

**Year A, Week 25 (May 18, 2008)**

**Genesis 12: 1-2, 4- 5a; 13: 14-16; 15: 5-6 God Calls Abraham and Makes a Covenant**

**Hymn suggestions:** *Father Abraham* (calmly!); or *Shout to the North and the South*

**Items Needed:**

- Abraham figure
- Sarah figure
- Lot figure and other servant figures
- Animal figures (sheep, donkey)
- Wooden cityscape

*Directions: Set the disciples' room and table near on ground. Place disciples around the table. Place Jerusalem cityscape nearby. Put crowd figures in a basket*

Today we are going to start to learn about the founding fathers of our faith. People often refer to our God as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Today, we will start to learn about Abraham, a man celebrated for his faith. (*Set down Abraham figure.*)

At that time, Abraham's name was Abram. Abram was a descendant of Noah, and he lived in a place called Haram. He was a good man and he believed in God. At the time of this story, Abram was seventy-five years old – so he and his wife, who was called Sarai at that time, were both quite old. (*Set down Sarah figure.*)

They had lived in Haram a long time and they had a lot of animals, a nice house. They lived near their relatives and they were settled there. (*Place animal figures around them.*)

But God told Abram, "Leave your home and your family and go to a country that I will show you. I will make you the father of a great nation."

So Abram went, just as the Lord had told him. He packed up his animals (*set out sheep, donkey, etc. in a caravan*) and he set out with his nephew Lot and his servants. (*Set out people figures*).

Abram went different places, just as the Lord led him. (*Move Abram figure, but leave others alone.*)

Then God made a covenant with Abram. A covenant is like a promise.

The Lord said to him, "Look all around you, north, south, east, and west. I will give all this land to you and your children. You will have as many *descendants* – that means children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren... You will have as many *descendants* as there are specks of dust in the earth."

God also told him, "Look at the stars in the sky and see if you can count them. You will have that many descendants, and more." Abraham – though he had no children – believed the Lord, which the Lord counted as righteousness.

God said, “This is my covenant. I will be your God, and you will be my people.”

**Questions without Response:**

- I wonder ... how hard it was for Abram and Sarai to leave their home?
- I wonder ... how they knew it was God talking to them?
- I wonder ... why God didn't pick a younger couple to go?
- I wonder ... how God will start a whole nation of people with this old man and that old woman?
- I wonder ... how Abram could believe God's promise?