

# God Calls Abraham



This story happened in a place that today we call Middle East. This is the story of Abraham and his wife Sara with God.

*Abraham and his people were nomads: they didn't live in a stable house but in tents. Have any of you ever slept in a tent?*



God has a plan on Abraham. It is a marvelous plan because when God does something for the men he wants the best for them. Abraham and Sara love each other. Abraham is wealthy, he has got a big flock and there are many people with him to help.



But Abraham would feel really happy if he had a child. In fact Sara and him don't have children and for this reason they are sad sometimes. God knows this.



One day God says to Abraham: "Go away from your land! I chose another place for you. I will show you the land where you will have to go and I will take care of you! You will be the father of a big people. I will bless you and by means of you I will bless all the peoples of the world." Abraham trusts in what God say to him and he is ready to leave his house, his country, his relatives and his friends.

*Abraham heard the voice of God. How can we hear the voice of god as well? We can hear it in our heart. Maybe you too, hear the voice of god, don't you?*



After having prepared everything for the trip, Abraham and Sara say goodbye to relatives, neighbors and everyone. And they leave. The shepherds with all the flock leave together with them.



Abraham lets himself be guided by God and keeps on traveling. He waits for God to tell Him: "Stop here Abraham, you reached the Promised Land."

*When you leave for the vacation also you say goodbye to you friend, right? But here they leave forever... What do you see it happens in the image?*



The trip is long. When they find a suitable place to graze the flock they pitch the tents and after some days they continue the trip... Many days pass and they have already done a long way. They arrive in a land where people speak another language. God say to Abraham: "Here it is the land I promised to you. This land is for you and for your family." Abraham is happy. God have done what he promised.

*Have you ever met people who speak another language?*



Abraham says: "Let's unload everything! We are arrived! We will live here!" They pitch the tents. Everyone knows it: "We have reached the country that God gave us!"



It is a very beautiful land, with mountain, grasses and flowers. It is a good pasture for the sheep, the cows, the camels and the goats.



Abraham builds an altar with big stones to thank God. He lights a fire and the smoke goes up to the sky. Abraham thanks God for all He gave him.



Before Abraham left, God makes a promise to him: "You will be the father of a big people..." So now, here again the voice of God: "Abraham, here I am. Do not fear, I protect you as a shield. Your reward will be very big."



"My Lord – Abraham replies – what ever could you give me, as I am already old and I do not have children?" God leads Abraham to the open sky: "Look at the sky, count the stars, if you can. Your descendants will be the same, big and numerous." Abraham trusts in what God said. God will think about it and everything will be good.



It is noon and it is very hot. Abraham is seated in front of his tent and Sara is inside. Three men come – they are messengers from God. Abraham runs toward them and says: "Sit here, so that you rest a little. We will give you beverage and food!"



The three men agree. Abraham calls Sara and says to her: "We have guests. Go and knead some bread for them!" He chooses a tender and good calf for them by himself and he gives it to the servant to be prepared. While his guests eat and drink, Abraham is seated close to them. One of them asks him: "Where is Sara, your wife?" Abraham replies: "She is there in the tent."



"Abraham, - the man continues – when I come back here next year, your wife Sara will have a child!" but Abraham and Sara are already very old, it seems impossible that they can have children.



Sara is close to the entrance of the tent. She hears what the men say to Abraham and she laughs, thinking: "How can I have a child at my age?" But the man asks:



"Why Sara is laughing? Because she thinks she is too old to have a baby? Nothing is impossible to God." And he repeats: "Next year Sara will have a baby."



Yes, God maintains his promises. In fact after about one year Sara gives birth to a baby as God had promised. They call him Isaac that means: "the one who laugh." "God gave me the joy to laugh – Sara says – whoever knows it, he will rejoice with me."

Abraham and Sara are now happy. Abraham has become father and Sara mother of a baby. They love each other and together they love very much their child Isaac. They trust in God and God maintains His promise. And from the descendants of Abraham is born a people: the people of Israel, from which then Jesus, our savior, came.



*Amato. Amate  
sempre. Alla fine  
di ogni giorno  
fate dire: Ho cen-  
ato amato. Chissà*



