



LEVEL 2
2·4
LESSON 4

Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



The Life of Abraham

The Life of Abraham

The world had turned to evil once again. People were again disobeying God and doing what they thought was right, like Adam and Eve had done in the Garden of Eden and like all their descendants had done before the Flood. Now many people believed in false gods and a false religion made up by Nimrod and Semiramis.

After Nimrod and Semiramis, there was a man named Abram. God planned to use Abram to become one of the most important men in history.

When Abram was 75 years old, God began to call him. He instructed Abram to leave his home in Haran and to journey to the land of Canaan. God also made an amazing promise to Abram: that if Abram obeyed Him, God would honor Abram by giving him many descendants and making them into a great nation. Abram did not even have one son, but he believed God. He obeyed and took his wife, Sarai, and his nephew Lot on the long journey to Canaan.

Abram had many servants, possessions and animals. So did his

nephew Lot. The shepherds who worked for Abram and Lot began to argue about whose sheep could graze in the best pastures. Abram told Lot he could choose which area he wanted. Lot chose the Jordan Valley, which had fertile land near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

After this, God spoke to Abram again and told him to look in every direction from where he was standing. God said that all this land would belong to him and his many, many descendants.

About 20 years later, Abram still did not have any children, and he and Sarai were now very old. God spoke to Abram once again and changed his name from Abram to Abraham, which means “father of many nations.” God also changed his wife’s name to Sarah, which means “princess.” God repeated His promise that Abraham and Sarah would have a son. He told them to name him Isaac.

Around this time, three individuals approached Abraham’s tent. They appeared to be men, but two of

them were angels and one of them was God! Abraham invited these men to rest in the shade and eat. The men told Abraham that Sarah would give birth to a boy within a year. They also told him that God was going to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness.

The two angels went to Lot's home to warn him about God's punishment on Sodom and Gomorrah. Evil men of Sodom saw the visitors enter Lot's house and tried to break in to attack them. But the angels struck these men with blindness and told Lot and his family to run away from the city. When they hesitated, the angels grabbed their hands and led them

away from the cities, warning them not to look back.

But Lot's wife loved her home and the city, even though it was full of evil. She disobeyed and looked back. God punished her by turning her into a pillar of salt. He recorded this in the Bible as a lesson for us to obey God and do exactly what He says.

When Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, God kept His promise and gave them a son, Isaac. They were thrilled!

God richly blessed Abraham because he believed God and obeyed Him. But just a few years later, God put him to the ultimate test. Would Abraham obey even if God told him to do the hardest thing in the world?



ILLUSTRATIONS MELISSA BARREIRO

Abram departs his home, as God had commanded.

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering.

This was a heartbreaking thing for Abraham to do, yet he left early the next morning to obey God's command. Abraham, Isaac, two servants and a mule carrying firewood for the altar made a two-hour journey to the place where God told Abraham to go. Many thoughts flooded Abraham's mind, but he remembered how God kept His promise to give him a son, and he knew that God had promised to give him more descendants through Isaac. He did not know how God would do it, but he knew that he would keep God's command and trust Him.

When they finally arrived, Abraham prepared to offer his son as commanded. But just as he was about to bring the knife down on Isaac, God spoke out: "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham stopped.

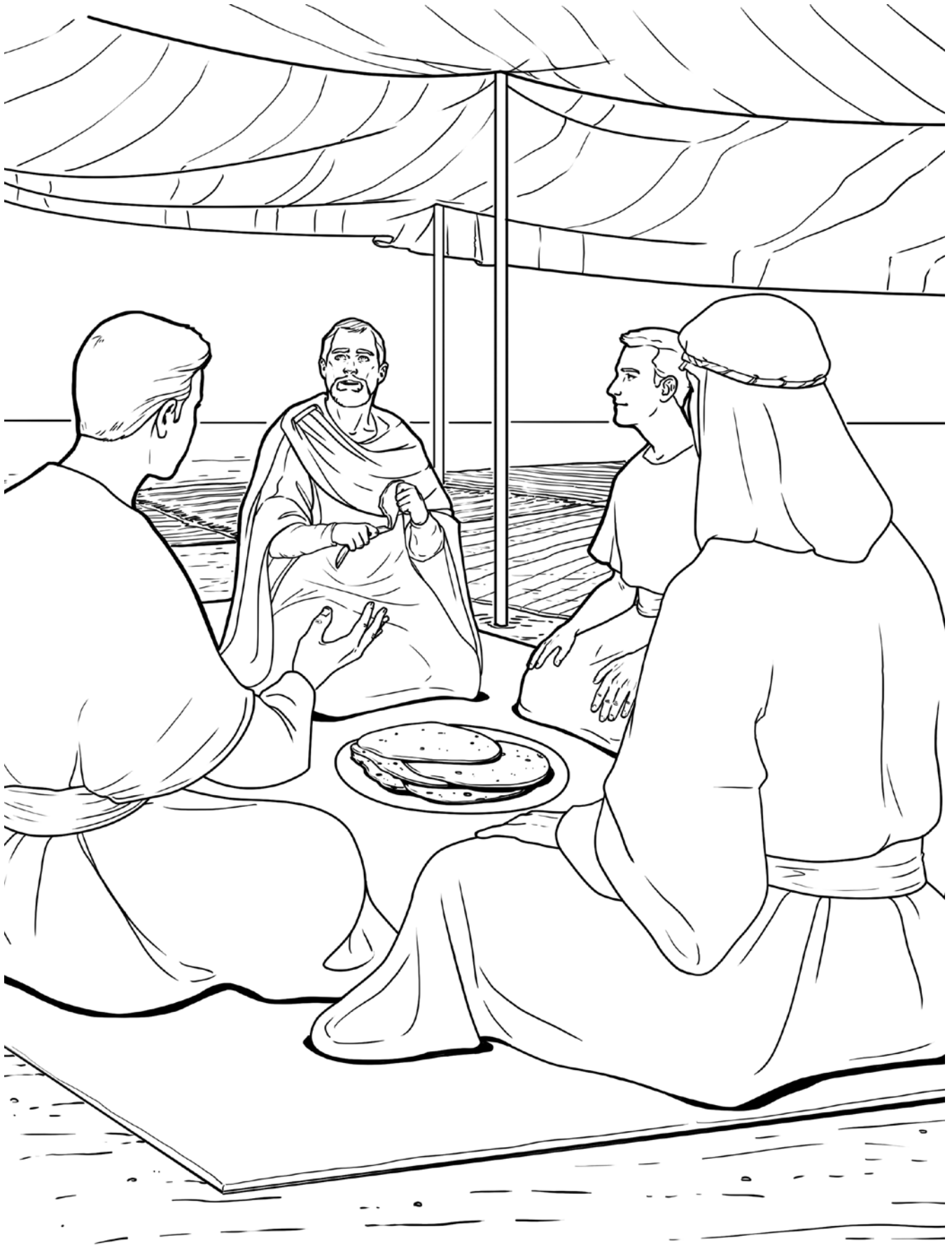
"Lay not your hand upon the lad," God said, "neither do you any thing to him: for now I know that you fear God, seeing that you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Abraham passed this most crucial test in his life. And God kept His promises. Abraham not only became the father of many nations, but also "the father of the faithful." The blessings God gave Abraham—and the blessings God gave his descendants—are an inspiring example of what God will do for those who obey Him.





Lot and Abram part ways.



Abraham talks with the visitors who came to his tent.



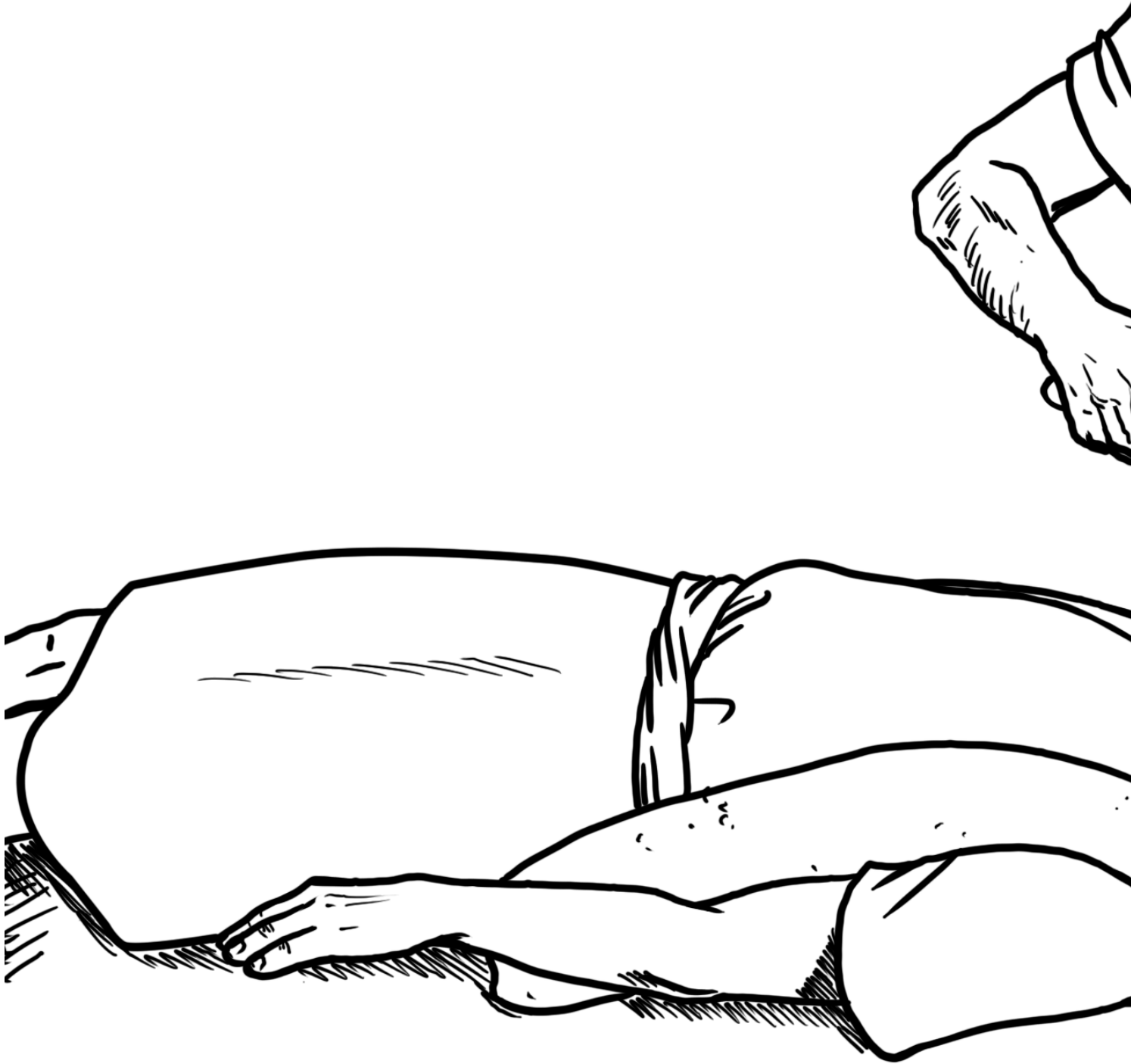
Lot's wife looks back and turns into a pillar of salt.



Abram looks out over the land God has promised him.



When Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, God blessed them with a son, Isaac.



Abraham believed God's promises, so he was willing to do whatever God commanded him—even sacrifice his son Isaac.



BIBLE MEMORY

Hebrews 11:17-19

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The Maze in the Wilderness

Help Abraham find his way to Canaan.

