often in this unit. Your explanation will depend on what country you live in, so I can't be too specific here.

An important word in today's story is 'promise'. In order to help the children understand what 'promise' means you could say something like...

"A promise is when you say something that you are going to do for someone. We're going to hear about some promises in today's story, but before we do, I'm going to make

a promise to you. I promise that after the story today, I'm going to give you all a sticker. That's my promise! So first we'll need to listen very carefully to the story today."
[Remember to give the children whatever it is you have promised to give them.]

Story...

"Today we're going to hear about a man called Abraham. [show Abraham] Abraham was a man who lived a long time ago and the Bible tells us about him. He was a friend of God. Abraham had a wife called Sarah [show Sarah]—he was married to Sarah. They didn't have any children and they were quite old.

"One day God told Abraham to leave his country and move to a different place that God would show him. God made some promises to Abraham too. God promised that he would do some things for Abraham and his family. God promised a land for them to live in and God promised a big family for Abraham. God said, 'This is the country that I am going to give to your family.'

"So Abraham did what God said. He packed up all his things [pack bag] and took Sarah, the people who lived with him [show people], and all his animals. [show animals] They went a long way to a new country called Canaan. [move all of them across the table top / floor] It would have been hard because they either had to ride on their animals or walk. There were no cars or planes. When they were there, God promised to give that place to Abraham's family. What a wonderful promise!"

Conclusion...

"God made some special promises to Abraham. God promised to give him a land to live in and a big family. God told Abraham to leave his country and go to a different country. Abraham did what God said. He left his home and went where God wanted him to go. And God looked after Abraham and the people with him."

[At this point you might need to have a concentration break so the children can keep concentrating for the next part. You could keep the children seated, but ask them to shake their hands. Then stop. Then shake their hands again. Stop. Then touch their heads. Touch their knees. Touch their tummies. Shake their hands again. Stop. Hands on heads. Hands on shoulders. Hands in laps. Now leave them there, and listening.]

'People in the Bible' ...

"The story we heard today about Abraham is in the Bible in a part called Genesis. First in Genesis, it tells about God made [point to this on the chart], and then it tells us about Adam and Eve (point to this) and then about Noah [point to this]. Later in Genesis it tells us about Abraham [add him to chart]."

[Please note: most children in your group won't have much of an idea of a number like 12, let alone the meaning of 'chapter' and 'verse', so this is what we'll do. We'll call Genesis chapter 12, simply Genesis 12. You can show them the big number 12 in your class Bible. We will use the word 'verse', as that is fairly necessary in order to find specific references.]

“What is the name of the part of the Bible that tells us about all these people [*point to time line*]? Genesis! Now look at our Bible. Can you see a big number on this page? It's the number 12. Genesis 12 tells us about God making promises to Abraham. This is a bit tricky—in the Bible there are things called verses and they are little numbers. Can you see some little numbers there after the big 12 [*show the children the Bible—you might need to move around so they can see*]. When we want to find out about the promises that God made to Abraham, we look up Genesis 12 and verses 1, 2, and 3. Can you remember that? We're going to learn an action rhyme to help us remember.”

Action rhyme...

God made a promise to Abraham of land and family.

point up (for God) and then clasp hands together sweep arms in front of you

God made a promise in Genesis 12 verses 1, 2, 3.

point up, clasp hands, show 12 fingers (10 then 2) show 1 finger, then 2, then 3

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you for Abraham and for making promises to him and for looking after him. Thank you that you look after us too. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. Moving picture

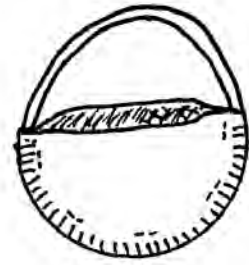
Before the lesson, print page 65 for each child (and have some extras in case any are ripped) and cut out pictures of Abraham, Sarah, the people who went with them, camels and sheep. Print page 61 and cut out a caption for each child. You will also need a strip of cardboard (about 50 x 15 cm), ideally green or brown, for each child. Paste the caption on the cardboard. In the lesson, the children colour the pictures (carefully so that they don't rip them) and paste them onto their strip of cardboard. Once completed, you could staple the ends together (and cover ends of staples with tape for safety) to make a stand-up, moving picture (if you turn it).



2. Travelling bag

Before the lesson, cut a paper plate, or a cardboard circle, in half and staple together to make a basket. Paste the caption on page 62 on one side of the basket. Staple on a strip of cardboard to make a handle. Cover all the staples with tape for safety. In the lesson, the






children make things to put in the bag by tearing pieces of paper into various shapes or by crumpling up pieces of tissue paper or drawing something on a piece of blank paper. The children can also decorate the side of the bag without the caption, with stickers or drawing patterns on the bag.











3. Abraham and Sarah page

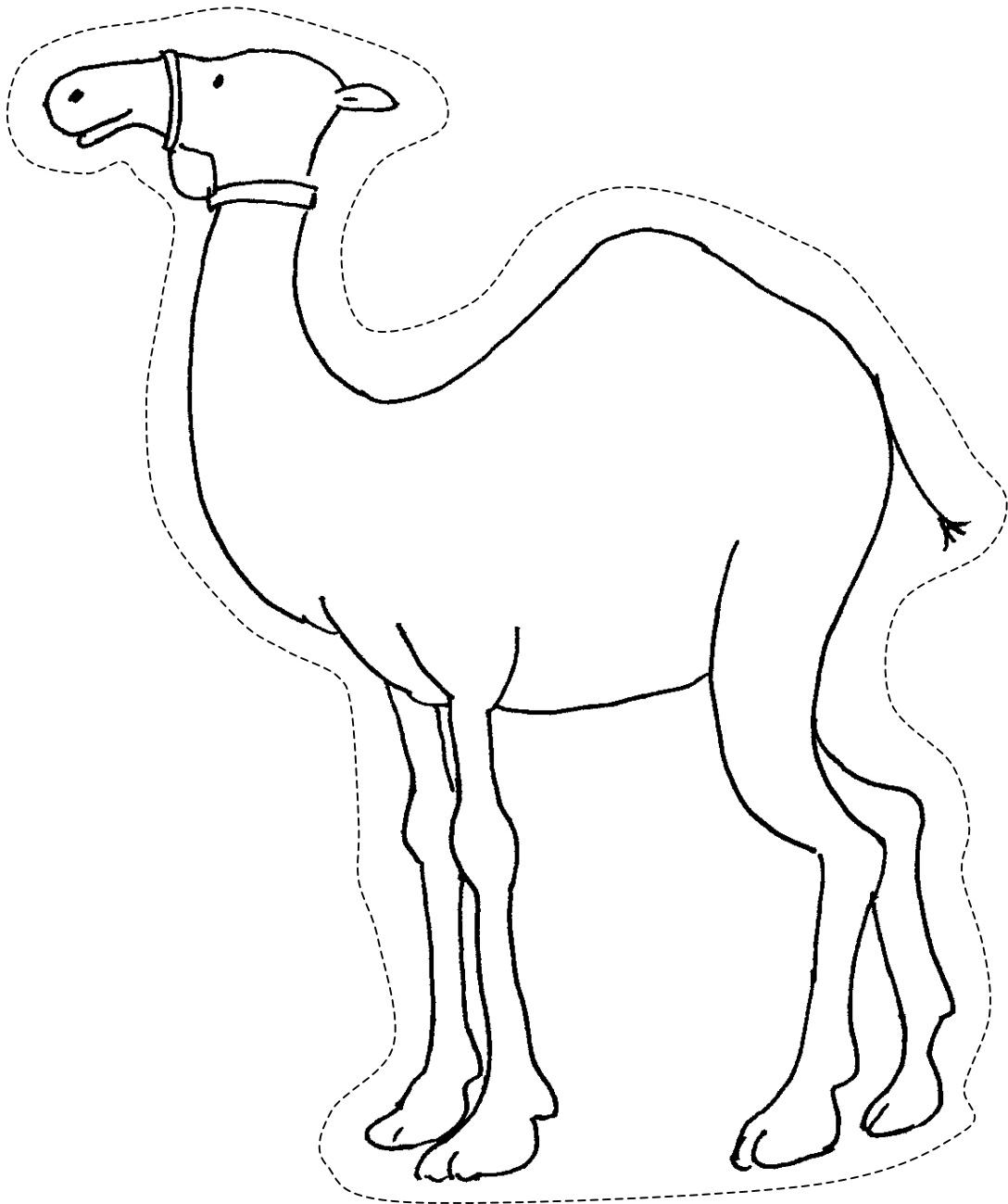
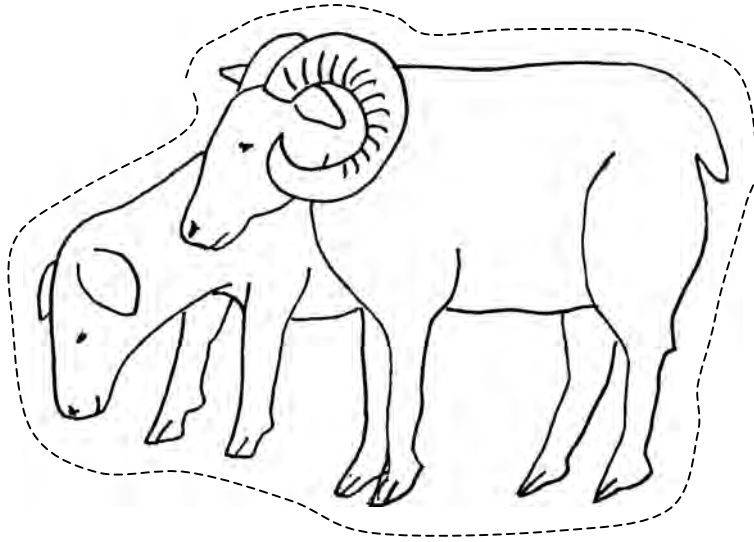
Before the lesson, print page 66 (one per two children) and cut along the line. Each child will need an A3 piece of paper with the picture from page 66 pasted on the top left corner of the page. In the lesson, the children draw the people and animals that Abraham and Sarah travelled with. If you think the children in your class would prefer to draw the whole picture, just paste the caption only (from page 61 or 62) on an A4 or A3 page. If drawing is not appropriate for your class, cut out Abraham and Sarah from page 64 and a caption from page 61 or 62. Each child will need a piece of A3 (preferably) or A4 paper with a horizontal line drawn across the centre (lengthwise). You will need to rip or cut green paper into pieces about 3-6 cm wide (depending on whether the children have A4 or A3 paper) and place in a container in the lesson. You will also need to have the same sized pieces of blue paper for the sky in a separate container. In the lesson, place a page in front of each child for them to paste on green paper pieces below the line (to make grass) and blue paper above the line (to make sky). The children could colour Abraham and Sarah before pasting them on the page, and then paste on the caption.

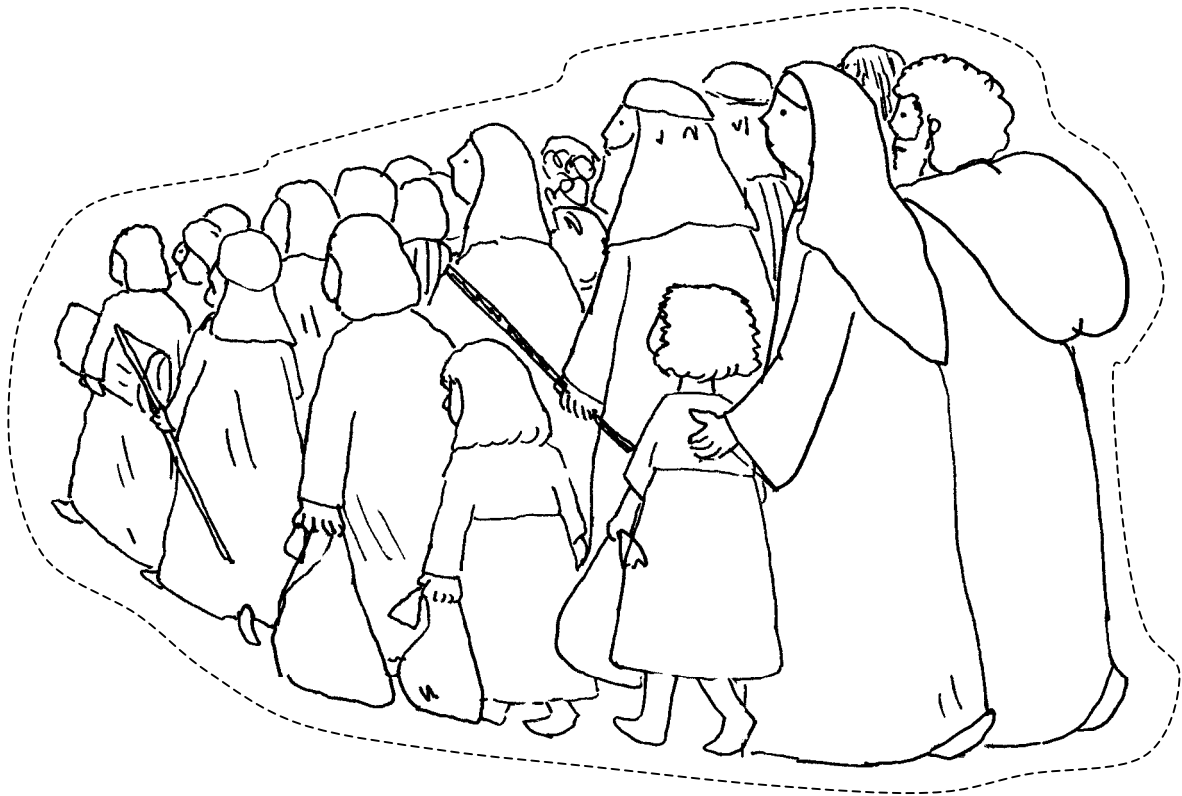
Caption for activity #1:

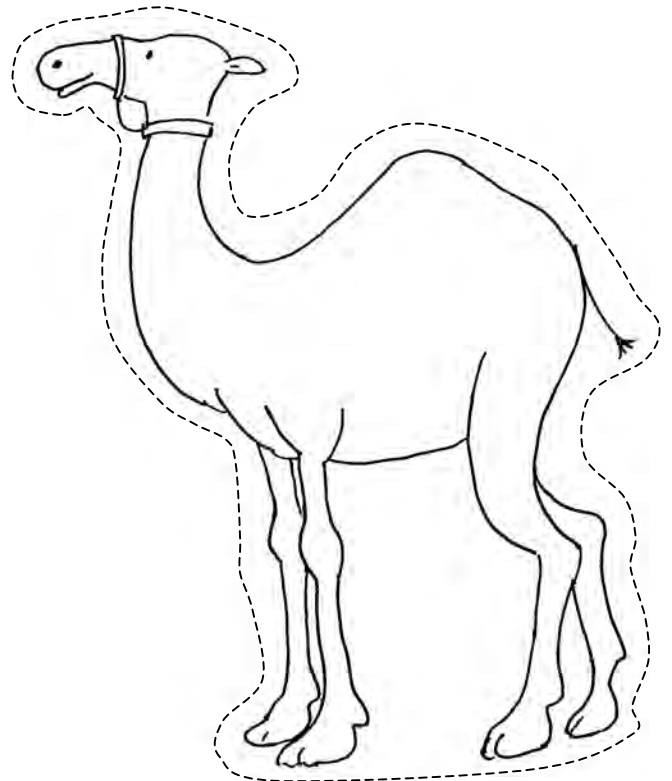
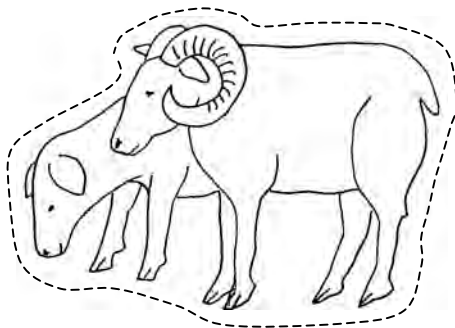
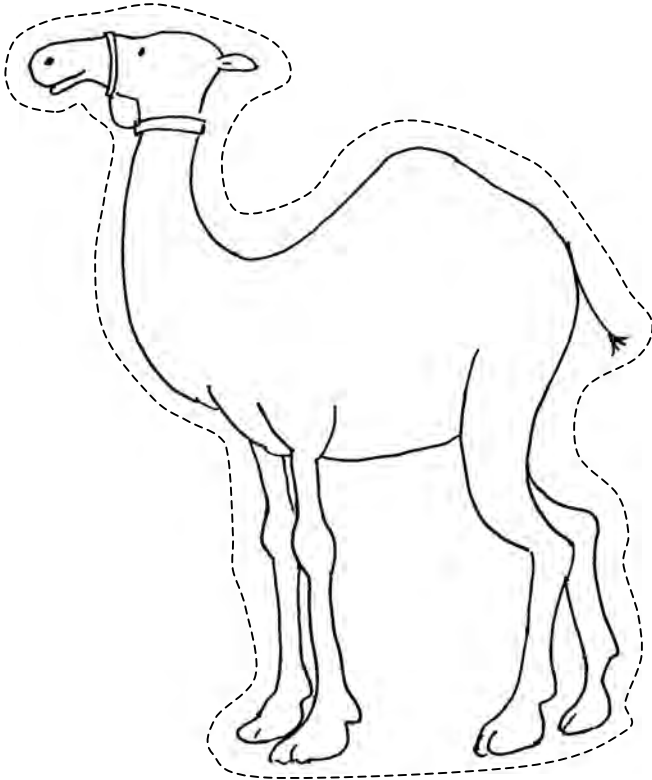
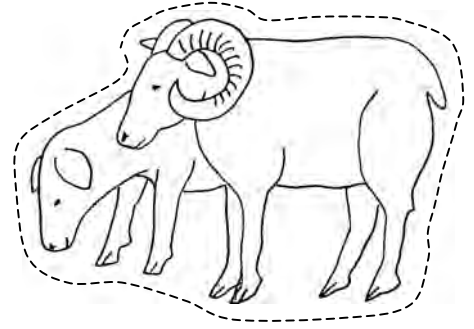
<p>God made some promises to Abraham. When God told Abraham to go to a new country, Abraham did what God said and God looked after him.</p>	 <p>Genesis 12 verses 1 to 5</p>
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Caption for activity #2:

<p>God made some promises to Abraham. When God told Abraham to go to a new country, Abraham did what God said and God looked after him.</p> <p> Genesis 12 verses 1 to 5</p>	<p>God made some promises to Abraham. When God told Abraham to go to a new country, Abraham did what God said and God looked after him.</p> <p> Genesis 12 verses 1 to 5</p>
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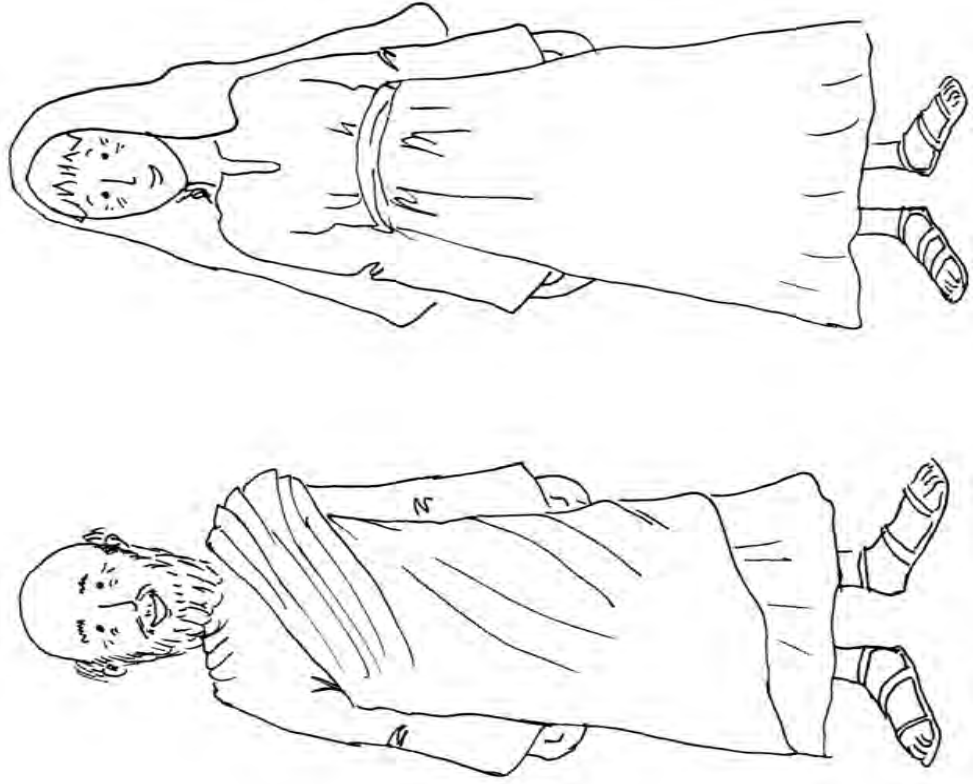






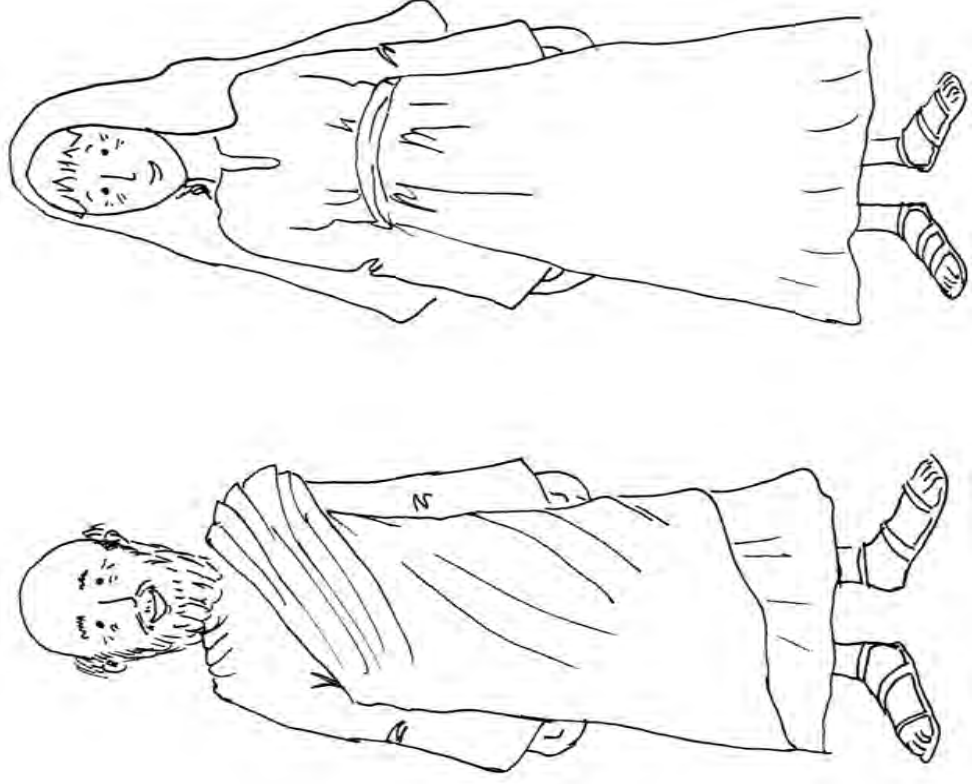
God made some promises to Abraham. When God told Abraham to go to a new country, Abraham did what God said and God looked after him.

Genesis 12 verses 1 to 5



God made some promises to Abraham. When God told Abraham to go to a new country, Abraham did what God said and God looked after him.

Genesis 12 verses 1 to 5





Abraham

