

SPRINGFIELD STORY TIME

OUR STORY TODAY IS ALL ABOUT GOD PROMISING SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE BUT AMAZING. WHILE READING TODAY'S STORY TAKE A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT STARS YOU CAN DRAW AND LISTEN OUT FOR A PROMISE USING STARS!

A MAN BY THE NAME OF ABRAM WAS LIVING IN THE CITY OF HARAN WHEN GOD TOLD HIM TO PACK UP HIS FAMILY AND HIS BELONGINGS AND MOVE TO THE LAND OF CANAAN. ABRAM WAS 75 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME! AS HARD AS IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR ABRAM TO LEAVE BEHIND 75 YEARS' WORTH OF MEMORIES, HE TRUSTED GOD AND HE OBEYED. ABRAM PACKED UP HIS FAMILY, HIS WIFE SARAI AND COUSIN LOT, AND ALL THEIR BELONGINGS, AND THEY SET OUT FOR THE LAND OF CANAAN JUST LIKE GOD HAD TOLD HIM.

GOD MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT ABRAM NEEDED SOME ENCOURAGEMENT AS HE SET OUT BECAUSE GOD ALSO GAVE HIM THIS PROMISE...

"I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING. I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU; AND ALL PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU."

WOW! WHAT A PROMISE! GOD TOLD ABRAM THAT HE WOULD MAKE HIS FAMILY SO BIG THAT THEY WOULD BE THEIR OWN NATION! GOD ALSO SAID THAT THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BE BLESSED BECAUSE OF ABRAM'S FAMILY. THIS PROMISE IS SO IMPOSSIBLE AS ABRAM WAS 75 AT THE TIME AND HE AND HIS WIFE SARAI DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN. ABRAM MIGHT NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD EXACTLY HOW GOD WAS GOING TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE, BUT HE KNEW THAT HE COULD TRUST GOD'S PLAN.

ABRAM AND HIS FAMILY ARRIVED IN THE LAND OF CANAAN WHERE GOD HAD TOLD HIM TO GO. WHEN THEY ARRIVED ABRAM BUILT AN ALTAR, WHICH IS A TOWER, TO THE LORD AND WORSHIPPED HIM THERE. THEN GOD SAID *"LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK NORTH AND SOUTH, EAST AND WEST. ALL THE LAND THAT YOU SEE I WILL GIVE TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FOREVER. I WILL GIVE YOU MORE CHILDREN THEN ALL THE STARS IN THE SKY! MORE THAN ANYONE COULD EVER COUNT"*

ABRAM TRIED TO COUNT THE STARS THAT NIGHT BEFORE FALLING ASLEEP, AMAZED BY GOD'S PROMISES. LATER ON THREE MEN CAME TO SEE THEM AND CHATTED WITH SARAI SAYING THIS TIME NEXT YEAR YOU WILL HAVE A BABY, SARAI LAUGHED OUT LOUD! "I'M 90 YEARS OLD!". ABRAM REALISED THAT THESE THREE VISITORS WERE ANGELS, AMAZING. GOD THEN SPOKE TO ALL OF THEM, RENAMING ABRAM AND SARAI TO ABRAHAM (MEANING FATHER OF MANY) AND SARAH (MEANING PRINCESS).

A YEAR LATER AND SARAH HAD A BABY CALLED ISAAC! (MEANING LAUGHTER AS SARAH LAUGHED WHEN SHE WAS FIRST TOLD). ABRAHAM REALISED THAT WHEN GOD MAKES A PROMISE, NOT MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT MAY SEEM, HE WILL ALWAYS KEEP IT! ABRAHAM WAS 99 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME THAT ISAAC APPEARED! AND IF GOD CAN GIVE A 99 YEAR OLD MAN A SON THEN HE CAN SURELY MAKE HIS FAMILY AS MANY AS THE STARS! AND HE DID, BUT WE'LL FIND OUT MORE LATER ON ABOUT THAT!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO PRAY YOU CAN USE THIS PRAYER

THANK YOU GOD, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR LOVE AND PROMISES. HELP US BE LIKE ABRAHAM AND DO WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ASKED STRAIGHT AWAY. THANK YOU THAT YOU ALWAYS KEEP YOUR PROMISES!

IN JESUS NAME, Amen