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A Family Tree of God's Love

Key References: Genesis 11:10-12:9; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 11, pp. 125-131; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 133-137; 142-147; Our Beliefs, nos. 23, 14, 11.















powertext

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him" (Genesis 18:19, NIV).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

powerpoint

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

Has anyone ever said to you, "You look just like . . . ?" Have you ever thought that it is more than looks that get passed on from one generation to the next? Faith and family customs are also passed on from one generation to the next.

A family reunion suddenly comes alive when the great-aunts drag out the tattered pictures from many years ago. You find that you look amazingly like Grandma when she was your age. Sometimes those photographs are all we have to connect us to our ancestors. Many times we don't know their stories or even their complete names. But even if we don't know much about our forefathers, some of their traits still live on in us.

While ancestors may not seem particularly important to some people today, that was not the case in Old Testament times. The family was the most important part of society. We can see that in the long genealogies the Bible records in several places, including Genesis 11. Each father and son is carefully noted and remembered. What is important is that we can see traits that were passed down from parents to children.

Thanks to a careful record of genealogy, Abraham knew his ancestry all the way back to Adam. His line traced backward through Shem, Noah, Methusaleh, Enoch, and Seth, the son of Adam.

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Sunday

READ Read Genesis 11:10-26 and this week's story, "A Family Tree of God's Love."

WRITE Write out the power text on a tree shape. Put it where you can see it regularly so you may learn it.

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Pray for your immediate family.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 11:27-32.

CREATE Create a family tree going back as far as possible. Who are the people on your family tree?

DRAW Draw a Bible beside anyone on your family tree that you know is a Christian.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for your wider family: cousins, aunts, uncles.

Tuesday

READ Read Genesis 12:1-5.

DISCOVER What did Abraham have to do to receive God's promised blessing?

LIST God may not ask you to move physically, but there may be things that He wants you to move away from. In your Bible study journal*, list things from which you need to move away in order to remain close to God.

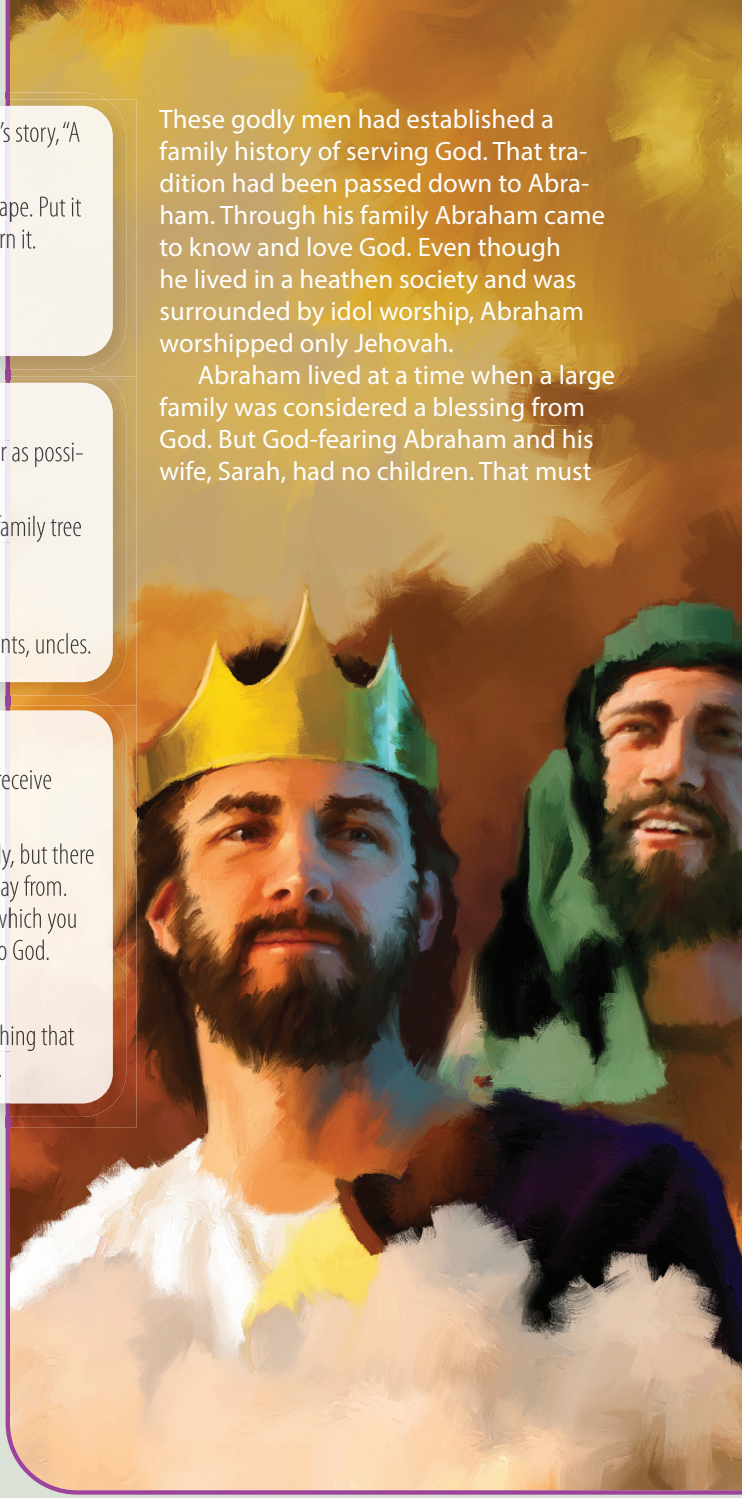
REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to remove from your life anything that represents an obstacle between you and Him.

*NOTE: Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your *PowerPoints* Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a special file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas every time you study the Bible helps you gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.

These godly men had established a family history of serving God. That tradition had been passed down to Abraham. Through his family Abraham came to know and love God. Even though he lived in a heathen society and was surrounded by idol worship, Abraham worshipped only Jehovah.

Abraham lived at a time when a large family was considered a blessing from God. But God-fearing Abraham and his wife, Sarah, had no children. That must

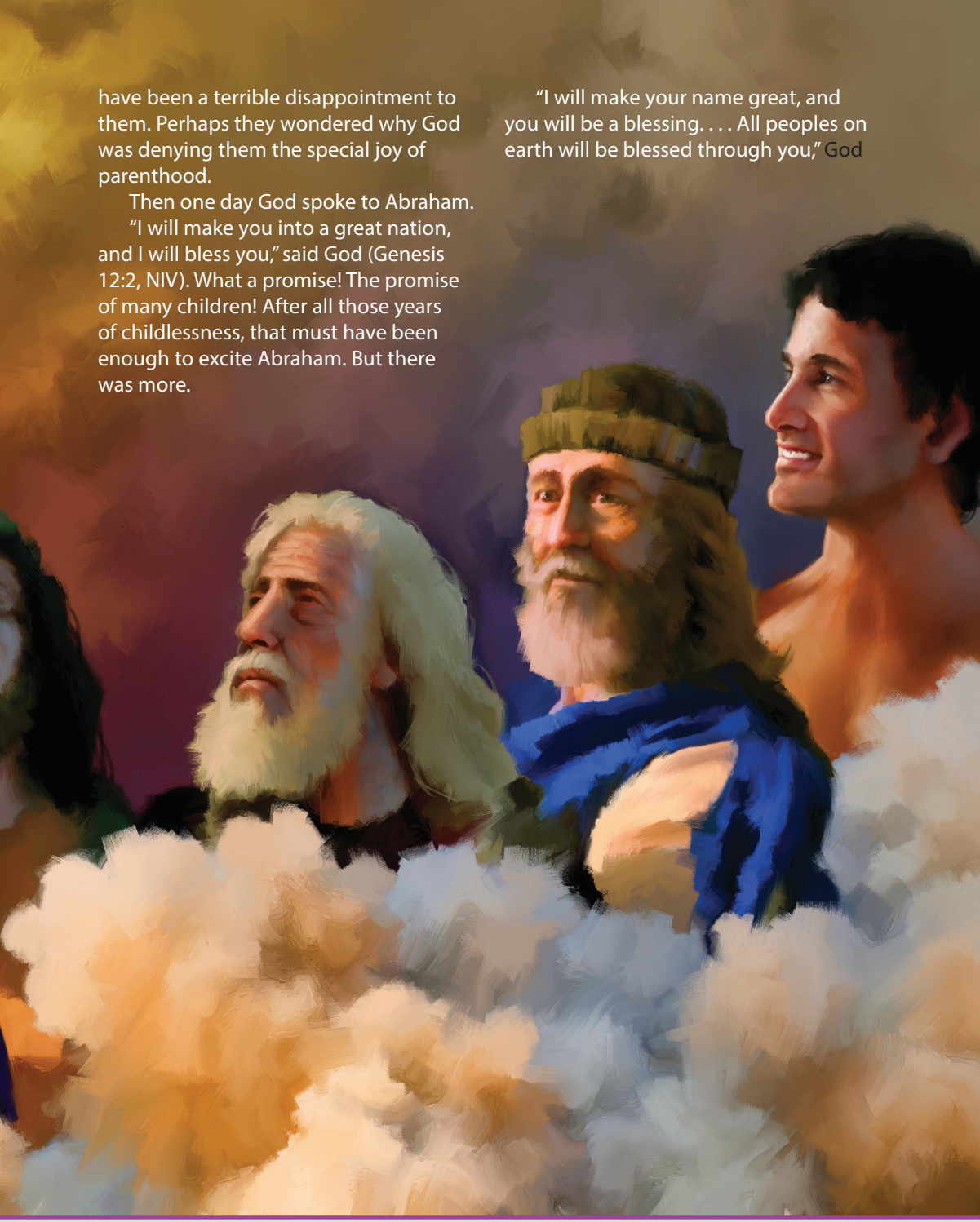


have been a terrible disappointment to them. Perhaps they wondered why God was denying them the special joy of parenthood.

Then one day God spoke to Abraham.

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you," said God (Genesis 12:2, NIV). What a promise! The promise of many children! After all those years of childlessness, that must have been enough to excite Abraham. But there was more.

"I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. . . . All peoples on earth will be blessed through you," God



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Wednesday

READ Read Genesis 12:6-9.

INTERVIEW Ask someone who has moved to share their experiences. How is Abraham's move because of God's call different from other reasons people have for moving?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for missionaries who moved to foreign lands.

Thursday

READ Read Ruth 1:16.

THINK What was Ruth's reason for moving?

DO Help those who are moving to your neighborhood.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for people who are settling into a new area.

Friday

READ Read Romans 12:4, 5.

WRITE Write a letter or e-mail to some member of your family to let them know how much they mean to you.

SHARE At worship, ask each member of your family to share how they have experienced God's blessings.

REPEAT Say the power text from memory.

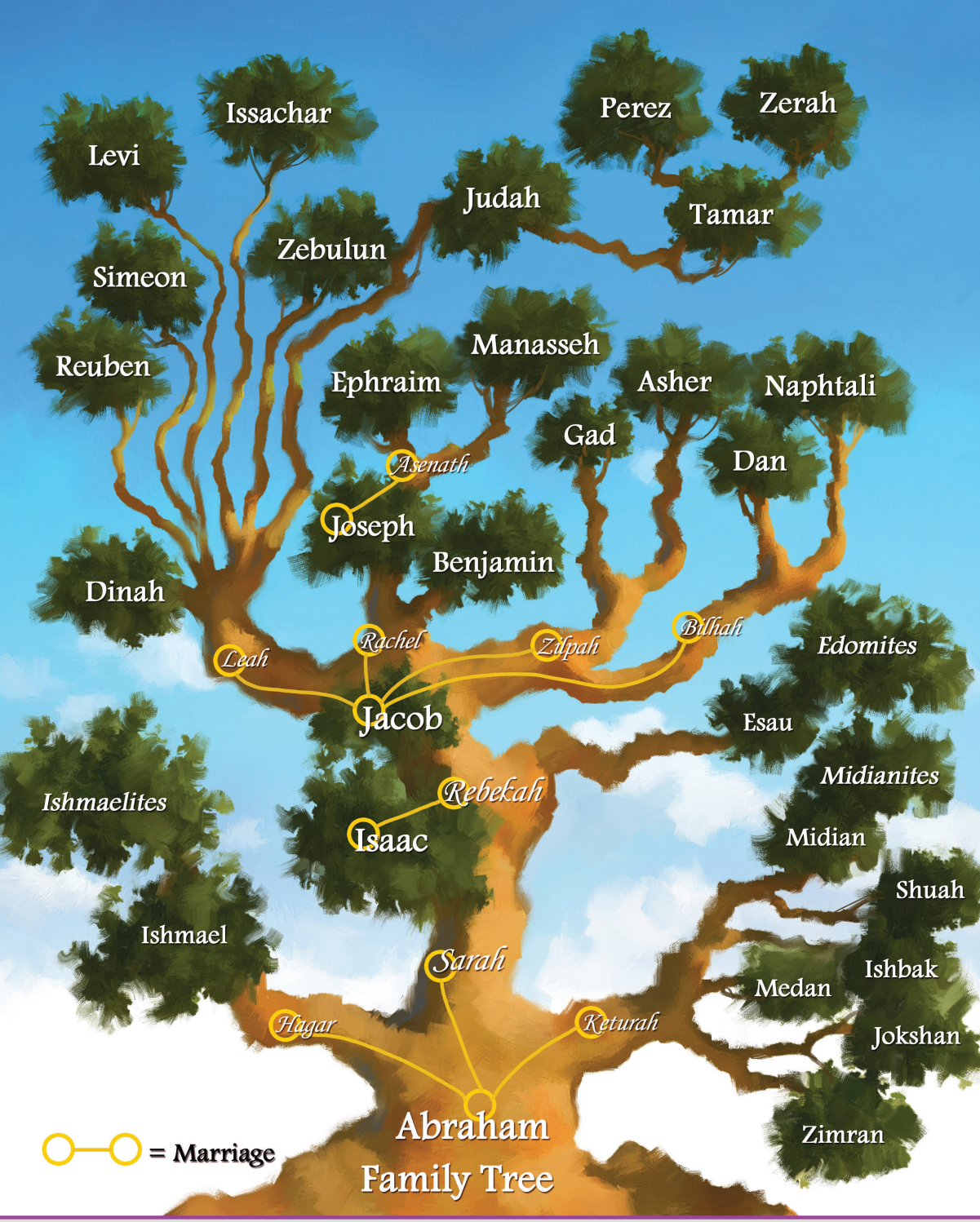
PRAY Thank God for His continued blessings.

continued (verses 2, 3, NIV). Abraham and his children had been selected for a special purpose. God had great plans for Abraham's family. He and his children and his children's children were given the special job of showing God's love to the surrounding nations. One day, far in the future, one of his own line would be born in a manger and die on a cross so all people could be saved. What a tremendous honor for Abraham's family.

But first there was something else. "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you," said God (verse 1, NIV). God wanted Abraham to leave his heathen surroundings. Abraham's family was to be special. God wanted them to live differently. God had a special plan for them.

The rest of the Old Testament is the story of Abraham's family. Just as God promised, his descendants became a great nation—the Jewish people. The blessings God promised to Abraham were given to generation after generation of his children. During their greatest period their fame spread far. Rulers from other countries even came to visit to find the secret to their success.

Family traits are still handed down from generation to generation. God still has great plans for families today. It is in our families that we first learn to feel and give love. It is there that we first learn about God. Our families are the place where we discover the special talents God gives to each of us. We can thank God for our families and for the blessings we receive through them.


Issachar
Levi
Perez
Zerah
Judah
Tamar
Zebulun
Simeon
Reuben
Manasseh
Ephraim
Asher
Naphtali
Gad
Dan
Asenath
Joseph
Benjamin
Dinah
Rachel
Zilpah
Bilhah
Leah
Edomites
Jacob
Esau
Midianites
Ishmaelites
Rebekah
Isaac
Midian
Shuah
Ishmael
Sarah
Ishbak
Medan
Hagar
Keturah
Jokshan
Zimran
= Marriage
Abraham
Family Tree

PUZZLE 1

GOD SAVES FAMILIES

Fill in the missing letters in this Bible passage with the following letters (one per box):

A D E L O OU OU OU

"He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'
"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—



Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house" (Acts 16:30-32, NIV).