

Fathers Timeline Unit



Outline of Lessons

<i>WEEK #1--"By Faith Abraham Traveled"</i>	
Sunday	God Calls Abram to Go to Canaan God's Promise and Covenant With Abram Sarah's Plan For Children The Promise of Isaac
Wednesday	How Does God Feel About Sin? Sodom and Gomorrah
<i>WEEK #2--God Fulfills His Promises</i>	
Sunday	Abraham Is Asked to Sacrifice Isaac "Love At First Sight"--Isaac's Marriage
Wednesday	Conflict Between Brothers-- Jacob and Esau's Story
<i>WEEK #3--"God Meant It For Good"</i>	
Sunday	God's Promise to Jacob Jacob's Story; The Twelve Sons
Wednesday	Joseph--A Picture of Christ

"FATHERS" Essential Knowledge and Skills



Essential Knowledge—Students will know that...

Lesson 1a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God is looking for people who diligently seek Him and will obey Him. 2. Abram traveled by faith to a land he did not know of. 3. God gave certain promises to Abram, and that through his seed all the world will be blessed.
Lesson 1b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God hates sin, and homosexuality is sin. 2. God saved Lot and his family for the sake of Abraham. 3. The story of Sodom is an example of how God will punish those who live ungodly lives.
Lesson 2a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God sustains and takes care of His people. 2. God works through people and events to keep His promises. 3. God is looking for people who diligently seek Him.
Lesson 2b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God sustains and takes care of His people. 2. God works through people and events to keep His promises. 3. God is looking for people who diligently seek Him.
Lesson 3a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God watched over Jacob in his journeys and blessed him even in the face of adversity. 2. God is working through people and events to bring about His promise to Abraham. 3. Jacob became the father of the nation of Israel through his 12 sons.
Lesson 3b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God preserved Jacob's family during the famine by raising up Joseph to intervene for good. 2. Man's wickedness cannot keep God from carrying out His promises. 3. Joseph is a "picture" or "foreshadowing" of Christ in the Old Testament.

SKILL OBJECTIVES IN "FATHERS" Students Can...

1. Name the 4 generations of patriarchs in Abraham's Family.	<i>1-Abraham and Sarah 2-Isaac and Rebekah 3-Jacob and Leah and Rachel 4-Joseph</i>
2. Name the 12 sons of Jacob and their mothers.	<i>Leah—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulon Bilhah—Dan and Naphtali Zilpah—Gad and Asher Rachel—Joseph and Benjamin</i>
3. Define these words: <i>patriarch, faith, diligently, covenant</i>	<i>See Vocabulary pages in Booklet</i>



FATHERS Lesson 1A—"By Faith Abraham Traveled"

OBJECTIVES:

1. *God is looking for people who are diligently seeking Him and will obey Him.*
2. *Abram traveled by faith to a land he did not know of.*
3. *God gave certain promises to Abram, and through him all the world will be blessed.*

ESSENTIAL SKILLS:

1. Define the words "**patriarch**", "**faith**" and "**diligently**."

Stories That Will Be Highlighted:

Abram Travels to the Land of Canaan

God Makes a Promise to Abram

Sarah's Plan for Children

The Promise of Isaac

Introduction:

1. TW direct Students to the new section in our binders—**FATHERS**.
2. TW point out **key words** and **key verses** for this section.
3. TW hand out the "**Family Tree**" packets to students for them to look at, so they will know how we got from Adam to Abraham.
4. The stories about Abraham and his family begin a period in Old Testament history called the time of the "**Patriarchs**". A patriarch was one of the spiritual fathers of the Hebrew people. A patriarch is a man who is a father or a founder and the head of a group of people. Abraham was a patriarch. God talked to these men who were the heads of their families.

LESSON: PART 1—ABRAM TRAVELS TO HARAN

1. Hand out the yellow "travel brochures" for each student.
2. **Read Genesis 11:27ff.** Explain how Abram and his family moved from the city of **Ur** to **Haran**. Abram moved with his father's family to this city. Show on the map.
3. Abram's world in these cities was wealthy, busy, exciting. There were trade routes between cities and kingdoms. All these cities were in the "**Fertile Crescent**." Remember, this is where God first put Adam and Eve!
4. One city that was close by had a library of 1,000 clay tablets and a population of 260,000 people.
5. Long before Abraham, Egypt had pyramids, astronomers studied the stars and doctors wrote medical textbooks.
6. The city of **Ur**—a prosperous city beside the Euphrates River.
 - *It had sewer drains, wide streets, and 2-story houses.*
 - *Careful city records were kept of contracts and other business activities.*
 - *Abram may have been a wealthy merchant in Ur, enjoying the best this great city could offer.*

LESSON: PART 2—GOD CALLS ABRAM TO TRAVEL TO CANAAN

1. Read Genesis 12:1 - 3, and 4 - 8. Fill in the blanks on the brochure in *“God’s Promises to Abraham.”* God promised Abram that He would make of him a “great nation,” give him a “great name,” and that God would bless those who blessed Abram and curse those who cursed Abram.
2. Also notice in verse 3 that God promised Abram and *“in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* This includes people like you and me!
3. Point out that Abram did not know where he was going; he had no son; he had no reason to believe that any of this would happen. *He did all of this by faith!*

➡ VOCABULARY: FAITH

What is faith? Read Hebrews 11:1, 8 - 10. Abram’s faith caused him to obey God. Read Hebrews 11:6--“Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

Faith is trust, obedience, reliance upon. Faith does not need to know all the circumstances or how things will turn out. Faith is also shown in the things we do and our actions.

4. Read Hebrews 11:6 again. Focus on *“...for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

➡ VOCABULARY: DILIGENTLY

The dictionary says that when we do something diligently, we are steady, earnest and apply energy to whatever task we are doing. A synonym for diligently is “painstaking.”

This verse tells us that God is looking for people who work hard to find Him. It also tells us that He rewards those who do. We cannot be lazy people in God’s kingdom. We must work hard to do His will! We will see that Abraham was a person who was diligent in his relationship to God.

LESSON: PART 3—GOD’S PLAN FOR CHILDREN/SARAI’S PLAN FOR CHILDREN

1. Read Genesis 15:1 - 6. Abram asks God about children. *Abram believed in the LORD and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*
 - *Here we see another example of Abram’s faith in action. God told him that He would bless him with his very own son. Abram believed it completely and lived out his life believing that God would make it happen!*
2. Sarai’s plan for children; Read Genesis 16--selected verses. Sarai does not show the same faith that Abram did. She decides to help God along with giving Abram a son of his own. She gives Hagar, her servant girl to Abram for a wife! Hagar then has a son named Ishmael. But Ishmael is *not* the son of God’s promise. This was not the plan that God had decided upon!
 - *Sometimes we become impatient with God even today. Sometimes things do not happen as quickly as we wish; sometimes it is hard to see how God is working in our lives.*

- *We have to remember that God's time is different than our time. He does things in His own way and at His own pace.*
- *Sarai was impatient with God. She did not believe that He could make her able to have children. And so she helped Him along! However, her plans went sour when trouble came between the two women. Later on there would also be strife between Ishmael's descendants and Isaac's descendants.*
- *When we try to help God, we can unknowingly bring trouble upon ourselves!*

3. **Read Genesis 17:1-6.** God enlarges on His original promises to Abram. First, God changes Abram's name to "**Abraham**" ("father of a multitude") and then God promises that Abraham will become the "*father of many nations.*"
4. **Read 17:8.** God now promises to give to Abraham and his descendants the **land of Canaan** as "an everlasting possession."
 - *Do you remember which people lived in the land of Canaan? They were the descendants of Ham's son, Canaan, grandson of Noah. Remember the curse that Noah put upon Canaan, that his descendants would serve the descendants of Shem. We now see how this is all going to work out!*
5. **Read Genesis 17:15 - 16.** God changes Sarai's name to "**Sarah.**"
6. **Read 17:17 - 19.** God says that Sarah will have a son named **Isaac**. Abraham laughs because of the ages of him and Sarah!
7. **Read 17:20 - 21.** God now tells Abraham that **Ishmael** will also be blessed and will be the father of a great nation. But, God would establish His original covenant with the son of promise, **Isaac**.



Here is a picture of Christ. Isaac, the son of God's promise is a foreshadowing of the promise of sending His own Son, Jesus to the world in years to come.



Over the course of our studies we will see that God promises on many occasions that a "Messiah" will be sent—His only begotten Son!



FATHERS Lesson 1B—How Does God Feel About Sin? The Story of Sodom and Gomorrah

OBJECTIVES:

1. *God hates sin and homosexuality is sin.*
2. *God saved Lot and his family for the sake of Abraham.*
3. *The story of Sodom is an example of how God will punish those who live ungodly lives.*

ESSENTIALS SKILLS:

Review vocabulary words, "**patriarch**," "**faith**," and "**diligently**."

Stories That Will Be Highlighted:

God Warns Abraham that Sodom Will Be Destroyed

God Sends the Angels to Rescue Lot and His Family

God Destroys the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah

INTRODUCTION:

1. Review with the students how in the Garden of Eden, God created animals and man to be fruitful and multiply.
2. Draw stick figures on the board of 3 sets: two men, two women, a man and a woman. Ask the children to choose which set is according to God's plan in Genesis.
3. God created us to be with someone of the opposite sex—a man with a woman. He did not set up a situation where a woman would be with a woman or a man with a man. **Genesis 2:24-25** tells us that a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.

LESSON: PART 1—GOD WARNS ABRAHAM OF THE COMING DESTRUCTION

1. **Read Genesis 18:1 - 8.** The LORD appears to Abraham (as three men) as he is sitting under his tree. Abraham is very hospitable and prepares to feed these wonderful visitors.
2. **Read 18:9 - 12.** The visitors tell Abraham that next year they will visit and Sarah will have a son. Sarah laughs in her tent, having listened to the visitors speak to Abraham.
3. **Read 18:13 - 15.** The visitors ask (having heard Sarah laugh), *"Is anything too hard for the LORD?"*
 - *We also need to remember when we become discouraged in our own lives that nothing "is too hard for the LORD."*
 - *Sarah is well past the time when a woman can have a baby. But God's messengers tell the couple that it will happen by next year!*

4. Read Genesis 18:22 to the end of the chapter. Abraham asks God not to destroy the city if 50 righteous people are found, then 45, then 30, then 20, and finally 10. God says in vs. 32, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

■ *This shows God's compassion and also the regard that He had for Abraham!*

LESSON: PART 2—THE ANGELS VISIT SODOM

1. Read Genesis 19:1-3. The two angels come to the city. Lot is sitting at the gate and invites them to his home. He insists that they come with him rather than spend the night in the open square.
2. Read Genesis 19:4-5. The sin of **homosexuality** is exposed in Sodom as the men of the city surround Lot's house looking for the visitors.
 - *Explore the idea of why homosexuality is wrong. This was not God's original design for man and woman. A man with a man or a woman with a woman is not God's plan for a family. Refer to Genesis 2 again.*
 - *Help the students understand that the world's view of this subject is vastly different from what God intended. Explain that men and women are not born with the desire for the same sex—that this is a learned behavior.*
3. Read Genesis 19:4-9. Lot offers to send his virgin daughters out to appease the wicked men, but it only angers the crowd.
4. Read Genesis 19:10-11. The angels strike the men with blindness.
5. Read Genesis 19:12 -14. Lot is told to gather up his family and prepare to escape before the destruction.
6. Read Genesis 19:15 - 17. Lot and his family are told to escape and not to look back at the city being destroyed.
7. Read Genesis 19:24 - 26. Lot's wife looks back and is turned to a pillar of salt!
 - *Why were they warned not to look back? Why do you think Lot's wife looked back?*
 - *God does not want us to look back upon our sinful lives once we have tasted His good gifts.*
 - *When we become a Christian, we must not look back in fondness for the sinful life we once led. Looking back leads to punishment!*
 - *Lot's wife remembered good days in Sodom, even though the city was full of wickedness—she looked back with longing upon what was abominable to God.*

8. **Read Genesis 19:27 - 29.** Very sad...Abraham looks out and sees the smoke of the land that it was like a furnace. This meant that not even 10 righteous people were found.

- *How do you think that God feels about homosexuality?*
- *Do you think most of the people in the world believe that it is a sin?*
- *We must realize that to sin is a choice that we make, not something we are born with that we cannot help.*
- *God created all of us to desire members of the opposite sex.*
- *The world wants us to believe the lie that we might be born with these tendencies. Read Romans 1:24-32.*

9. **Read Jude 7:** *"As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*



How is the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah like Judgment Day? Remember, there will be a day of judgment for all those who have lived on the earth. All will appear before God's throne to give an account of what they have done. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is a good example of what that day will be like:

- ▶ *Wickedness will be punished. God could not abide the sin of the men of Sodom and they were destroyed.*
- ▶ *The righteous will be saved. Only Lot and his daughters were saved. At the end of time only a few will be saved (Matthew 7:14)*
- ▶ *Sodom and Gomorrah are examples to us of what the punishment of eternal fire will be like. God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again. Judgment Day, however will be characterized by fire. The fire of Sodom and Gomorrah was intense and nothing in the cities escaped its annihilation.*



FATHERS Lesson 2A—God Works Through People and Events to Keep His Promises

OBJECTIVES:

1. God sustains and takes care of his people.
2. God works through people and events to keep His promises.
3. God is looking for people who diligently seek Him.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Define "faith" and "Diligently"

Stories That Will Be Highlighted:

*Abraham is asked By God to Sacrifice Isaac
A Wife for Isaac—Chosen by God*

Introduction:

1. So far in our studies, Abraham's faith has caused him to obey:
 - ▶ *Through his journey to Canaan—a land where he had never been; where there was no family*
 - ▶ *Through his belief that God would provide him a son.*
2. In today's lesson, we will see a greater test of Abraham's faith concerning his son Isaac who has now been born after many years.

LESSON: PART 1—GOD ASKS ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE ISAAC

1. **Read Genesis 22:1 - 2.** God asks Abraham to offer his only son Isaac on Mount Moriah.
 - ▶ *What do you think Abraham thought about God's request?*
 - ▶ *Let's see how Abraham responds to this request.*
2. **Read Genesis 22:3 - 6.** It sounds like Abraham is going through with God's request! He takes everything he needs--the wood, the knife and the fire.
3. **Read Genesis 22:7 - 10.** Abraham tells Isaac that God will provide a sacrifice offering.
4. **Read 22:11 - 14.** God keeps Abraham from slaying Isaac, and a ram is provided for the offering instead. "The LORD Will Provide" is the name given to the place by Abraham.
5. **Read 22:15 - 18.** God repeats the blessing of the original promise to Abraham.
 - *Abraham did not withhold his only son from God. However, God gave His only Son for us—He has never asked man to make the same sacrifice!*
 - *In this case God "provided" the sacrifice to take Isaac's place. In our situation, God provided His only Son, Jesus, to take our place. We deserve death for our sins, but Jesus died in our place.*

- *Mount Moriah, the place where this event happens will come up again in our studies. It is the piece of land that David purchased to build the Temple upon.*
- *Once again, Abraham demonstrates his faith in God and is blessed for it.*

6. Read Hebrews 11:1—“**Faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Discuss with students.
7. Read Hebrews 11:6—“Without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently** seek Him.”

➔ **VOCABULARY:**

FAITH-- Belief and trust. Faith in Jesus means believing that he is the Son of God and trusting Him as Savior. People who have faith obey God and His word. Faith is shown by our actions.

DILIGENTLY—busily working hard. Diligence is shown by energetic application and effort. The opposite of “diligently” is “lazily”. We have to be careful that we are not lazy Christians.

LESSON: PART 2—GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE AND EVENTS TO KEEP HIS PROMISES

1. In Genesis 23, we read that Sarah, Isaac’s mother and Abraham’s wife is now dead.
 2. Read Genesis 24:1 - 4. Abraham sends his servant Eliezer back to the city of Haran, the land of his kinsman to find a wife for his son Isaac.
 3. Read 24:5 - 8. Eliezer was not to take Isaac back him---why not?
 4. Eliezer was not to take Isaac back him---why not?
 5. Read 24:10 - 14. Eliezer prays to God for help in choosing Isaac’s wife.
 6. Read 24:15 - 21. **Rebekah** gives Eliezer and his camels water to drink.
 7. Read 24:22 - 27. Rebekah is the daughter of Abraham’s nephew, Bethuel. The granddaughter of Abraham’s brother, Nahor! Abraham’s servant is so happy that God has answered his prayers, that he thanks Him right then and there!
- *God chose Rebekah to be Isaac’s wife! It was important that Isaac marry a girl who was a believer in God. This is why Abraham sent his servant back to the land of his family. We can see God working through people and events to keep His promises to Abraham!*
 - *Also, can you see how the power of prayer is at work in this story? We need to remember to pray when we need God’s help and guidance. God has promised to answer our prayers when we pray in faith!*

LESSON: PART 3—REBEKAH'S FAMILY AND HER RETURN TO CANAAN

1. **Read 24:28 - 32.** The servant is invited by Rebekah's brother Laban to come and stay at their house and to eat, and for the camels to be fed.
2. **Summarize 24:33 -38.** The servant recounts the story of the mission that he has been sent on from his master Abraham.
3. **Summarize 24:39 - 49.** He continues with the story and how God has answered his prayer by sending Rebekah to the well. He asks if they will give their permission for Rebekah to become Isaac's wife.
4. **Summarize 24:50 - 54.** Laban and his father give their permission. The servant gives the family many gifts and stays the night. The next morning he is ready to return home and asks if they will now send him on his way.
5. **Read 24:55 - 61.** Rebekah is allowed to make her own decision. She decides to go. They depart for the land of Canaan.
6. **Read 24:62 - 67.** "Love at first sight!" Isaac is out in the field and comes to meet the camels. According to verse 67, Isaac immediately fell in love with Rebekah!
 *Not only did God provide a suitable mate for Isaac, He also found a girl whom Isaac would love immediately. God answers our prayers more magnificently than we can imagine!*

LESSON: PART 4—ISAAC AND REBEKAH'S CHILDREN

1. **Read 25:19 - 23.** Rebekah is going to have twins! God speaks to Rebekah and tells her about the children.
2. **Read 25:24 - 26.** The twins, Esau and Jacob are born.
3. **Read 25:27 - 28.** The children are very different! The parents make the mistake of being partial to one each of the children. Here is where the trouble starts!

OBSERVATIONS FROM TODAY'S LESSON:

-  *Abraham is blessed by God because of his demonstration of faith. Our faith must be "demonstrated" (acted upon) in order to receive spiritual blessings from God. Faith is not a feeling, it is an action.*
-  *God rewards those who are diligent in their Christian lives. This means that we are working hard to find out how to please Him and giving all we have to obey Him! We cannot be lazy in the kingdom.*
-  *God demonstrates His character in these stories by His willingness to provide for His people what they needed. Sometimes He provides what we need immediately (as in the case of the sacrifice of Isaac and the finding of Rebekah) and sometimes He provides in His own time (providing Rebekah and Isaac with twin babies).*
-  *We are given a foreshadowing of Christ's death on the cross in the story of Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac.*



FATHERS Lesson 2B—God Looks for Those Who Will Diligently Seek Him

OBJECTIVES:

1. God sustains and takes care of his people.
2. God works through people and events to keep His promises.
3. God is looking for people who diligently seek Him.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

1. Define **“faith”** and **“Diligently”**

Stories That Will Be Highlighted:

Esau Sells his Birthright to Jacob

God's Promise to Isaac

Jacob and Rebekah Deceive Isaac

God's Promise to Jacob

Introduction:

1. We have seen in the stories so far in this series that God is slowly unfolding His plans for Abraham and his family:
 - ▶ *God has given Abraham a son*
 - ▶ *God has blessed Abraham with wealth and possessions*
 - ▶ *God has chosen a wife for Isaac*
 - ▶ *God has foretold about the children that Isaac and Rebekah will have.*
- *We must never doubt God's ability to bring about all that He has said He will do. We must have the faith that Abraham had!*

LESSON: PART 1—JACOB AND ESAU'S CONFLICT

1. **Esau Sells His Birthright (Genesis 25:29 - 34)**
 - ▶ **Read 25:29 - 34.** The “birthright” was a double portion of the family’s estate, usually given to the **oldest son**. It was also a privilege of **responsibility** to the one who possessed it. That person would become the spiritual leader of the family upon the death of his father. The “birthright” was a very important thing.
 - ▶ **Read Hebrews 12:16 - 17.** *“Don’t be a godless or profane person like Esau who sold his birthright for a morsel of food.”*
- *We need to remember what things are really important in our Christian lives. Esau gave up his inheritance for a bowl of soup. Do we put God first? Do we put things like friends and homework or school activities or sports ahead of coming to Bible class? Or do we set Him aside? If we put God first in our lives, all these things will be taken care of. Read Matthew 6:31 - 33.*
- *God is looking for people (like you) who will put Him first. He is looking for people who trust Him and believe Him and Obey Him. He was looking for people like that during the time Abraham and he is looking now. Remember, “Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”*

2. God's Promise to Isaac (Genesis 26:2 - 5).

- ▶ **Read 26:2 - 5.** God repeats His promise to **Isaac** so that Isaac will know that God will take care of him and his family.

LESSON: PART 2–JACOB'S DECEPTION OF ISAAC. GENESIS 27

1. **Read 27:1 - 5.** Isaac asks Esau to go out and get him some game and fix something for him to eat. Isaac is ready to give his **patriarchal blessing** to his oldest son, Esau. Remember, this would set him above his brother, because the special blessing was saved for the oldest son. Isaac is almost blind.
2. **27:6 - 10.** Rebekah cooks up a scheme.
 - ▶ *Why do you think Rebekah wanted Jacob to have the birthright? First of all she preferred Jacob over Esau, and secondly she remembered the words from God during her pregnancy about the "older serving the younger."*
3. **Read 27:11 -13.** Jacob is not sure the plan will work, but he goes ahead.
4. **27:14 - 17.** Jacob and Rebekah get everything ready; Jacob puts on some of Esau's clothes and put goatskin on his hands and arms.
5. **27:18 - 26.** Jacob brings the food into Isaac. Isaac believes that Jacob is Esau.
6. **27:27 - 29.** The **blessing** of Isaac is given to Jacob. Have students read this through and tell what the blessings were. Write on the board.
7. **27:30 - 38.** Esau returns, unaware that Jacob has tricked his father. He fixes his father's food and brings it to him. Jacob's plot is uncovered. Esau is mortified!
8. **27:39 - 40.** Isaac gives the **lesser blessing** to Esau.
9. **27:41 - 46.** Esau threatens to kill Jacob; Jacob is sent away to **Haran**, to the land of his uncle **Laban**. Do you remember hearing of that place and this man before? Yes!! When Abraham's servant is sent to get a wife for Isaac!
10. **28:1 - 5.** Isaac sends Jacob away to get a wife from his kindred in Haran. Gives another blessing. Write on the board.

LESSON: PART 3–JACOB'S DREAM. Genesis 28:10 - 17.

1. Because of his and Rebekah's scheme, Jacob has to flee his parents, his brother and his home. He is all alone. He has no possessions, no way to support himself. He is probably sorry for what he has done to his brother. How would you feel if you were Jacob at this point?
2. He lies down on the ground and falls asleep. God appears to him in a dream (a dream of angels ascending and descending on a stairway to heaven) to comfort him and to repeat to him the **promise** given to Abraham and to Isaac.
3. **Read 28:18 - 22.** Jacob makes a vow (a promise) to God and builds an **altar**. Jacob is going to make several altars to God during his life.
 - *Later on in our stories, Jacob himself will be deceived and tricked by someone. But God will turn this trickery into a blessing for Jacob!*

If there is time, do the "20 Questions" game included in this curriculum



FATHERS 20 QUESTIONS

1. Name two promises that God made to Abram. *Great name, land, great nation, world would be blessed through his seed, multitude of descendants*
2. Where was Abram living when God called him to go to a new land? *Ur*
3. What was the name of the land that God promised to give Abram? *Canaan*
4. Who was Abram's wife? *Sarai*
5. What two cities did God destroy because of their great wickedness? *Sodom and Gomorrah*
6. Why did God turn Lot's wife into a pillar of salt? *because she looked back at the city when it was burning.*
7. What were the names of Abraham's two sons? *Ishmael and Isaac*
8. Which son of Abraham's was the son that God promised? *Isaac*
9. Definition—What's the word? Belief and trust. Believing in God and trusting Him even though we can't see Him. It is shown by our actions and obedience. Abraham was known for having this. *Faith*
10. Definition—What's the word? One of the scriptural fathers of the Hebrew people. A man who is a father or a founder. A man who is the head of a group of people. Abraham was one of these. *Patriarch*
11. Definition—What's the word? Busily working hard. It is shown by energetic application and effort. God is a rewarder of those who seek Him in this way. *Diligence*
12. Where did Abraham send his servant to find a wife for Isaac? *Haran*
13. What was the name of the girl that Abraham's servant found at the city well? *Rebekah*
14. Who was Rebekah's brother? *Laban*
15. Who were Isaac and Rebekah's twin sons? *Esau and Jacob*
16. Describe Esau and Jacob. *Esau—red and hairy; liked to hunt game. Jacob—smooth skinned; liked to dwell in the tents.*
17. How did Jacob get Esau's birthright? *He sold it to Esau for a bowl of stew.*
18. What did an older son receive as part of the birthright? *A double portion of the father's possessions and the blessing of being the patriarch for the family.*
19. How did Jacob trick Isaac into giving him Esau's blessing? *He dressed in Esau's clothing, placed animal skins on his arms and neck; fed him the food that he liked.*
20. What appeared to Jacob in his dream on the way to the city of Haran? *Angels ascending and descending from heaven. The LORD repeated the promise given to Abraham.*



FATHERS Lesson 3A—Jacob's Story

OBJECTIVES:

1. God watched over Jacob in his journeys and blessed him even in the face of adversity.
2. God is working through people and events to bring about His promise to Abraham.
3. Jacob became the father of the nation of Israel through his 12 sons

ESSENTIAL SKILLS:

1. Name the 12 sons of Jacob and their mothers.
2. Name the 4 generations of patriarchs in Abraham's Family.
3. Define these words: **patriarch, faith, diligently, covenant**

Stories that will be highlighted:

Jacob travels to the home of his uncle Laban.

Jacob is tricked by Laban in the matter of his marriage.

Jacob takes his family home to the land of Canaan and reunites with his brother Esau.

Introduction:

1. What are some ways that we've seen God taking care of His People?
 - ▶ **God blessed Abraham with great wealth**
 - ▶ **God rescued Lot from Sodom**
 - ▶ **God watched over Jacob on his journey to Haran and spoke to him.**
2. Today we will see how God took care of Jacob.
3. We have read that God is looking for people who are **diligently** seeking Him and will obey Him (Hebrews 11:6).
 - ▶ **Who have we learned about so far who has done this? Enoch, Noah, Abraham. Later on---Joseph.**

LESSON: PART 1—JACOB TRAVELS TO HIS UNCLE LABAN'S

1. **Gen. 28: 10 - 14.** Review God's promise to Jacob during his journey to Haran and his dream of the angels on the ladder to heaven
2. **Read 28:15--** *"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."*
 - **We will see in the events of Jacob's life how God was watching over him and protecting him.**
3. **Summarize Genesis 29.** Jacob arrives in Haran and meets up with **Rachel**, Laban's daughter at a well outside the city. Does this sound familiar? (Isaac and Rebekah)
4. Jacob agrees to work for 7 years for Laban in order to marry Rachel. However all of Jacob's former deception comes back to haunt him as Laban instead gives him his older daughter Leah in marriage to Jacob! Jacob worked 7 more years for Rachel.
5. Laban wanted to keep Jacob nearby because he saw how God blessed him.

LESSON: PART 2–JACOB’S TWELVE SONS

1. Read Genesis 29:31 - 35. God blessed Leah with 4 sons because He saw that she was unloved **(Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah)**.
2. Summarize Genesis 30:1 - 8. Rachel was barren, so her handmaid was given to Jacob. Bilhah bore 2 sons **(Dan and Naphtali)**.
3. Genesis 30:9 - 13. Leah gave her handmaid, Zilpah to Jacob and she bore 2 sons **(Gad and Asher)**. Leah then bore 2 additional sons **(Issachar and Zebulon)**.
4. Genesis 30:22 - 24. Finally God allowed Rachel to have a son **(Joseph)**.
 - *Can you see God blessing Jacob already?! 11 sons have been given to him.*
 - *Now we will see how God blesses him with material things.*

LESSON: PART 3–THE SPECKLED AND SPOTTED SHEEP

1. Read Genesis 30:25 - 28. Jacob wants to leave Haran. Laban talks Jacob into staying with him for several more years.
2. Genesis 30:29 - 34. They agreed that his wages were to be the speckled, spotted goats and sheep of Laban’s flock and their offspring.
 - *Speckled and spotted and brown sheep and goats were rare. There wouldn’t have been very many. Mostly these animals are white.*
3. 30:35 - 36. Look at what Laban does! He secretly goes through his flocks and removes all of the speckled and spotted animals and puts 3 days journey between them and his flocks and Jacob’s! So now Jacob has nothing to start with!
4. 30:37 - 43. Now Jacob does some very unusual things to see if he can manipulate Laban’s flocks to bear speckled and spotted sheep. First of all he has the sheep look at peeled branches of poplar, almond and chestnut trees when they come to the water troughs!
5. Soon, the flocks began to have speckled, brown and spotted babies! Jacob then showed the branches to only the strongest of the flocks, so that only the strong animals would have brown, speckled and spotted sheep. This made his flocks strong and healthy and eventually Laban’s flocks were weak.
 - *What was really causing Jacob’s success with the brown and spotted flocks? God!!! Something tells me that having animals look at striped branches does very little to cause brown and spotted babies!*
 - *Now Laban’s sons have become jealous of Jacob’s wealth and success.*

LESSON: PART 4–JACOB LEAVES HARAN SECRETLY.

1. Summarize Genesis 31:1 - 18. When tensions became obvious, Jacob and his family, servants, and flocks decided to leave Laban’s home to return to Canaan in secret. Laban had not treated Jacob well. He changed Jacob’s wages ten times and tricked and deceived him. Now God tells Jacob it is time to leave!
2. 31:22 - 24. When Laban was told Jacob and his family was gone, he pursued them, but God appeared to Laban in a dream telling him to “speak neither good nor bad” to Jacob.
3. Read 31:42 - 45. Laban and Jacob made a covenant that Jacob would not afflict Laban’s daughters, and that they would not do one another any harm. They parted peacefully.

LESSON: PART 5–JACOB IN THE LAND OF CANAAN.

1. **Genesis 32:1 - 5.** As Jacob gets nearer to Canaan, he becomes afraid of his eventual meeting with Esau. He sends messengers to find Esau and tell him that he has returned and desires his favor.
 - ▶ *Why do you think Jacob would be afraid of Esau at this point?*
2. **Read 32:6-7.** Jacob separates his wives children and servants and flocks into two companies in case Esau planned to fight against Jacob. Then Jacob spends the night alone across the Jabbok River.
3. **Summarize 32:22 - 32.** God sent a "Man" to wrestle Jacob all night long. The "Man" could not overpower Jacob and Jacob would not stop wrestling until the "Man" blessed him. The "Man" changed Jacob's name to "Israel" which means "Prince with God" or "struggles."
 - *This is how the nation of "Israel" got its name! Do you think the meaning of "Israel" ("Prince with God" or "Struggles") is significant? Did the nation of Israel have struggles to face in their future? Yes!!*
 - *Jacob has slowly been transformed from a selfish schemer to a humble servant of God's who has learned to rely on God rather than his own schemes, and to believe in the promises that God has given him.*
 - *Do you think Jacob has changed very much since he tricked Esau out of his blessing? I think so!*
 - *We need to remember to rely on God and to depend on Him to take care of us and to see us through!*

LESSON: PART 6–THE BROTHERS REUNITE

1. **Genesis 33.** It makes me think a lot better of Esau when I read about how forgiving he was when he saw Jacob after 20 years! They embraced and kissed one another (**vs. 4**) as if nothing had ever happened. Jacob gave a portion of his goods to Esau as a gift and they parted as loving brothers.
 - *Jacob needed to give Esau this gift didn't he? He had taken what was not rightfully his 20 years ago and now he needed to make it right.*
 - *If ever we do something wrong toward another person, it is our obligation to make it right if we can—we need to pay back what is owed, or fix what is broken or ask for forgiveness if we have hurt someone.*
 - *This gift was Jacob's way of saying he had been wrong. Jacob's relationship with God could not continue to grow until he had made things right with Esau.*
- *How many ways can you think of that God intervened to preserve Jacob's life or to bless him in these stories?*
 - ▶ *On his journey to Haran*
 - ▶ *He blessed him with 12 sons*
 - ▶ *He blessed him with great possessions*
 - ▶ *He saved him from Laban's wrath*
 - ▶ *Esau received him as a brother*

■ *How many ways can you see in these stories how God is carrying out His promise (covenant) to Abraham?*

- ▶ *Jacob is now the father of many sons and great wealth.*
- ▶ *Abraham's family is now significantly larger!*
- ▶ *God brought Jacob back to the Promised Land, even though it is still not his.*



FATHERS Lesson 3B—"God Meant it for Good"

Joseph's Story

Objectives:

1. God preserved Jacob's family during the famine by raising up Joseph to intervene for good.
2. Man's wickedness cannot keep God from carrying out His promises.
3. Joseph is a "picture" or "foreshadowing" of Christ in the Old Testament.

Essential Skills:

1. Name the 12 sons of Jacob and their mothers.
2. Name the 4 generations of patriarchs in Abraham's Family.
3. Define these words: **patriarch, faith, diligently, covenant**

Stories That Will Be Highlighted:

Joseph and His Brothers

Joseph in Potiphar's House and in Jail

Joseph in Power in Egypt

Joseph and His Brothers Reunite

Introduction:

1. We are going to hear about **Joseph**, Jacob's 11th son. While we are learning about him, I want you to think about how Joseph might be like **Jesus**.
2. Also, I want you to keep thinking about How God is taking care of His people and keeping them from harm.
3. Let's think, too, how God is bringing His Promise to Abraham about.

LESSON: PART 1—JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

1. **Read Genesis 37:1 - 4.** Because Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons, the brothers were jealous. His father gave him a coat of many colors.
 - ▶ *Does this remind you of anything in Jacob's growing up years? Didn't Isaac and Rebekah have favorite children? Did that come to any good?*
2. **Read 37:5 - 11.** Joseph has **dreams** about his status among the brothers. Even his father has to get on to him for speaking about it.
 - ▶ *Dreams will play a very important part of this story! Be paying attention to each one!*
3. Summarize 37:12 - 20. The brothers are out with the flocks in Shechem. They see Joseph approaching and plot to kill him.
4. Summarize 37:21 - 28. **Reuben** stepped in to keep them from killing him. Joseph is thrown into a pit by his brothers and then sold to Ishmaelite traders for 20 shekels of silver.
 - ▶ *Remember, Reuben, as the oldest son, had the responsibility to be a leader among his brothers. Do you think Reuben did a good job of being a leader?*
 - ▶ *Because Reuben left the brothers to their own devices, Joseph is sold and sent away to Egypt.*
5. **Read 37:31 - 36.** Joseph's brothers tell Jacob he is dead; they invent a story about him being killed by a wild animal. Jacob mourns; Joseph is sold to Potiphar in Egypt.

LESSON: PART 2—JOSEPH IN POTIPHAR'S HOUSE.

1. **Read 39:1 - 6.** Joseph is successful in Potiphar's house. The LORD is with him (*Read vs. 2-3*); he is placed in charge of **everything** in Potiphar's house.
2. **Summarize 39:7 - 20.** Potiphar's wife wants Joseph as a lover but he refuses (read vs. 9). She accuses him of trying to attack her to Potiphar; Joseph is put in the king's prison.

LESSON: PART 3—JOSEPH IN PRISON.

1. **Summarize 39:21 - 23.** God is still with Joseph (**read verse 21**); Joseph is put in charge of all the prisoners. Everything he did prospered.
2. **Summarize 40:1 - 8.** Pharaoh has put two of his officials in prison—the butler and the baker. The two men both had disturbing dreams while in prison.
3. **Read 40:9 - 15.** The butler's dream was interpreted by Joseph. But the butler forgets about Joseph for 2 years.
4. **Read 40:16 - 23.** The baker's dream is interpreted by Joseph, but it is not favorable. Joseph's interpretations of both dreams come true. Yet the butler forgot about Joseph for 2 years!

LESSON: PART 4—PHARAOH'S DREAMS.

5. **Read 41:1 - 8.** Pharaoh has a dream that causes his spirit to be troubled. (Ask the students if they remember the dream of Pharaoh)
6. **41:9 - 13.** The butler remembers Joseph and recommends him to Pharaoh.
7. **41:14 - 16.** Joseph is called in-- *"God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."*
 - ▶ *Joseph always gave God the credit for his successes!*
8. **41:25 - 36.** The interpretation of the dream; the worldwide famine predicted; Joseph's advice.
9. **41:37 - 45.** Joseph is put in charge of Egypt in order to deal wisely with the famine. He is second only to Pharaoh! He was thirty years old at this point. He has been away from his home for maybe 15 years.
 - ▶ *Are you seeing God's hand in any of these events yet?*

LESSON: PART 5—THE FAMINE STRIKES.

1. **Read 42:1 - 5.** Even in the land of Canaan there is famine! Jacob sends 10 sons to Egypt to buy grain. Benjamin stays home because he is the only son left of Rachel's.
2. **Read 42:6 - 8.** When the brothers came to Joseph to buy grain, they bowed down to him!
 - ▶ *Do you remember Joseph's dream when he was a boy? He dreamed that they would bow down to him!*
 - ▶ *Joseph's brothers did not recognize him.*
3. **Summarize 42:10 - 24.** Joseph accuses the brothers of being spies. They are scared and perplexed. Of course, Joseph is playing with them just a little. Simeon is put in Jail--they were to return with Benjamin to get Simeon back.
4. **Read 42:27 - 28.** On the trip back to Canaan, their grain sacks had their money in them! Now they are afraid they will be accused as thieves.
5. **42:34 - 36.** Jacob is very distressed because of the possible "loss" of three sons.

LESSON: PART 6—"GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD."

1. **Genesis 43.** The brothers journey to Egypt a second time. **Judah** steps in to reassure Jacob that he will see to Benjamin's safety.
2. **Read 43:26 - 30.** The brothers are brought to Joseph. Joseph sees Benjamin and weeps.
3. **43:33 - 34.** The brothers are fed a meal in Joseph's house, and each brother is seated in order of birth. Benjamin's portion of food is 5 times more!
4. **Read 44:1 - 2.** Sacks are filled again; Joseph's silver cup is placed in Benjamin's sack of grain.
5. **44:1 - 34.** The brothers are followed by Joseph's steward and brought back to be accused of stealing. Judah comes forward to tell the story of the "lost son" and his father's grief at losing yet another son.
6. **45:1 - 3.** Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers. They are dismayed.
 - ▶ *Read verse 5—"God sent me before you to preserve life." Joseph understands God's plans to save Jacob's family. He is kind and forgiving to his brothers who did him a great wrong.*
 - ▶ *Joseph is a great example of the kind of forgiving spirit that God wants his people to have!*
7. **Read 45:5 - 15.** God's plan for the survival of Jacob's family; Joseph shows love to all his brothers.
8. **Summarize 45:16 - 28.** Pharaoh invites Joseph's family to come and live in the land of Goshen in order to survive the famine.
9. **Read 46:1 - 4.** God speaks to Jacob to tell him that he is to go to Egypt, but that he will return to the land of promise.
10. **46:29 - 30.** Jacob and Joseph are reunited.
11. **Read 50:15 - 20.** At Jacob's death, the brothers fear that Joseph will take revenge. Not so, says Joseph. *"God meant it for good..."*



How Is Joseph like Jesus Christ?

Hand out the sheet entitled "**Pictures of Christ--FATHERS**" to the students. We will brainstorm about the ways the Joseph is like a picture of Christ and write them down. Also think of other pictures of Christ in the FATHERS unit.

- ▶ *Joseph is portrayed as being "perfect"--he was obedient. No sins of his are mentioned. Jesus was also sinless during His life on the earth.*
- ▶ *He was traded for 20 shekels of silver--Christ was traded for 30 pieces of silver.*
- ▶ *Joseph was exalted to a high position after he suffered (to the right hand of Pharaoh)--Jesus was exalted after He suffered to the right hand of God.*
- ▶ *All things were put under Joseph's feet by Pharaoh—all things were put under Jesus' feet by God after His resurrection. (Matthew 28:18)*
- ▶ *12 brothers--12 disciples. The brothers betrayed Joseph--One of the 12 betrayed Jesus to the authorities. The disciples scattered and did not support Jesus at His death.*
- ▶ *Joseph saved his people from death--Christ saved His people from death.*
- ▶ *Joseph showed his brothers great forgiveness. Christ asked God to forgive his killers as He hung on the cross.*