

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF ABRAHAM

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE FATHER OF THE GREAT FAMILY (GENESIS 12:24–25:11)

- **SACRED STORY**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, UNDER "THE GREAT FAMILY"**
- **PIECES: ROCKS FOR ALTARS (THREE), 3 CLEAR BOXES (ONE WITH SAND, ONE DUST, ONE STARS), STATUE OF 3 STRANGERS, WOOD FOR THE OFFERING WRAPPED IN TWINE, BOWL OF FIRE, KNIFE, LONG PIECE OF TWINE, RAM, CAVE**
- **CONTROL**
- **UNDERLAY: TAN FELT STRIP, 42" X 11"**

BACKGROUND

"The Great Family" has become as many as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand in the desert. But there is still an original mother and a father to remember, honor and learn from. This story enriches the story of the Great Family by telling more about Abraham, the father of "the Great Family." It includes how God tested Abraham and Abraham tested God.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Abraham's story sits in a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is a drawing of Abraham looking out at the stars. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is a strip of tan felt, 42" x 11". Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects: three rocks to remind the children of the three places in the desert where Abraham came close to God; three clear boxes (one filled with sand, one dust, and one stars), a statue of the three strangers, wood for the offering

wrapped in twine, a bowl of fire (a small clay bowl with clay painted red on the inside to represent the fire), a long piece of twine, a ram and a cave.

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

Abraham's story enriches the lesson on the Great Family. When you introduce the story of Abraham, take care to set it in the larger context of the sacred story of which it is a part. You can accomplish this by:

- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

As you tell the story of Abraham's life, place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event. Unroll the underlay slowly, providing just enough space for the next object, as if you are unrolling a life.

At the end of the wondering, show the children the control card and then carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, "Here is the knife for the sacrifice," and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



STORY ICON FOR THE STORY OF ABRAHAM