

# God With Us

## A Family Advent Celebration

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God With Us: A Family Advent Celebration © 2014

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## December 4: *Noah*

Genesis 6:17-19    Genesis 9:11-13

After Adam and Eve left God's garden, sin continued. Eventually, God's people were sinful all the time. God made a plan to get rid of the sin by sending a flood to destroy the earth and its people. He did this so He could start new with people who trusted Him.

Noah was a friend of God. God told Noah to make a big boat, called an ark, so that his family and two of every animal on earth and in the sky would be saved from the terrible flood. He gave Noah special instructions for building the ark. The people didn't believe Noah when he talked about the flood and their need to be rescued. They laughed at him, and when the rains started, they were destroyed along with all the plants and animals that were left on earth.

When the flood was over and the waters disappeared, God made a covenant with His people to never send a flood to destroy the earth again. A covenant is a special and sacred promise. God put a rainbow in the sky to remind the people of His special promise. He knew that when it rained again, God's people would need a beautiful reminder that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. God's people would continue to choose sin, but He was working out a plan. Rather than destroying His people when their sin separated them from God, He would send a Savior to provide a way for their sin to be forgiven, and to flood their hearts with the hope of eternal life.

Gracious God, thank You for reminding us of Your promises. When we see a rainbow in the sky, help us to remember that You love us and that You sent Jesus to rescue us from sin.



1. Color or paint a picture of a rainbow as a reminder of God's covenant promise to His people.
2. Talk about what it might have been like to be on a boat for 40 days with so many animals. What do you think it sounded like? Smelled like? Felt like?
3. The Bible says that Noah "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). What does it look like to walk with God? Can you think of anyone else in the Bible who walked with God? (see Genesis 5:22, 24)







## December 5: *Abraham*

Genesis 12:2    Genesis 15:5-6

Sometimes God asks us to do difficult things and it can be hard or uncomfortable to obey. A very long time ago, God asked a man named Abram to leave his home city and everything he knew and take a very long trip. God made many special promises to Abram. One of those promises was that Abram and his family would have a special blessing, even though he and his wife had no children at the time. After God made the special promise, He gave Abram and his wife Sarai new names- Abraham and Sarah. Abraham means "father of many peoples" and Sarah means "mother of nations."

Abraham was known for his great faith in God. Even though Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old, they believed God's sacred promise to them that they would have many descendants- so many that it would be impossible to count them all, just like the stars in the sky! When they were very old, God gave Abraham and Sarah a son named Isaac, and their descendants became the chosen people of God.

God kept every single one of His promises to Abraham and everyone on earth was blessed by his great faith. God promised to rescue the world through Abraham's family. One of his descendants would be the Perfect Savior, Jesus, who would fix our hearts for good and allow us to be made right with God forever.

Father God, thank You for sending a Savior through Abraham. Give us strength to obey You even if You ask us to do hard things. Help us to have a strong faith, like Abraham, that is a blessing to others.



1. Before you go to bed tonight, go outside and look at the stars. Try to count them!
2. What does your name mean? What is special about the meaning of Abram and Sarai's new names?
3. Abraham is remembered as a man of great faith. Share about someone you know whose faith has blessed or encouraged you.







## December 6: *Isaac*

Genesis 22:8-13

God needed to know that Abraham trusted Him completely in order to make sure His plan for rescuing His chosen people would work. God asked Abraham to do something very difficult to see if he would still obey Him. One day, God asked Abraham to give Him his only son, Isaac. Abraham's love for his son was strong but his love for God was even stronger. Together, he and his son carried the things they needed for offering a sacrifice to God up a tall mountain. Usually a lamb was killed and sacrificed on an altar when someone wanted to offer a sacrifice to God, but they did not bring a lamb with them. When they got near the top of the mountain, Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb?" (Genesis 22:7). Abraham trusted that God would provide a lamb for them, but they still had no lamb when they reached the mountaintop. Abraham tied Isaac's hands and feet together and got ready to sacrifice his son on the altar. At the right time, God sent an angel to stop him. God gave them what they needed at just the perfect moment- a ram to die in Isaac's place, which they found caught in a bush.

Years later, God would send someone else from Abraham's family to take our place - His only Son, Jesus, who would also be offered as a sacrifice by His Father, God. He would die in our place, for our sins, and He would be known as the Lamb of God (1 John 1:29, 36).

Merciful Father, thank You for protecting us and sending us just what we need at the perfect time. We honor Abraham's example of love for You. Thank You for giving Your own Son for us so we can live and be set free from our sins.

### Branching Out

1. What object or person is most special to you? How would you feel or react if God asked you to give that up?
2. Act out this story with your family. Think about how Abraham may have felt as he walked up the hill with his son Isaac.
3. In this story, who speaks and who listens? What can we learn about trusting and obeying God from Abraham's example?







## December 7: *Jacob*

Genesis 28:12-15

Jacob made many bad choices in his life. He was running away from some of those choices one day when God gave him a special dream. In the dream, God reminded Jacob of the special covenant promises He made to Abraham and Isaac, Jacob's grandfather and father. When Jacob woke up he knew God had spoken to him and shouted, "Surely, the Lord is in this place and I was not aware of it!" (Genesis 28:16).

The Lord reminded Jacob that even if he tried to run from his family, the wrong things he had done, and even from God Himself, he was never completely alone. God was always with Jacob and the promises God made to Jacob's ancestors were important for Jacob as well. God's big plans for Jacob and his family were not limited by Jacob's bad choices. Jacob made a special stone pillar to remember the promise-filled dream from God and he began to follow and obey God from that day forward. God reaffirmed to Jacob that one day all the people on earth would be blessed by his family. Because Jacob turned back to God and received His promise, another descendant of his family would come to be our true stairway or ladder to God. Jesus came to be the bridge between us and God so we can know God and His promise of eternal life.

Forgiving Father, thank You that You are always with us, even when we try to run from You or from our problems. Help us to remember that Your special promises to us are forever.

### Branching Out

1. Build a small stone "pillar" and place it somewhere you will pass often. Talk about a promise from God you would like to remember when you see it.
2. Reread the original covenant promise that God made with Abram in Genesis 12:2 and 15:5-6. What new promises does God make and confirm to Jacob?
3. People try many things to get close to God, including good works, religion, and prayer. What other ways can you think of that people try to reach God? What does God say is the only way to the Father? (see John 14:6)