

A Long, Long Walk

Genesis 12:1-7; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 125-131

I don't want to move," Tanda groaned. "Neither do I," Zach replied. "Dad said he felt the Lord wanted him to take the new job. I wonder how he knows what God wants?"

"Let's ask him," Tanda suggested.

"We need to ask you something, Dad," Zach whispered, tugging at his dad's shirt. "How can you be sure God wants us to move?"

"That's probably the same question someone asked Abram when God told him to move," Dad said. "Let me tell you a story."

Abram lived close to God. He prayed to God many times each day. He wanted to do whatever God said.

One day God spoke to Abram. "It's time for you to leave Ur, Abram. You must leave all your friends and go to a place that I will show you."

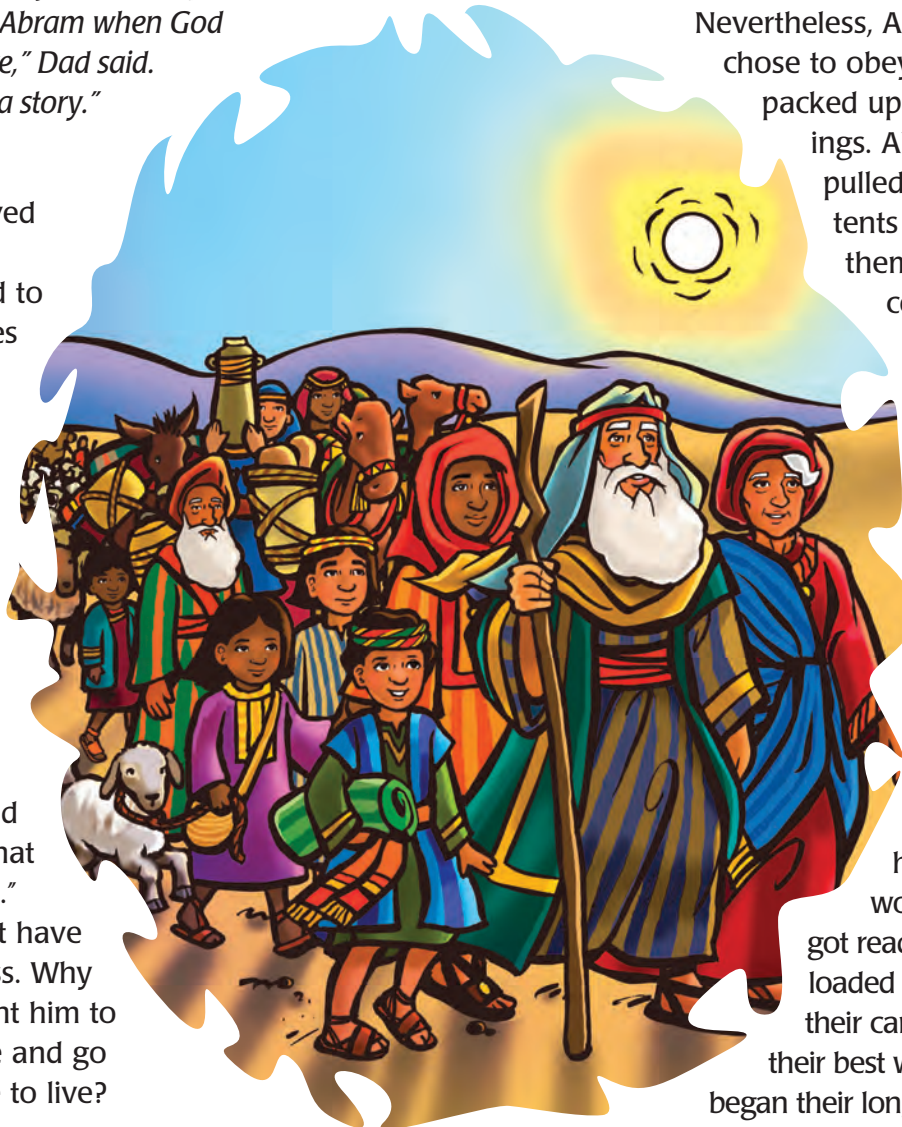
Abram must have been speechless. Why would God want him to leave his home and go someplace else to live?

God continued, "I will bless you, Abram. I will give you children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Your family will grow into a mighty nation. You will be greatly blessed."

Now that must have really made Abram wonder, for he and his wife Sarai did not have even one child. They were quite old and had given up the idea of ever having a family of their own.

Nevertheless, Abram and Sarai chose to obey God. They packed up all their belongings. Abram's servants pulled down all the tents and folded them. The time had come to leave.

Abram called together all those who would go with them. Lot, Abram's nephew, joined the group. All the people who worked in Abram's house and the people whom Abram had taught to worship God also got ready to go. They loaded their donkeys and their camels. They put on their best walking shoes and began their long journey.



The Message

I will listen when God calls me to serve Him.

Mothers and fathers and children walked the dusty road day after day. The sun was hot. The dust made them thirsty. Little children grew tired and cried. Yet still they traveled on.

Finally, the caravan reached the land of Canaan. But still Abram and Sarai, their people, their donkeys, and their camels traveled on. When would they stop? Where was God leading them?

In Shechem, a place where many Canaanites lived, there was a forest of trees called the Great Trees of Moreh. When Abram reached the forest of Moreh, he called to his servants, "Halt! Set up camp here."

As the servants prepared the camp, God appeared and spoke to Abram. "Look around you, Abram," God said. "This is the land that I am going to give you and your family."

Abram looked around. He saw a wide, grassy valley with softly rolling hills. He saw olive trees, fig trees, and springs of cool water everywhere. But Abram also saw something that made him very sad. Among the trees he saw altars that were used to worship idols.

Abram immediately gathered stones to build an altar. He wanted to worship God and thank Him for being with them during their journey. He wanted to tell God that he was willing to go anywhere God wanted. He was willing to do whatever God asked him to do.

"And so," Dad told Zach and

Memory Verse

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

(Isaiah 6:8, NIV).

Tanda, "we need to be willing to listen to God—just as Abram was. God spoke words directly to Abram. Today He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. Your mother and I are glad to serve where God sends us. And when we are willing, God lets us know what He wants. He gives us understanding and helps us know in our hearts what He wants us to do."



S A B B A T H

DO With your family, find a quiet place and listen for sounds. What do you hear? Make a list.

PRAY Read the lesson story together. Talk about it. What does it mean to your family? Then read the memory verse together and talk about it. Pray that God will help you always to listen to His voice.

S U N D A Y

DO Sit quietly in a room by yourself for five minutes. What do you hear? Thank God for the gift of hearing.

MAKE Make a poster or a bookmark with the message: "I will listen when God calls me to serve Him." Show it to your family during worship today. Then put it where you will see it every morning.

DO Review the memory verse together.

M O N D A Y

READ For worship today, find Genesis 12:1-7 and read about Abram and Sarai.

ASK Ask your family to tell about a time they had to move. Ask them to tell about a time they believed God asked them to do something.

DRAW Draw around your foot and cut out enough footprints to write one word of the memory verse on each. Practice putting the words in order. Ask God to help you use your feet to take you to places where you can serve Him.

A camel can travel as long as two weeks without water. A camel's hump stores fat for food.



T U E S D A Y

TELL Make a picture story of Abram's call and his journey. Show the pictures and tell the story for family worship today. Ask: What promises did God give Abram? How did God keep His promises? What promises has God made to our family?

MAKE Make a booklet and write some of your family's favorite promises on each page. Thank God for keeping His promises.

DO Put your memory verse footprints in order and say the verse for your family.

W E D N E S D A Y

ASK During family worship, ask: How do you know when God is speaking to you? How do you listen for His voice? Say "hello" and try to sound surprised, happy, sad, and angry. Ask: What kind of voice does God use when He speaks to us?

DO Say the memory verse together. Thank God for speaking to you every day.

THURSDAY

DO Next time your family eats together, see how long you can go without speaking. How do you ask your family for things? How do you sound when you speak to them?

DO Say the memory verse for your family. Tell them what you think this verse says about God. Thank God for the gift of speech.



FRIDAY

READ During family worship, read Genesis 12:1-7 again. Ask: Why did Abram build an altar? Do we need a family altar today? Why?

SHARE Find a stone for each family member. Ask each one to hold a stone and tell about a time God took care of them. Then pile the stones together on the floor and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for God's care.

PUZZLE

Directions:
Help Abram lead his family to Canaan.
Only one trail reaches their new home.

