

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF SARAH

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE MOTHER OF THE GREAT FAMILY (GENESIS 12–23)

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

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, UNDER "PEOPLE OF GOD"**
- **PIECES: 2 PEOPLE OF GOD REPRESENTING ABRAHAM AND SARAH, A TENT, BABY BLANKET, A SPRING OF WATER, 3 OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD REPRESENTING HAGAR, ISHMAEL AND ISAAC, A SACK OF GRAIN, A 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 the Great Family by telling more about Sarah, the mother of "the Great Family." It includes the important and complicated relationship between Hagar, Sarah, Abraham and God.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Sarah's story sits on a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is a drawing of Sarah holding Isaac. 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: two People of God representing Abraham and Sarah, a tent, two baby blankets, a spring of water, three more of the People of God to represent Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac, a sack of grain 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).

Sarah's story enriches the lesson about the Great Family. When you introduce the story of Sarah, 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 Sarah's life place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event. Unroll the underlay slowly, just enough for each 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 are the three strangers who came out of the desert to tell Sarah that she would have a baby," and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



STORY ICON FOR THE STORY OF SARAH