



VOLUME 70, QUARTER 4, 2020

ABRAHAM, FATHER OF FAITH

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

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Primary Sunday School

October 4, 2020

V70, Q4, W1

Calling Abraham

Many years ago in a hot, desert land, God was looking for someone who loved and obeyed Him. Why? He wanted to be his best friend and make a covenant with him! A covenant is a deal, or a special promise. God found that person, and his name was Abram! Did you know God is still looking for more people who love Him? He wants to be your friend and make you a special promise, too!

God told Abram to leave his home and to travel to a new place. God made a special promise to protect and bless Abram and his family. Abram didn't know where he was going. He didn't even have a map! Can you imagine going on a trip with no map or directions to show you where to go? Yet, Abram obeyed God because he loved God.

Even though God didn't tell Abram everything at once, He was never far away. God would talk to Abram when he prayed and show him where to go. He protected and blessed Abram, just like He promised!

Memory Verse:

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee... unto the land that I will shew thee. Genesis 12:1

Violet's Mission

Violet hobbles to the window and puts down her crutches. How she wants to jump in the rain puddles!

"Violet, come sit with us," Violet's mother Katherine says. "Hold Carter upright. He hasn't had his burp yet!"

Violet giggles. She thinks it's funny that everyone celebrates a baby's burp.

She snuggles with her little brother then rests her head on her mother's shoulder. "I'm getting tired of this cast. It's rained all week and I love the rain! But I can't go out right now because I can't get this cast wet!"

"Well, I have an idea. I collected some large waterproof bags. Let's make a raincoat for your cast!"

Violet stares in wonder. "My mom thinks of everything," she says inside her head.

An hour later Jack supports her and she sticks her bare foot in the water. She shrieks in glee and promises the puddles she'll be back as soon as the cast comes off.

She dries off and heads back into the living room. "Mom, I wish everyone could feel as happy as I feel when I play in the water," she says.

"I had a thought when I was outside. Do you remember when we went to Portland for the day, and how there were so many homeless people?"

Katherine nods, remembering how Violet gave a man her french fries because he looked hungry.

"What if they don't have a place to get dry from the rain? Maybe the rain doesn't make them as happy. Can we think of ideas so we can help them?"

"I think that's a wonderful idea, Violet. Let's brainstorm."

To Be Continued

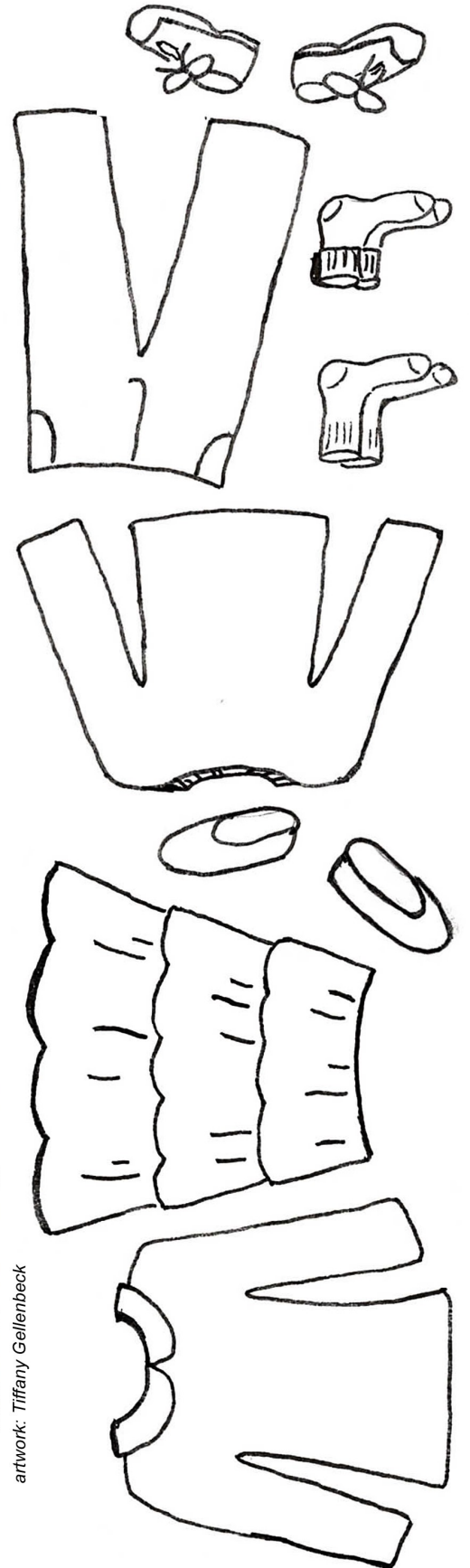
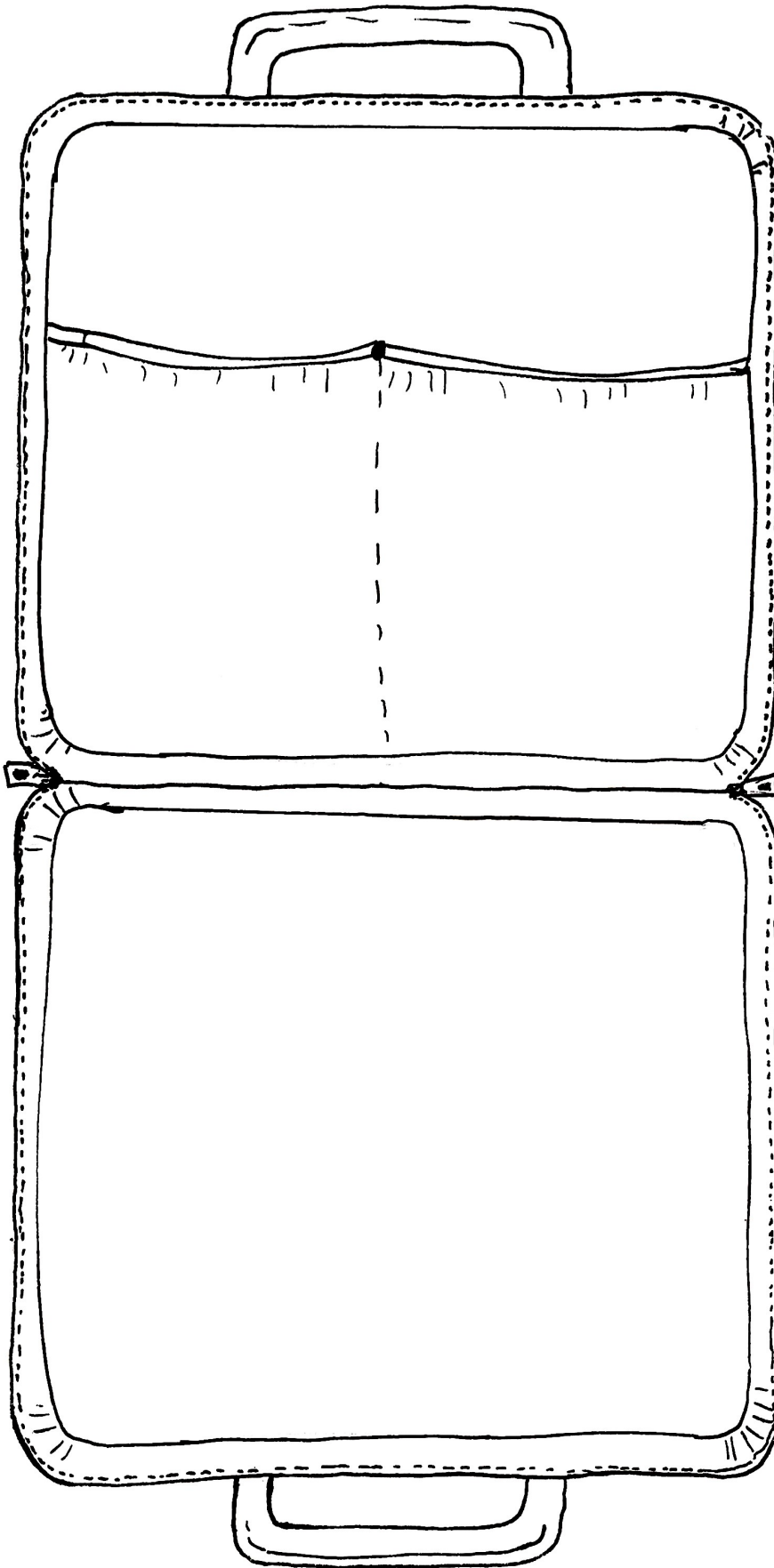
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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 1. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

ABRAM PACKED UP

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT THE SUITECASE AND CLOTHING. PACK UP YOUR BAGS, JUST LIKE ABRAM DID AND FOLLOW GOD !



artwork: Tiffany Gellenbeck



Primary Sunday School

October 11, 2020

V70, Q4, W2

Abram and Lot Separate

Last time, we learned about a man named Abram who set out on a journey to find the land God had promised him. Abram had taken his nephew, Lot, with him on his journey, and they were both very rich! They had lots of cows, sheep, silver, and gold!

There were no fences back then. Instead, they had herdsmen who would watch the cows day and night and lead them to new places to eat and drink. Trouble started when Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen would try to bring their cows to the same place to eat. There was not enough room because there were so many cows! So, the herdsmen would fight over the land. This made Abram sad because he didn't want his servants to fight Lot's servants. *Did you know when we fight with others it makes God sad, too?*

So, one day, Abram brought Lot to the top of a hill. There was a valley with lots of water and grass on one side and a dry, sandy desert on the other. Abram told Lot to choose a side so their herdsmen would not have to fight over grass. It would've been easy for Abram to want the green land for his cows, but do you know what he did? He let Lot choose first! Did you know God is happy when we aren't selfish and let someone else choose first - even if it means we don't get the best? God blessed Abram for not being selfish, and He will bless you too!

Memory Verse:

Let there be no strife, I pray thee,
between me and thee,... for we are
brethren. Genesis 13:8

Giving Hearts

Violet stares at her pink piggy bank. She is saving her money to buy a chicken, a new purse and some flower seeds. Right now she has \$3.50.

Then Violet thinks of the homeless people in Portland she wants to help this winter. She wonders how many blankets her \$3.50 can buy.

She marches into the kitchen. "I am going to buy blankets with my money and keep all the homeless people warm this winter," she announces.

Jack scoffs. "How much do you have? One dollar?"

"No!" Violet retorts. "I have \$3.50."

Jack hoots. "That won't buy one blanket, Violet!"

Katherine, their mother, gives Jack a disapproving glance. She tells Violet, "Of course we can use your money toward a blanket. Blankets at Mrs. Knelson's cost more than \$3.50, but I'm sure you can raise some money for the cause."

Violet's eyes well with tears. She doesn't like Jack making fun of her. He feels a little remorseful after his mother's withering look, but when he sees Violet cry, he is sorry for being mean.

"Look, Violet. I'm sorry for laughing. I'll help you buy those blankets. I even have some money of my own. Let's combine it!"

He runs to his room. He tries to remember what Violet was saving her money to buy. "Oh, she wants that silly chicken just because it's larger than normal. Let's see. I have \$12. I'll save \$4 to buy her a chicken as a surprise."

He runs back with \$8. "Here. Now you have \$11.50. Those blankets at Mrs. Knelson's store are \$6 so you almost have enough for two now!"

Violet's eyes shine. She can't wait to help some people stay warm this winter.

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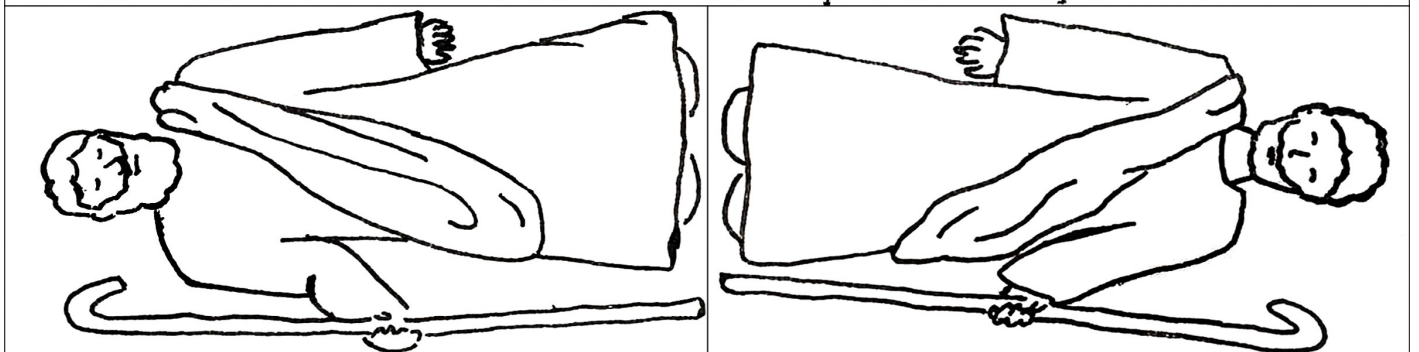
Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 2. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

ABRAM AND LOT SEPARATE

NEEDED: SCISSORS, GLUE, CRAYONS, POPSICLE STICKS

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT OUT THE LANDSCAPE AND TWO MEN. GLUE POPSICLE STICKS TO THE BACK OF THE MEN AND USE THEM AS PUPPETS TO SHOW WHERE ABRAM AND LOT LIVED.





Primary Sunday School

October 18, 2020

V70, Q4, W3

Lot is Captured

Now, when Abram let Lot choose between the valley and the desert, Lot chose the valley. He took his family, servants, and animals to live where there was lots of water and green grass for his cows. Before long, there was a war in the valley! Kings from nearby gathered together to fight, steal, and capture people. They even captured Lot and his family! How scary it must have been to be a prisoner to such wicked men!

Yet, help was on the way! Someone escaped and ran to Abram, because they knew he would help! They told Abram everything that had happened and Abram set out with his army of servants to chase the wicked kings. When they caught up, Abram and his men surrounded the camp and saved the riches and the people! He brought everyone home, safe and sound.

Now, Abram could've kept all of the riches he gained from the war, but he didn't! He gave some to God, and the rest back to the kings from whom it had been stolen. He could've been selfish and kept all of the silver, gold, and treasures that had been stolen from the captured people, but he wasn't selfish! Once again, he let someone else have the best. Do you let others have the best or go first? It is not always easy! Yet if you do God will bless you just like He blessed Abram!

Memory Verse:

The Lord came unto Abram saying...
I am thy exceeding great reward.
Genesis 15:1

Chicken and Blankets

A mountain of soft gray blankets tower over Violet in Mrs. Knelson's store.

"I am buying blankets for people who don't have a home," Violet explains to Mrs. Knelson. "Jack and I combined our money and it came to \$11.50. Mom donated fifty cents. Now I have \$12. Each blanket is \$6. Good thing Oregon doesn't have sales tax. I want two blankets please!"

Mrs. Knelson grins at Violet and hands her the blankets. "How do you plan to earn more money?" she asks.

"I'll bring a money box to school for donations, and I'll have a cookie sale to raise money."

"Make sure to bring your basket of cookies to the store," Mrs. Knelson tells Violet affectionately.

Violet skips outside with her blankets and hops in the truck.

She daydreams about her cookie sale and wonders how many blankets she'll buy next time she visits Mrs. Knelson.

Violet notices Jack standing outside when they pull in the driveway. He grins from ear to ear.

"What's going on?" Violet asks.

"Go look in the chicken pen," Jack tries to say nonchalantly.

Violet walks behind the house to find the chickens. She shrieks in delight when she sees a large black-and-white Brahma chicken strutting outside.

"How?" is all she can say.

Katherine comes up behind her children. She smiles and says, "Jack set aside enough money to buy your chicken. Then he gave the rest to you for the blankets."

Violet throws her arms around Jack and kisses his cheek. Jack turns strawberry red but Violet runs to her new gentle giant of a chicken without noticing.

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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 3. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

ABRAM RESCUES LOT





After Abram saved Lot from the wicked kings, he prayed to God. God told him that He was Abram's reward for winning the war, but Abram was sad! All Abram wanted was children, but he and his wife, Sarai, were old and didn't have any. So, God made Abram a promise. He told Abram he would have more children and grandchildren than all the stars in the sky! That is a lot, isn't it?

Now Abram was very happy to receive such a special promise! He waited and waited for a little baby, but they never had one. One day Sarai suggested to Abram that maybe her servant, Hagar, was supposed to give them children. So, Hagar had a baby. But instead of being happy, Sarai was jealous. She wanted to have a baby!

Since they did not wait for God to give them a baby like He promised, there was unhappiness. It is always best to wait for God to bless you, instead of trying to bless yourself!

Memory Verse:

Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. Genesis 15:5

Nickels and Dimes

Violet and Jack sit at the table. It's Friday after school and Violet is about to count the money in her donation box. She is raising money for blankets.

"Let's see," Violet says. "Several pennies. Some dimes and a few nickels. And look! My teacher gave \$5. I thought it was just a dollar bill."

Jack counts the money. "Looks like you've got \$5.48. That's almost enough for another blanket!"

"Yeah," Violet says slowly. "I imagined this box feeling real heavy. I thought I'd raise enough for several blankets!"

Jack grins mischievously, fishes in his pocket and pulls out a quarter with a flourish. "And now you have \$5.73. Oh, but wait! What is this?"

He fishes another quarter from his pocket. "And now you have twenty-five more cents! Let's see, seventy-three cents plus twenty-five cents is ninety-eight cents. You are two cents from buying a blanket!"

Violet stares incredulously at her brother.

Jack digs deep into his pocket. "A-ha!" he shouts victoriously. "Two cents, coming right up." He holds two pennies out to Violet.

"How did you have the exact amount?" Violet asks.

Jack sheepishly tells Violet he counted the money when she wasn't looking and found two cents between the couch cushions. "And maybe I told my class about your mission. And maybe there's more!" Jack exclaims.

Violet's jaw drops open.

Jack fishes around in his other pocket and pulls out a wrinkled wad of bills.

"This is \$6. Now you can buy two blankets!"

Violet stares at the money. She realizes four people will now have blankets to keep them warm through the winter.

"Thank you, Jesus," she says simply and quietly.

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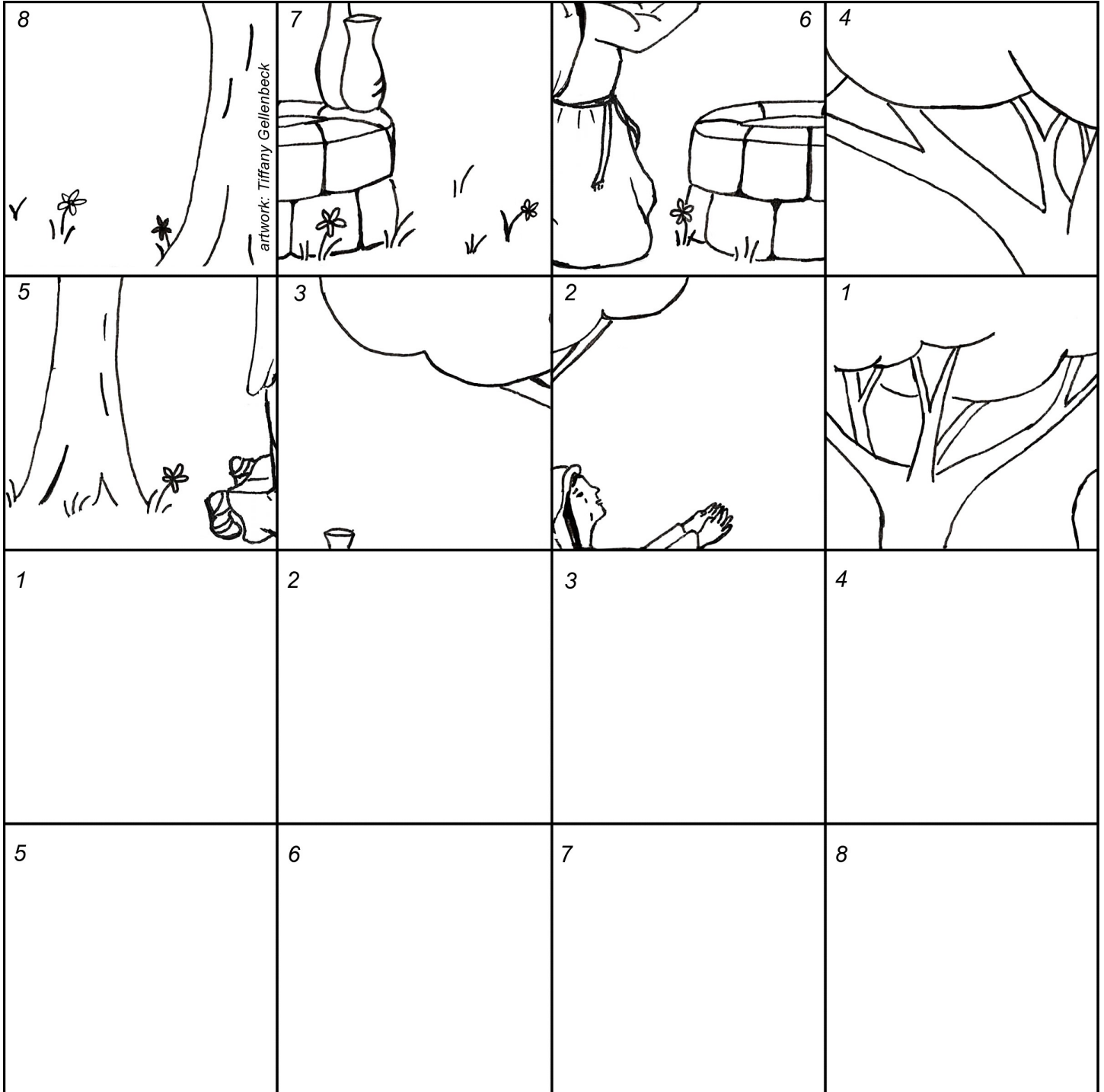
Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 4. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

GOD SEES HAGAR

NEEDED: CRAYONS, GLUE, SCISSORS

DIRECTIONS: CUT OUT THE EIGHT PUZZLE PIECES AND GLUE EACH ONE TO THE CORRECT SQUARE BELOW.
(EACH PIECE IS MARKED WITH A NUMBER !) COLOR THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE.





Primary Sunday School

November 1, 2020

V70, Q4, W5

Sarah Laughs

When Abraham was 99 years old, some special visitors came to see him. It was probably unusual to have visitors in the desert, so when Abraham saw three men, he ran from his tent to meet them! One of the three men was the Lord Himself. Can you imagine God coming to your home? That would be very special!

Abraham bowed at their feet and asked them to come to his tent to eat and rest. When they agreed, Abraham ran back to the tent to ask Sarah to make some food. After a small feast, they talked. The men told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a son!

Now, Sarah was still inside the tent, but she heard this. Do you know what she did? She laughed! Surely she was too old to have a baby; she was almost 90! God heard Sarah laugh and He told Abraham. He asked Abraham why she laughed. God wanted them to know that nothing was too hard for Him. God can do anything!

Memory Verse:

Lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son...
Genesis 18:10

Believe the Impossible

Violet stirs cookie dough. She looks at Jack, who is also stirring a big bowl of dough. "Hey! If you eat all of the dough there won't be any cookies," she laughs.

Jack grins. Violet takes some cookie dough from her bowl and tries it. "Delicious," she says.

"Do you think we'll earn enough money to buy six blankets? That's how many I need to reach ten total blankets. That's my goal," Violet says to Jack.

"That means you need to raise at least \$36. How much are the cookies?" Jack asks.

"Fifty cents a cookie. How many cookies do I need to sell to reach my goal?" Violet asks.

"Hmm. I think it would be \$36 divided by fifty cents. I'll get the calculator. Let's see....that would be 72 cookies!"

"That's a lot of cookies," Violet says slowly. "I don't know if I can reach my goal."

"Violet. Cheer up! Remember, Dad just read us that story about Abraham and Sarah. She didn't think she could have a child at her age, but she did because God made it possible. I'm sure God is smiling at you right now because you want to help some of God's children. Most people say mean things about homeless people. Not you. And God doesn't care if you clothe one or fifty! It's your willing heart."

Jack takes a breath. Violet is smiling, enjoying hearing her brother say such kind and encouraging words. Jack grins, a little embarrassed, and goes back to stirring dough.

The two children help each other get the cookies on cookie sheets and into the oven. They make several batches until 72 cookies fill the kitchen with the smell of cinnamon and sugar.

To Be Continued

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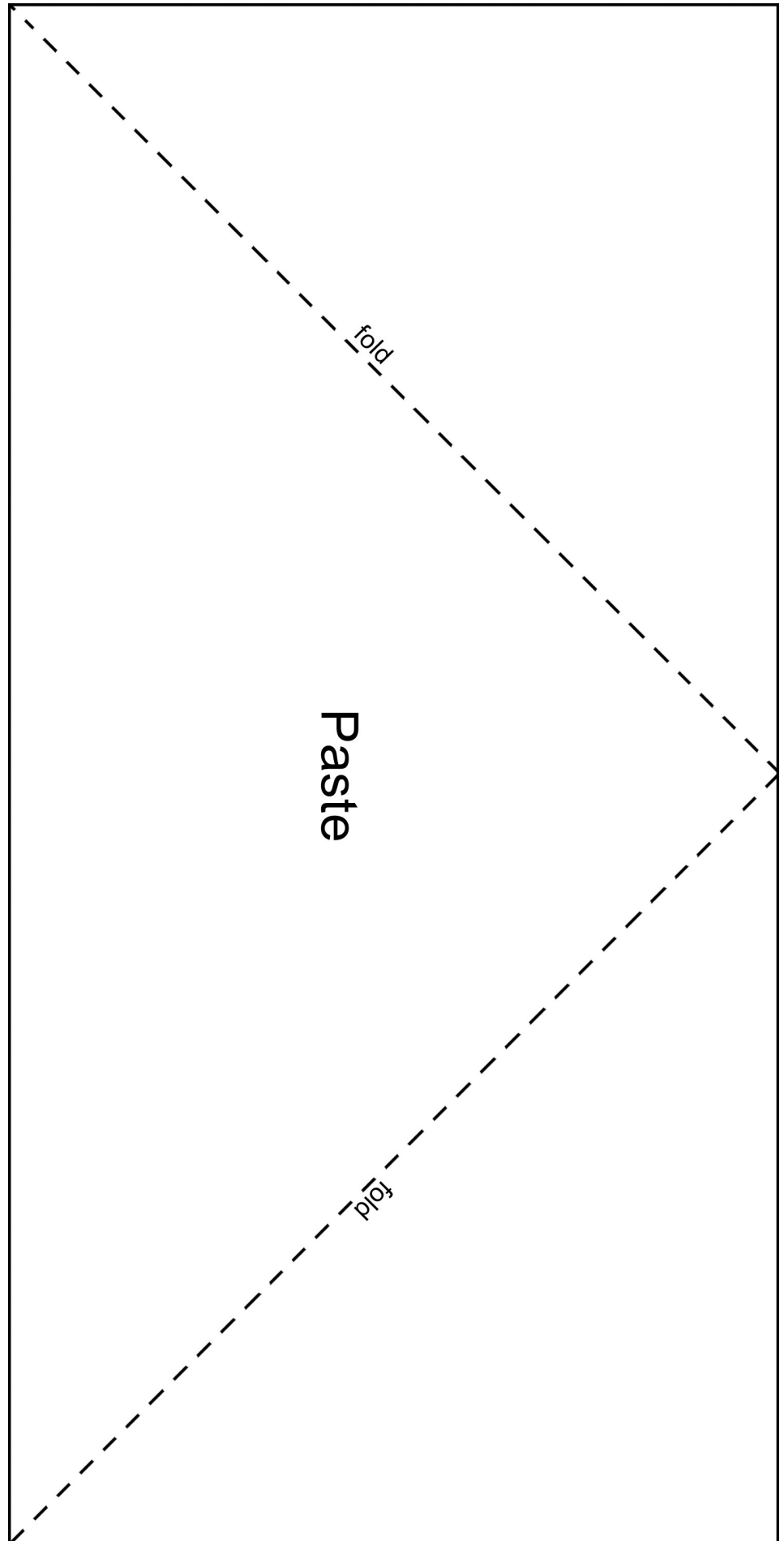
Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 5. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

SARAH LAUGHS !

NEEDED: SCISSORS, GLUE,
CRAYONS, SEPARATE COLORED
PAPER OR CARDSTOCK

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT
SARAH. COLOR AND CUT THE
TENT TEMPLATE, OR USE IT AS A
TEMPLATE TO CUT A TENT FROM
BROWN CONSTRUCTION PAPER.
GLUE THE TENT TO A PIECE OF
CONSTRUCTION PAPER, THEN
GLUE SARAH INSIDE THE TENT
FLAPS.





Primary Sunday School

November 8, 2020

V70, Q4, W6

Abraham's Intercession

After Abraham's guests had eaten and told him that Sarah would have a son, they set out on their journey again. Abraham walked with them for a while as it was custom, or normal, to do back then. What Abraham didn't know was that God was sending those men to Sodom where Lot lived.

Now Sodom was a very wicked city and God was sending the two men with him, who were probably angels, to go see how wicked the city was. Before they parted ways, God decided to tell Abraham His plan. Can you imagine God telling you His plans? Abraham must have been very special to God! We are special to God too, and He wants to be our best friend so He can tell us secrets like He told Abraham!

Abraham was sad to hear God's plans to destroy the city. His nephew, Lot, and his family lived there! So Abraham asked God if He would spare the city for 50 Godly people. God told him that He would. He listened to Abraham's request! But...what if there weren't 50 people? Sodom was very wicked! What if there weren't 45, or 40, or 30, or 20? What if there were only 10 Godly people? God was merciful! He told Abraham He would not destroy the city, even if there were only 10 good people living there! Wow!

Memory Verse:

And the men turned their faces from
thence, and went toward Sodom: but
Abraham stood yet before the LORD.
Genesis 18:22

The Bake Sale

"What if I don't sell all these cookies? What if the parents didn't see my flier or forgot to send money?" Violet asks her mom. Violet baked 72 cookies to sell so she can buy blankets for people in the city who are homeless.

"Honey, you must remember it's ok if you do not. We can find other ways for you to raise money," Violet's mother Katherine says.

She is proud of her daughter's tender heart. But she wants Violet to know God looks at the heart, and is more concerned about her soul than if she can give three blankets or ten to people in need.

Violet furrows her brow. Katherine smiles and kisses her daughter's forehead. "You have fun today. Do not worry about the number of cookies you sell. Focus on telling people why you are selling these cookies. Ask Jesus to shine His light through you."

A teacher helps Violet carry trays of cookies into the school gymnasium. Violet arranges the table. She takes a deep breath and walks to her classroom.

"Dear Jesus," she prays as she walks, "help me to remember what Mom said. Help me be a light for you. Help me not to focus on making money but on sharing my heart to my friends. I love you. Amen."

Violet stands at her table that afternoon at lunch. She's a little nervous!

Her friends buy cookies. Then a trickle of children from other classes come by for cookies.

They listen to Violet tell them about people who live on the streets. "They must get so cold at night," she says. "I just want to buy some blankets for them."

Violet hands out cookies as quarters and dollar bills fill her money box.

Suddenly, she realizes there are only three cookies left!

To Be Continued

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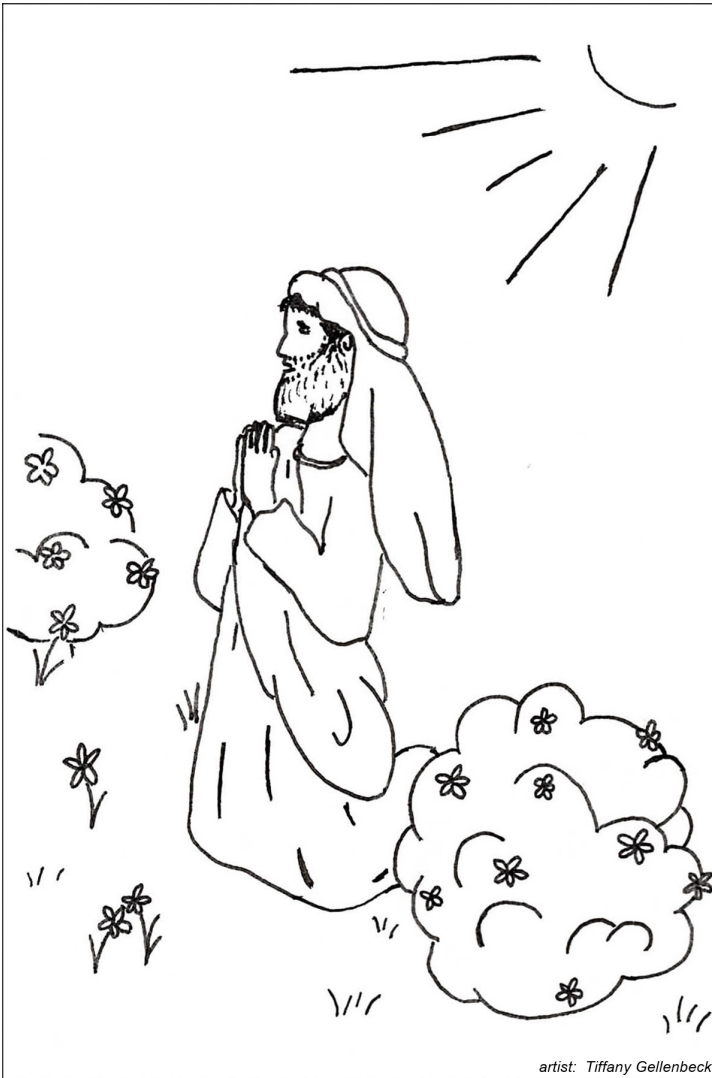
Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 6. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR SODOM

NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS, GLUE, SEPARATE PIECE OF COLORED PAPER OR CARDSTOCK

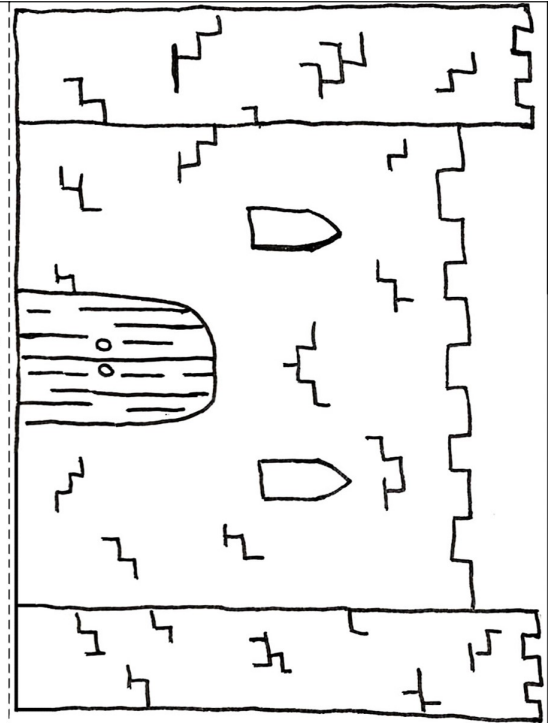
DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT ABRAHAM AND THE TWO CITIES. BE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT OFF THE FOLD AND GLUE TABS ! FOLD ABRAHAM'S TAB AND GLUE HIM TO A SEPARATE PIECE OF COLORED PAPER, LEAVING ROOM BEHIND HIM FOR THE CITIES. FOLD AND GLUE THEM BEHIND HIM TO SHOW THAT ABRAHAM PRAYED FOR SODOM AND GAMORRAH.



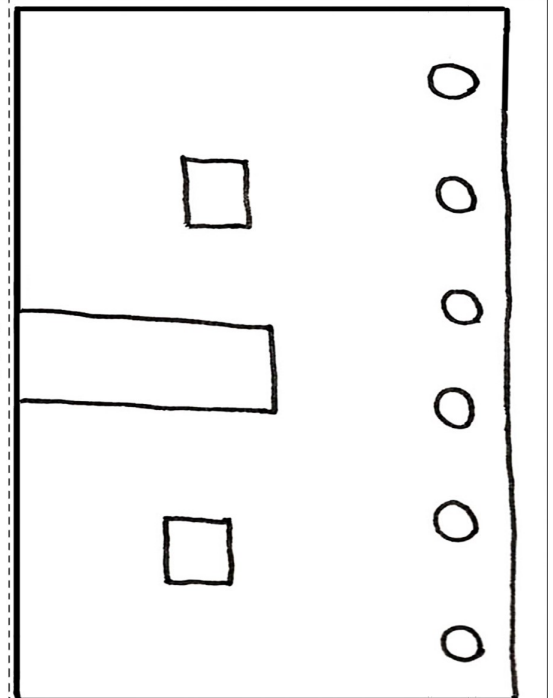
fold

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artist: Tiffany Gellenbeck



fold





The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

When Abraham's guests left, two of them headed for Sodom and Gomorrah. They were angels sent by God! When they approached the city gates, Lot, Abraham's nephew, saw them. He begged them to sleep in his home! He knew the wicked people of Sodom would hurt them if they slept on the streets. At last, they agreed to stay with Lot. He threw a feast for them, and then, before they went to bed, there was an angry knock on Lot's door!

Knock, KNOCK, knock!

A huge crowd of men had surrounded Lot's house! Lot went outside and shut the door. He tried to calm the men so they wouldn't hurt his guests, but the wicked men only became more angry! They tried to get past Lot and break down his door. Quickly the angels grabbed Lot and dragged him inside. Then, do you know what they did? The angels made all of those evil men blind so they couldn't find the door! Then they told Lot that God planned to destroy the city with fire from heaven and that he must warn his family. Some of his family laughed--they didn't believe Lot!

The next morning the angels grabbed Lot, his wife, and two daughters by the hand and ran. The angels told them to run and not look back. But, Lot's wife turned around to look back at her home anyway. Do you know what happened? She was turned into a statue of salt! It is very important to listen to God's instructions. Did you know that obeying your parents is one way to follow God's instructions? He is very happy when we obey!

Memory Verse: Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. Genesis 19:24

The Missing Box

Violet stares at her empty cookie plate. She doubted she'd be able to raise the money, but now each cookie is gone and her money box holds enough to buy blankets for people who will be homeless this winter.

As her teacher instructed, Violet covers the table with a blanket after lunch.

After the last bell rings, Violet walks back to the cafeteria. She stops so fast her shoes squeak on the floor. Everything is gone.

Violet's cheeks heat. A voice inside says, "Someone must have stolen the money!"

Violet feels anger and sadness and wonders who could have done such a thing. Then she remembers some wisdom Mr. Neil once told her. "Never jump to conclusions until you know all the facts. There are three sides to every story."

In a daze, she hears someone speaking over the intercom. Then she hears her name. "Violet Mackey, please report to the principal's office."

"What?" she says out loud. "I've never been to the principal's office before!"

Inside the office, she shifts nervously on her feet. The principal smiles and says, "Violet, you aren't in trouble."

Violet sighs in relief and sadness. "I am missing the money box from the bake sale. I went to get it and it was gone!"

"This?" the principal says with a kind smile. She pulls the box out from a drawer. "Our cafeteria cook was the last person out today and brought it to me. She said she didn't want to risk something happening. We are all proud of you. You'll have to let us know when you deliver the blankets!"

Violet holds the box tight all the way home on the school bus. She stares out the window. She is so glad she remembered Mr. Neil's words and didn't listen to the voice wanting to cast blame.

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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

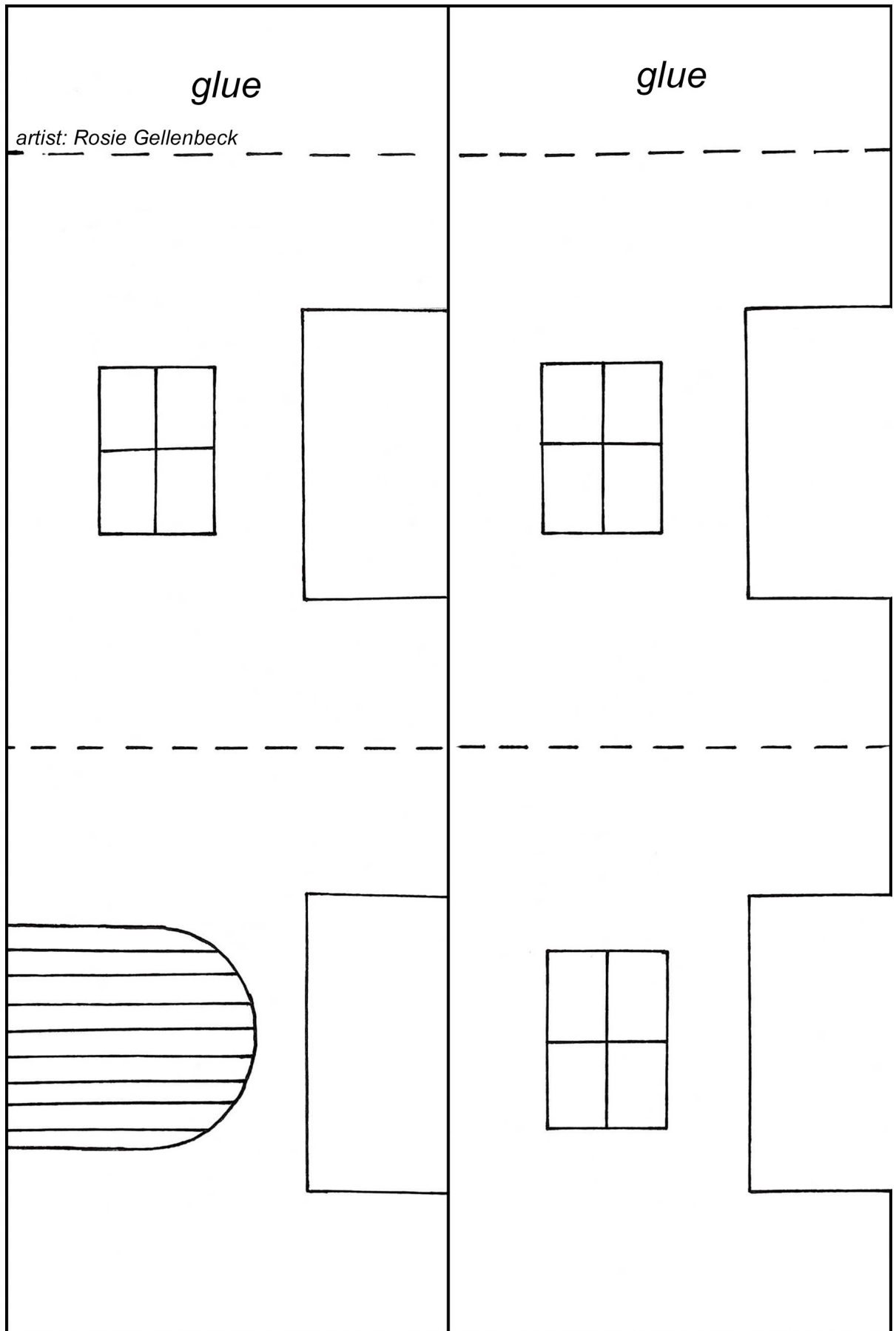
DESTRUCTION OF THE CITIES

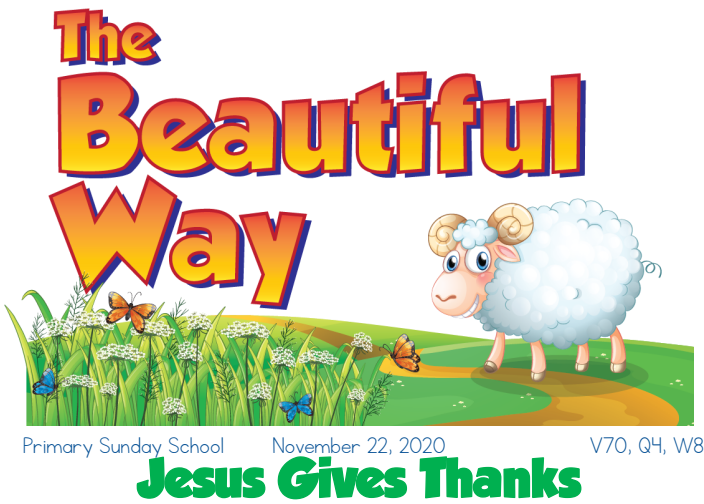
NEEDED:

CRAYONS, GLUE,
SCISSORS, RED
TISSUE PAPER

DIRECTIONS:

COLOR AND
CUT THE TWO
PIECES OF THE
CITY BELOW. BE
CAREFUL NOT
TO CUT OFF THE
FOLD AND GLUE
TABS ! FOLD
EACH HALF ON
THE DOTTED
LINES, AND
GLUE THEM
TOGETHER TO
CREATE THE 3D
SQUARE
BUILDING.
CRINKLE RED
OR ORANGE
TISSUE PAPER
AND GLUE IT TO
THE INSIDE OF
THE BUILDING.





A Blanket Delivery

Anderson, Violet and ten blankets drive to Portland. After weeks of dreaming, planning and one successful bake sale later, Violet is on her way to give ten people a blanket for the cold winter ahead.

Violet wants to walk by the banks of the Willamette River, a mighty river that flows through Oregon's valley.

She approaches an elderly woman sitting against a trash can. "Hello. My name is Violet and I want to give you this blanket so it can help you stay warm at night." She hands the lady a blanket then sits down beside her. Anderson stands a distance away, watching his young daughter with pride and wet eyes.

"Is that your dad, young lady?" the woman asks. "Yes. He drove me here," Violet states. "What's your name?"

The woman smiles, surprised at Violet's friendliness and lack of aversion. "My name is Emma. It's been a long time since someone asked me my name. And I like the blanket. Thank you."

Violet smiles and nods. She sits with the woman for a few minutes, staring at the beautiful river and listening to nature's sound. A cold wind blows and Violet shivers. "You might need that before tonight!" she says. "I better be going. Bye, Emma."

Emma watches Violet. "Bless her," she whispers.

Violet delivers the remaining blankets. She isn't afraid to speak with the strangers, many who smell and who don't look friendly. Anderson watches his daughter's interactions carefully but does not intervene. No one yells at her or tells her to go away, as they may have toward an adult.

"Out of the mouth of babes," Anderson quotes.

He tucks Violet to his side after she delivers the last blanket. He kisses her head as they walk back to the truck. Violet falls asleep, smiling, on the way home.

Jesus had a thankful heart. He got tired, was hungry sometimes, and suffered many things. Do you remember Him complaining in any of your Bible stories? He never did!

He gave thanks for His food! When Jesus fed the five thousand, He broke the bread and gave thanks to His Heavenly Father for providing a meal for the hungry people. Do you thank God for your food before you eat it?

When Jesus' dear friend, Lazarus, died, He went to his tomb and called him back from the dead. Lazarus came out of the grave! Jesus prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to God, saying, "Thank you for hearing me. I know you are always listening." God hears your prayers every time!

Even when Jesus was sad, He gave thanks to God. He knew that not everyone would accept the gift of salvation, but if you read Matthew 11:25, you will see that Jesus thanked God for the ones who *would* believe and be saved!

There are many things we have that we should thank God for, and many ways we can thank Him! Take Jesus' example and pray often, telling God how much you appreciate His blessings in your life.

Memory Verse:

In every thing give thanks: for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus
concerning you. | Thessalonians 5:18

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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck





Primary Sunday School

November 29, 2020

V70, Q4, W9

Ishmael and Isaac

After years of waiting, God finally gave Abraham the son He had promised! How happy Abraham and Sarah must have been! The baby boy was named Isaac, which means “laughter.” Do you remember how Sarah laughed when she heard the men tell Abraham that she would have a baby? That is probably why the baby was named Isaac.

When Isaac was weaned, his father threw a feast to celebrate. A feast was kind of like a party with lots of food. At the party, Isaac’s brother, Ishmael, was making fun of him. Do you remember Ishmael? He was the son of Sarah’s servant, Hagar. When Ishmael made fun of Sarah’s little boy, Isaac, it made her angry. So, she went to Abraham and told him to send Hagar and Ishmael away! This made Abraham sad because he loved both of his sons. But God told Abraham not to worry, and to do what Sarah wanted him to. God had plans to make a great nation of Ishmael because he was Abraham’s son.

Abraham gave Hagar and Ishmael bread and water before sending them away. They wandered in the desert until they ran out of water. Hagar was sure they were going to die. She laid her thirsty son under a bush and cried. Then, God spoke to her! He promised Ishmael would be a great nation. After the wonderful promise, God showed her a nearby well. Here she was able to fill her bottle with water - they wouldn’t die after all!

Memory Verse:

And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. Genesis 21:3

Big Feelings

Jack swings his legs from the hayloft. The biting November wind stings his cheeks. He pulls his wool cap over his head.

Sometimes he likes to get away, all by himself. He thinks about his life and wonders who he will be when he’s all grown up like his dad.

Then he thinks of his biological parents and their death, and the way Anderson and Katherine eventually adopted him into their family.

Why did he lose his parents and Violet didn’t? He talks with Anderson and Katherine about it sometimes. He’s grateful for their love. They listen to him and don’t tell him how he’s supposed to feel.

But sometimes he just needs time away. He talks to Jesus. He tells Him, “Why does it hurt so much sometimes? Why do bad things happen?”

Anderson often tells him that the devil is trying to be king of the world before Jesus comes back. The devil wants to trick people into following him, and often he hurts people to do it. “Adam and Eve’s sin opened the door for the devil to have a lot of power right now,” Anderson says. “God does not create any evil or any bad.”

“The Bible says it is not possible. God wants every person to choose God because they want to, not because they are forced to. It’s easy to blame God when our hearts hurt. We forget we are fighting a powerful devil who wants us to choose him and reject God. Thankfully, God is more powerful. If we allow Him, He will turn our broken hearts and hurt around and help us conquer the devil.”

“God never promised to take away the bad things in this world, but He promises to help us through. He promises to help us fight and grow strong.”

The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 9. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL

NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS, STAPLER

DIRECTIONS: COLOR THE PAGES OF THE BOOK, AND THEN CUT THEM OUT. STAPLE THEM IN ORDER AND READ THE STORY OF HAGAR AND ISHMAEL IN THE DESERT !

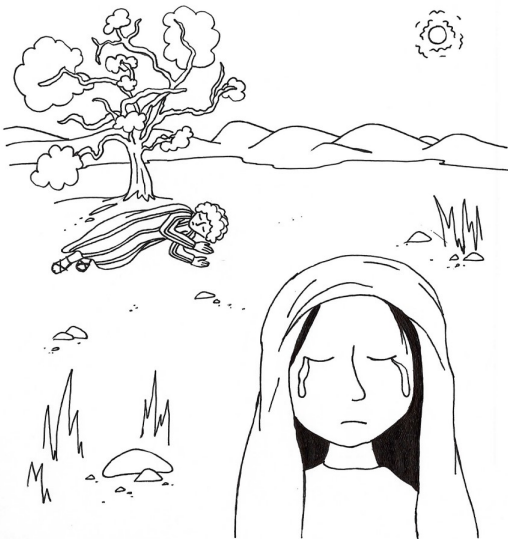
Abraham gave Hagar bread and water and sent her and Ishmael into the desert.



Soon, the water and bread ran out and they were hungry and thirsty.

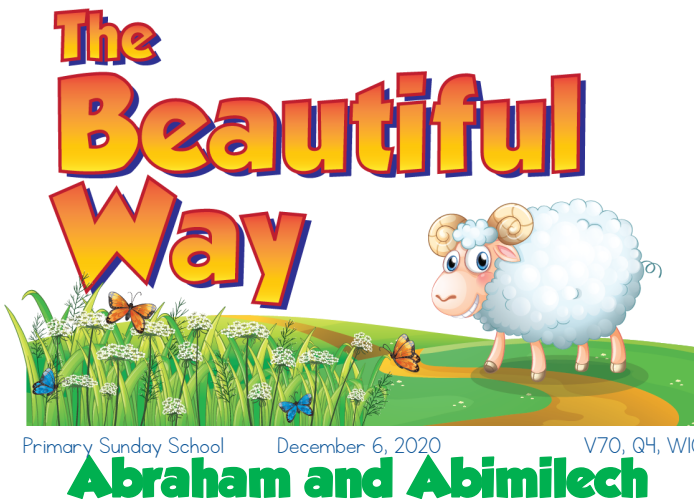


Hagar cast her son under a bush and cried, for she knew they would die.



The Lord showed Hagar a well of water, and promised that the children of Ishmael would become a great nation.





After Abraham sent away Hagar and Ishmael, he had some visitors. The king of the Philistines and the chief captain of his army came to see him. They knew that Abraham's God was powerful and that God was always with Abraham. They wanted to make sure they were Abraham's friends so that his powerful God wouldn't destroy them like He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah! So, they came to Abraham and asked him to promise that he would be their friend. They didn't want to be his enemies! They knew that if Abraham had war with them, his God would destroy them.

Abraham agreed to be their friends, but he had one problem. Abimelech's servants had stolen one of his wells of water! He told Abimelech this, and Abimelech told him he was sorry. He didn't know this had happened! He gladly gave the well back, and they made a covenant, or a promise, with each other. They promised to be kind to each other and their people.

Did you know God is happy when we obey Him and the adults in our lives? Abraham obeyed and loved God, and people could tell God was in his life. God can be in your life too! It starts with Jesus in your heart. He helps us obey and be kind to those around us. Then, when He is in our hearts, He can fill our lives with joy and good things - just like He blessed Abraham!

Memory Verse:

And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Phichol the chief captain of his host spake unto Abraham saying, God is with thee in all that thou doest.

Genesis 21:22

A Tree Planting

Anderson pats dirt around the sapling. He stands, wipes his hands and steps forward. "Thank you for being here today. This tree is planted in memory of Mr. Neil. Many of you know him as a man who wandered our town for many years. He slept outside, and most of us walked on the other side when we saw him coming."

"A few years ago I reached out to Mr. Neil. He worked beside me on odd jobs at our farm. He'd enjoy dinner with us. This became a regular occurrence, and he bonded with Jack and Violet."

"Mr. Neil taught us valuable lessons. He showed us that we can, and should, be friends with people who look or act differently than we. His presence in our town asked the question, "Am I just as important?"

"God has good plans for us and wants us to follow His teachings and His voice. This includes showing His love by being friends to others. I thought I was being a friend to Neil, but he was being a friend to me. He touched my life forever," Anderson says to a small crowd and then sits down.

Violet squeezes Jack's hand. She thinks the young tree is the nicest looking sapling she's ever seen. "Mr. Neil would approve!" she whispers to Jack. He nods, thinking about life being like the ripples from a rock thrown in the water.

"Our life impacts our family, friends, even people we don't know," he thinks. "I wonder what God has planned for me?"

"Violet, do you ever wonder who God might send into your life? I'm sure glad He sent Mr. Neil. And I'm going to pray for God to speak to me like he did Dad about Mr. Neil. I don't want to ignore His plan!"

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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

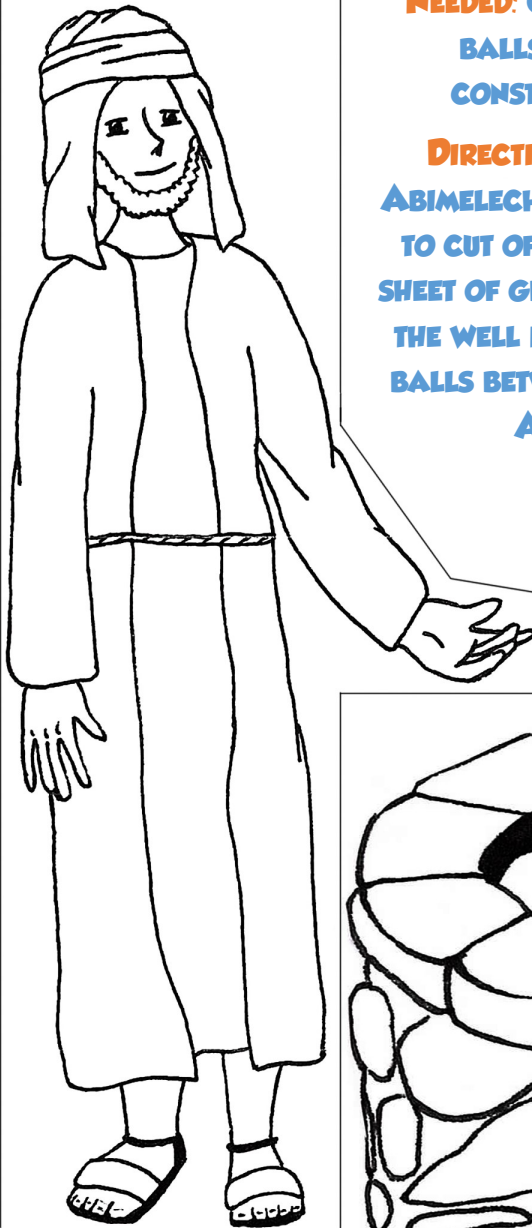
ABRAHAM AND ABIMELECH

NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS, GLUE, COTTON BALLS, SEPARATE PIECE OF COLORED CONSTRUCTION OR CARDSTOCK PAPER

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT ABRAHAM, ABIMELECH, AND THE WELL BEING CAREFUL NOT TO CUT OFF THE FOLD AND GLUE TABS ! ON A SHEET OF GREEN PAPER, GLUE THE TWO MEN AND THE WELL IN PLACE, THEN GLUE SEVEN COTTON BALLS BETWEEN THEM TO REPRESENT THE SHEEP ABRAHAM GAVE AS A GIFT.

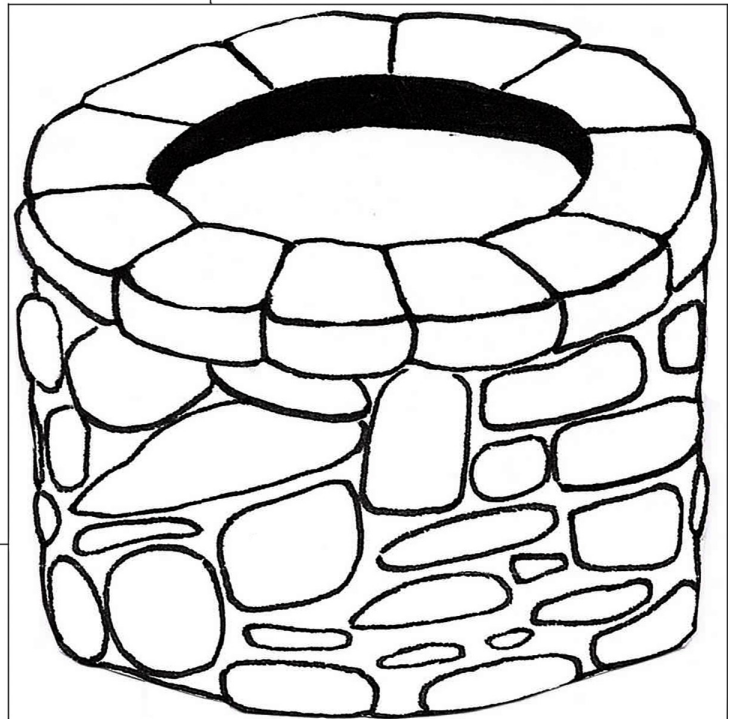


fold



fold

artwork: Emily Doolittle



fold



Years flew by in those far-off desert lands as Isaac grew into a man. God knew how much Abraham loved his son, so He decided to test Abraham. He wanted to see if Abraham still loved Him more than he loved his son. God told Abraham to take his son to a mountain in the land of Moriah and offer Isaac for a burnt sacrifice! Abraham was supposed to kill his only son, whom he loved so much, and burn him as a gift, or offering, to God. In those days people would kill animals and burn them when they would pray to God. Sometimes to tell God “sorry” or to make a promise or to tell God “thank you.”

Abraham was probably very sad when God told him to do this, but he loved God! He knew he must obey. So, he didn’t waste any time or even try to talk God out of it! Early the next morning Abraham headed for the land of Moriah with Isaac and a few servants. They travelled for three days, and Abraham still never turned back. He was going to obey God no matter how hard it was! On the third day he saw the mountain in the distance. He told his servants to camp there while he took Isaac with him to the mountain.

Isaac was used to making sacrifices, but this time was different. Where was the animal? He asked his father, and Abraham told him that God would provide. When they got to the place of sacrifice, they made an altar with sticks. Then Abraham tied Isaac’s hands and feet and laid him on the altar! But, as Abraham raised his knife to kill Isaac, an angel called to him!

Memory Verse:

And [God] said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest... and offer him there for a burnt offering.

Genesis 22:2

“Abraham, Abraham! Do not kill your son. Now I know that you love and obey God!”

Abraham stopped and listened to the angel. It was only a test! God wasn’t going to make him kill his son after all. God made a ram, a boy mountain goat, to get stuck in some bushes. They caught the ram and sacrificed it to God instead!

Obedience

“How will you teach the twins to stop at crosswalks and not run out in the road?” Violet asks as her mother Katherine pushes the twins across the street.

They enter the grocery store. Katherine answers, “If obedient children hear their parent say, ‘stop!’ they stop before they know why and wait for direction.

“It takes practice, but parents must start teaching obedience at home if they expect their child to obey in public. God gave parents the job of raising His little children. He wants us to teach them His ways, which includes obedience.”

Violet asks to push the stroller. Her eyes barely poke over the tall stroller handles. She proudly pushes her siblings through the store as her mother places some items in a cart.

She thinks about obedience. “God must want us to obey our parents so we can obey Him when He asks us something,” she says out loud.

“That’s correct,” her mother says with a smile. “As your mom, I also am called to obey God. Do you think God would be pleased if I ignored His voice but constantly yelled at you for not listening to mine?”

Violet slowly shakes her head. “So you still have to obey?” she says. Her mom laughs and squeezes her shoulder.

“Yes, even grown-ups must obey. God knows much more than adults, and we must listen and obey God our entire life.”

Violet sings songs to the twin babies during the ride home. They gurgle and laugh. Katherine prays as she drives. She prays for all her children, and asks for the wisdom to love and teach them as God desires.

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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 11. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

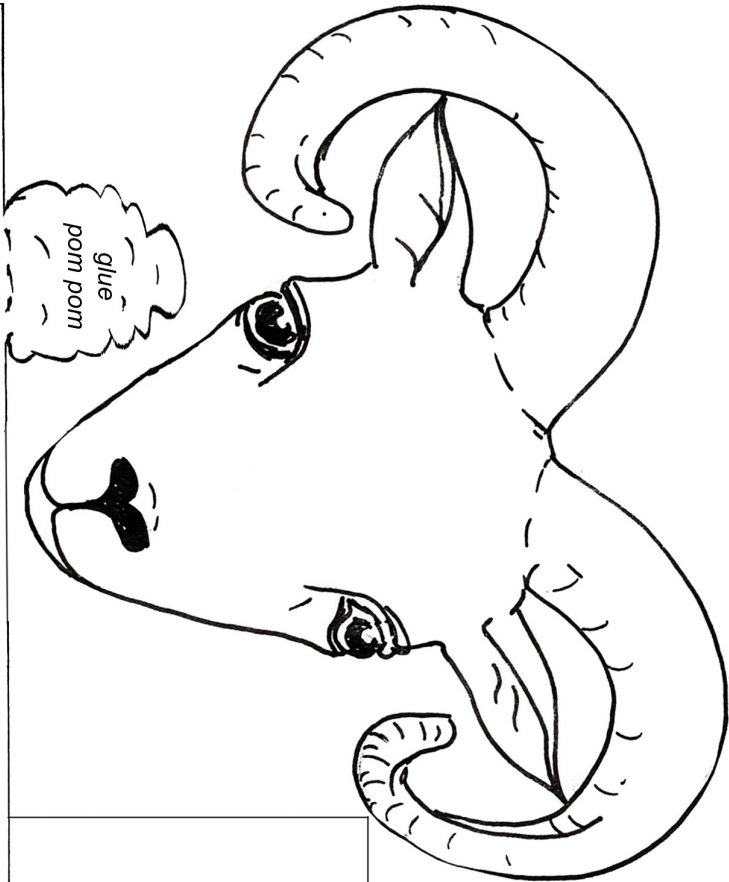
GOD PROVIDES AN OFFERING

NEEDED: SCISSORS, CRAYONS, GLUE, POM POMS OR COTTON BALLS,

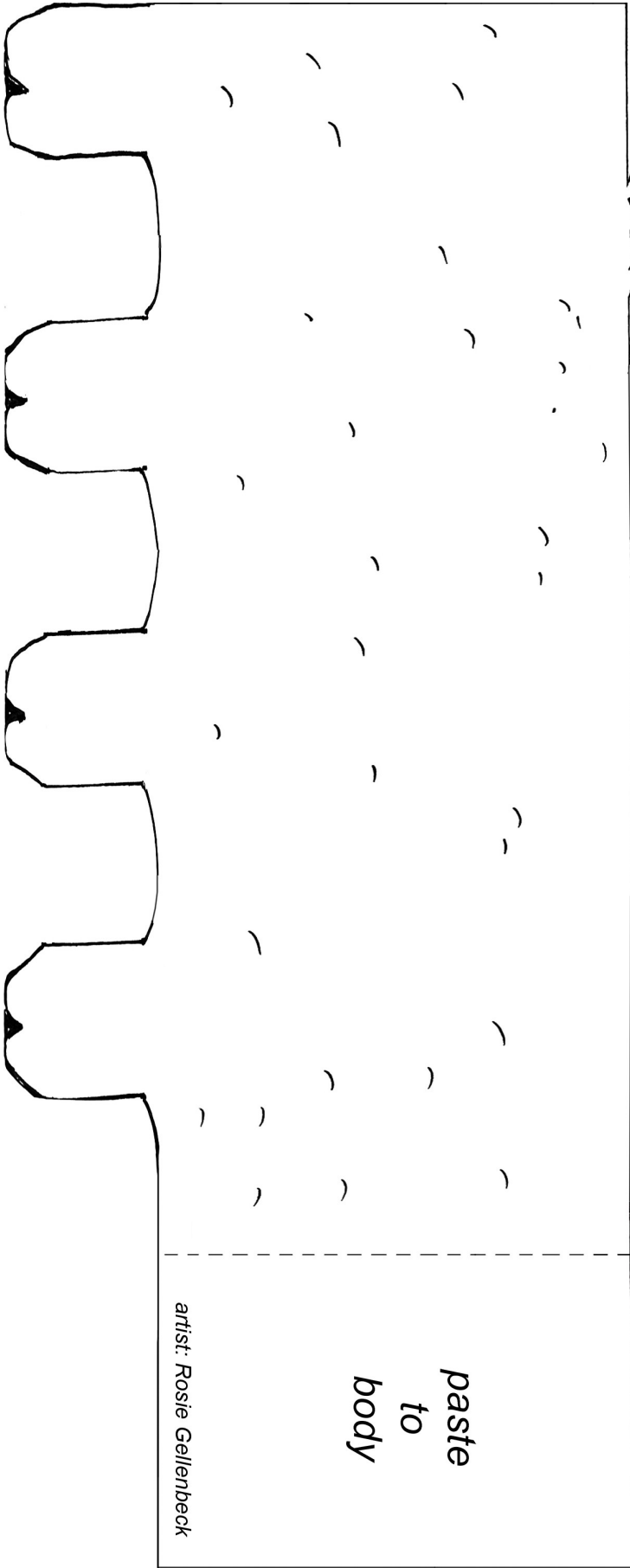
GOOGLY EYES (OPTIONAL)

DIRECTIONS: COLOR THE BODY OF THE RAM BROWN, AND THEN CUT OUT THE TEMPLATE, BEING CAREFUL NOT TO CUT THE HEAD AND TAIL TABS OFF ! COLOR AND CUT THE RAM'S HEAD AS WELL. PASTE THE

BODY TOGETHER, CREATING A CYLINDER. PASTE THE RAM'S HEAD TO THE HEAD TAB. CUT A BROWN PIPE CLEANER IN HALF AND CURL IT INTO THE SHAPE OF RAM'S HORNS AND GLUE OR TAPE THEM TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD. GLUE A BROWN POM POM TO THE TAIL TAB AND TWO GOOGLY EYES ONTO THE FACE.



*paste
head*



*paste
to
body*

artist: Rosie Gellenbeck



Years ago, not long before Jesus was born, there was a priest named Zacharias. He and his wife, Elisabeth, were old with no children of their own - just like Abraham and Sarah! One day, Zacharias went into the temple by himself to burn incense, something that smelled good. While he was doing so, he met an angel. He was so scared!

The angel told him not to be afraid, because his prayer had been answered! His wife was going to have a son and his name would be John. Just like Abraham, Zacharias doubted. They were very old. How would he know that this was true? Because of his doubt, the angel told him he wouldn't be able to speak until his son was born!

There were people waiting for Zacharias when he finally came out of the temple and they wondered why he took so long. But he wasn't able to speak! He made motions with his arms trying to tell them what happened, and they thought he must have seen a vision from God.

The angel's words came true and Elisabeth had a son. In those days, the first son was named after the father. So when Elisabeth said his name would be John, everyone was so surprised! They went to Zacharias; surely he wouldn't agree with this name. But he wrote on a stone that the baby's name would be John. Immediately, his voice came back and Zacharias rejoiced!

Memory Verse: But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. Luke 1:13

A Christmas Story

A light dusting of snow covers the ground. Tiny snowflakes sit on top of Violet's hair and red coat. She sticks out her tongue and tries to catch one falling through the air.

Jack pretends to not be interested. But he secretly would like to catch a snowflake on his tongue, too.

He glances around, makes sure no one is watching, then sticks out his tongue into the cold air.

"I got one!" he whoops. He forgets that he's trying to catch a snowflake without Violet knowing.

His cheeks turn red, but he decides he's still young enough to enjoy life's simple joys.

As if reading his mind, his father, Anderson, chuckles and says, "We are never too old to enjoy catching snowflakes," and sticks out his tongue. Carrie Ann and Carter giggle, trying to imitate their father and siblings.

"What are you all laughing about?" Katherine says with a grin as she walks up to her family, holding an insulated bottle of hot chocolate.

Jack and Violet clamor to tell her. She listens as she pours steaming mugs of hot chocolate.

The Mackey family sip their hot chocolate and watch as townspeople trickle in to the square. Tonight the town of Timber Springs is gathering to sing Christmas carols.

Joyful laughter rings through the cold mountain air. Children waddle around, dressed warmly and looking like toddling snowballs in their warm layers.

Jack's heart swells. He knows what it is like to be sad and lonely at Christmas, and he also knows how it feels to be loved and at peace during this special season. He says a silent prayer for all the people who have hurting hearts right now.

The singing is about to start.

The Mackeys take their place beside their friends, the Aldana's. Someone calls out, "Let's start with 'The First Noel.'"

As the townspeople sing the hauntingly beautiful old carol, Violet closes her eyes and just listens. It's like the words are swirling up the mountain, all the way up to heaven. She feels the love of Jesus shining on her town. "Thank you," she breathes. "Thank you for loving us so much that you came to save us."

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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

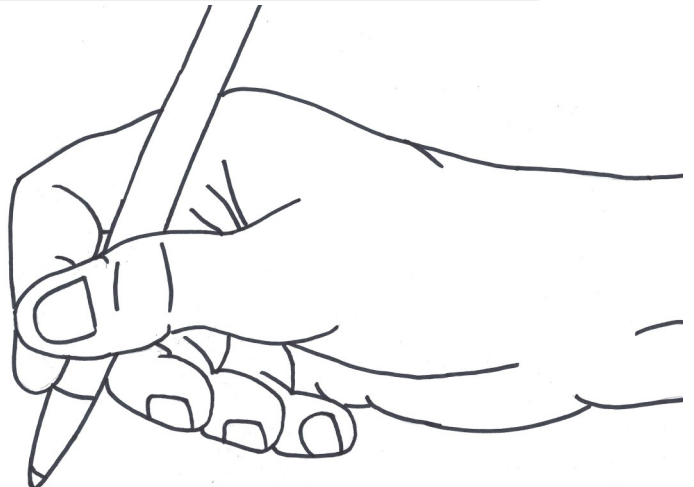
ZACHARIAS CAN SPEAK !

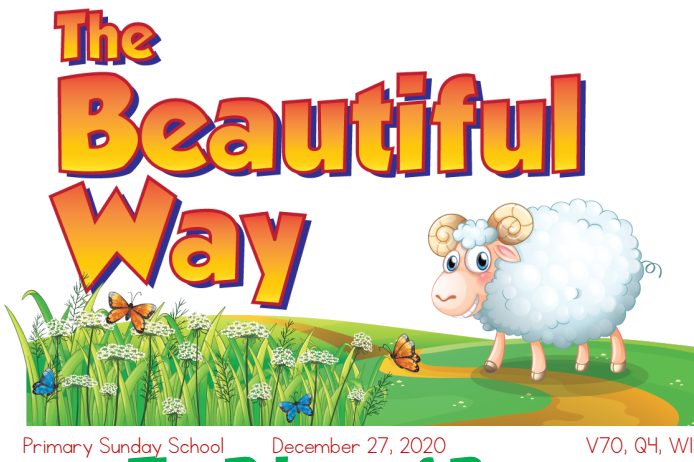
NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS, GLUE, YARN

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT THE SLATE AND WRITE ZACHARIAS AND ELISABETH'S SON'S NAME IN THE BLANK SPACE. COLOR AND CUT OUT ZACHARIAS' HAND AND GLUE IT TO THE SLATE AS IF HE HAS JUST WRITTEN HIS SONS NAME ! PUNCH HOLES WHERE INDICATED AND TIE A PIECE OF YARN THROUGH THEM.



His name is





The Prince of Peace

Mary was a young woman who lived in a city called Nazareth. One day, God sent an angel, Gabriel, to tell her something that would change the world.

Mary was scared to see an angel talking to her, but Gabriel told her, "Fear not, God is pleased with you. He will perform a miracle, and you will have a baby! This child will be a boy, and you will call him Jesus. He is the Son of the Highest, the Son of God. He will reign over a kingdom that never ends."

As Jesus' birth drew closer, the governor of Rome ordered every family to travel to their birthplace and pay a tax. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, and they traveled together to Bethlehem.

They spent the night in a stable with animals. There, Mary delivered Jesus, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and placed him in the manger.

The little baby, born in a lowly stable to lowly parents, grew up to preach the Word of God. He loved every person, no matter who they were or what they had done.

Jesus gave sight to the blind, second chances to the sinner, and hope to the hopeless.

He loved all of us so much that He sacrificed himself to die for our sins. Because of His love, we can have His spirit living inside of us while we live. When we die, we will go to Heaven and be able to see Him and live with Him forever.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Memory Verse:

For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Saviour, which is Christ the
Lord. Luke 2:11

A Christmas Visitor

"Mama, why do you include an extra place setting at Christmas time?" Violet asks as she helps set the table.

"Violet, it's something my grandmother shared with my mother, and now I pass it down to you. It's a tradition. It's a way we remember those who don't have a place to stay this winter.

It's a way we remember those who are hungry tonight, those who can't be with their family because they are separated or in prison or detained.

It's a way we remember the people who don't have laughter and love at their home.

It's our reminder to go out in the hedges and highways and look for people we can help.

My grandmother went into her village every night during the week of Christmas and looked for someone to invite to her table."

Violet remembers Emma, the woman she met by the river in Portland. She wonders if her blanket keeps her warm. She wonders if she even has a warm place to stay tonight.

"That woman, Emma, at the river. I gave her a blanket. I wonder if she is alone and hungry tonight." Violet covers her mouth with her hand, trying to cover a sob.

"Oh, Vi," Katherine says. She picks up her daughter and hugs her tight. Just then Anderson and Jack walk in from the chores. Katherine says, "Let me speak with your father about this."

Anderson listens then says, "We will have a late dinner tonight. Violet and I will drive to Portland and look for Emma."

Violet prays on the way to the city that she can find Emma.

She can't believe her eyes when Anderson pulls up to the river. There is Emma, sitting on the park bench.

Violet jumps out of the truck, running to Emma and saying, "Emma! It's me, Violet. Do you remember me? I wanted to come and find you. I want you to come home with us tonight. We have a hot dinner ready and you can sleep in my room and I'll sleep in the living room. Please say yes!"

Emma stares in surprise. She remembers Violet. She walks toward the little dark-haired girl who holds out her hand like a tiny angel. Suddenly, her body doesn't feel so cold as her heart warms in love and surprise.

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Contributors: Sister MaKayla Kelly, Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 4, Week 13. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

