

08.01 Abraham: His Call (Genesis 11:10–32; 12:1–9)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Genesis Series 3 Flash a Cards, “Abraham & Isaac” (A Beka Book)
- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- I heartily recommend Herein Is Love Commentary Series: *Genesis, A Commentary for Children*, written by Nancy Ganz and published by Shepherd Press in 2002. Thoughts or quotations borrowed from her will be acknowledged as (*Ganz*) in the story.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: [Flashcard words are enlarged at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.]

- *idolatry*: to *worship* someone or something other than the one true God
- *kindred*: family members including extended family like uncles, great grandfathers, *etc.*
- *descendant*: children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, *etc.*, from an ancestor
- *altar*: an elevated place, like a mound or platform, where animals were sacrificed
- *sacrifice*: the death of an innocent animal, showing the cost of sinning; some sacrifices were made to worship God

Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 11:10 These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. 11 And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters. . . . 24 When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah. 25 And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters. 26 When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

27 Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. 28 Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. 29 And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. 30 Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

31 Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. 32 The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

12:1 Now the Lord said [*had* is inserted here in many other translations—*had said*] to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on

the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. 9 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Introduction/Review:

When the people built a tall tower at Babel, they had wanted to make a name for themselves. Yet, none of their names is remembered except, perhaps, Nimrod, who “was the first on earth to be a mighty man. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Therefore it is said, ‘Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.’ The beginning of his kingdom was Babel . . . in the land of Shinar. From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh” (Genesis 10:8–12). ✓His being “a mighty hunter before the Lord” has the idea of fighting against the Lord.

Although about 400 years had passed since the flood, surely the earth’s inhabitants had heard of the great catastrophe and the reason for it—wickedness and idolatry. Nevertheless, worship of the one true God was a rare thing. Many peoples were idolaters. For example, in Shinar, where Babel had been, the settlers worshiped a moon god.

Story:

Ur was a prosperous city in that same plain of Shinar; its people, descendants of Noah’s son, Shem, worshiped—what do you suppose they worshiped? The moon god! In this city lived a man named Terah and his three sons, Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran died and left a son named Lot.

God’s call

The true God spoke to Abram one day, saying, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you”(Genesis 12:1).

Let’s stop and consider this command. Where did God tell Abram to go? [From his country; to a land God would show him.] So, what city was Abram to leave? [Ur.] Who was he to leave? [His father’s house and his kindred.] Where was he to go? [To an unknown land that God would show him.]

Does that sound a little scary—to leave family and go to a place (you didn’t know where it was) that God would show you? Well, let’s read on, for there is more to this command; there is also a promise [show chart found at the end of this lesson]: “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:2, 3).

God’s promise

Read each of these promises. [Have students read.] Look! Seven separate blessings are what God is promising. Therefore, God’s command should not be scary, for as someone has said, “Everything in this world is uncertain except God’s promises” (Ganz).

What is God going to make for Himself? [A new nation.] Note that God would make Abraham’s name great. How does this contrast with the people of Babel, who wanted to make a great name for themselves? [*God* would make Abram’s name great (Ganz).] Because we know the rest of the story in the New Testament, we know that the way God would “make all the families of the earth” to be blessed in Abram was in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was a descendant of Abram; He blesses all families of the earth when those people trust Jesus to be their Saviour.

Abram’s obedience

Did Abram go? [Take a poll of the students.] Let me read a New Testament verse to answer that question. Hebrews 11:8 states, “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” Yippee! A man who obeyed God!

I have to say that he did take a small detour to a town called Haran. It was here that his father died. Here his

brother, Nahor, remained. However, Abram's nephew, Lot, went on with Abram to the land God showed him, for Lot's father had died in Ur. ✓We assume Abram now had charge of Lot

Abram was seventy-five years old, an old man, when he departed from Haran. Besides Lot, Abram took Sarai his wife and all their possessions that they had gathered. In addition, he took servants he had acquired in Haran. This large caravan set out to go south to the land of Canaan—the land occupied by descendants of Noah's son, Ham.

Abram's arrival

When they arrived at a place called Shechem [locate on map] in Canaan, the Lord appeared to Abram and basically said in GPS fashion, "You have arrived," by saying, "I will give this land to your descendants." ✓I imagine Abram wasted no time to build an altar to the Lord right there. Think of how Abram must have felt: After traveling all those many miles, thinking with each step [Teacher, refer to first chart], "God spoke directly to me and promised to make a nation from me, to bless me, to make my name great, to make me a blessing, to bless those who bless me, to curse those who dishonor me, and that in me all the families of the earth will be blessed. How can all of this take place? And now God has shown me this promised land and told me this is the place by His own appearance to me. What a God! He is surely the true God. O God, [Teacher, look up as if praying.] I worship You as I set up this altar and sacrifice this animal in praise to Your great promise. Thank You for leading me here. O God, accept, please, my offering as I worship You."

Abram journeyed a little farther and pitched his tent in a place between Bethel and Ai [locate on map]. There he again built an altar and offered a sacrifice to the true God of heaven and earth. "All that Abram built in Canaan was altars—no home, no city" (Ganz). Hebrew 11 tells us, "By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents. . . . For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." Abram lived in a tent but looked forward, not to a house, but a city "whose builder is God." What city is that? Why, the New Jerusalem that will come down out of heaven on the last day. Abram believed God. Do you believe what He says to you in His book, the Bible?

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
He said, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me" (John 6:38).
- God keeps His promises. We are just beginning to see how He did it in Abram's life.
- Abram was asked to do what the unbelieving of Babel were unwilling to do: They united in fear; Abram separated by faith (Ganz).
- Even though Abraham did not see every fulfillment of God's promise, he was willing to live by faith. All that he built in Canaan was altars—no home, no city (Ganz).

Activities:

- Play dough: camel
- Talk about caravans and discuss the chart, "How Long Did It Take," found at the end of this lesson.
- Sing first stanza of "Abraham" found at the end of this lesson.
- Camel puppet skit of a found below (This is Part 1 of 2 parts, the second of which may be presented in the story of finding Isaac a wife.)
- Sing (or say) "Abraham, Go" (I do not know the tune and cannot locate where I found on the internet)

God said, "Abraham, go to a land that I'll show."
Did Abraham say, "I can't today"? "NO"

Did Abraham hide or run away? “NO”:
What did Abraham do? “He went”; He obeyed.

God said, “Children, Obey when at work or at play”
When mother says, “Sh-h-h.” Do we make noise? “NO”
Do we leave out our books and toys? “NO”
Well, then what do we do? We obey.

- Object lesson, “Ships of the Desert.” Print the page of a camel found at the end of this lesson. Back with flannel. Cut into the parts found in the lesson below. Make the following comparisons (from Teacher’s Swap Shop, August 1974):

	<u>Camel</u>	<u>Christian</u>
Head	always erect	alert (Luke 21:28)
Hump	stores food and water	store spiritual food (Psalm 119:11)
Legs	sure-footed; steady; not easily exhausted	steady worker (Isaiah 40:31)
Kneeling	to receive load to unload burden	humility; submission (1 Peter 5:7) give burden to the Lord (Ephesian 3:13–16)

- Review questions: (Game: If playing by teams, print two camels found below and have them move forward in increments for each correct answer.)
 1. Whom did God call from Ur of the Chaldees to a place he didn’t know? [Abram]
 2. Where was Abram when God called him to a new land? [Ur of the Chaldees]
 3. What was the name of Abram’s father? [TErah.]
 4. What was the name of Abram’s wife? [Sarai]
 5. After Abram and Sarai reached the land of promise, what did they do? [built an altar, offered a sacrifice, and worshiped God]
 6. Name two of the blessings God promised Abram. [I will make of you a great nation; I will bless you; I will make your name great; You will be a blessing; I will bless those who bless you; Him who dishonors you I will curse; In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed; I will give this land to your descendants.]

Handwork:

- Print on card stock the camel found below. Students may glue paper towel or flannel and use their own camel as a “visual aid” to tell of God’s special creature.

Memory Verse:

- Hebrews 11:8—By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

idolatry

kindred

descendant

altar/sacrifice

God's Promise to Abraham

- I will make of you a great nation
- I will bless you
- I will make your name great
- You will be a blessing
- I will bless those who bless you
- Him who dishonors you I will curse
- In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed
- I will give this land to your descendants

How Long Did It Take Abram to Get to Canaan if His Caravan Traveled 15 Miles/Day?

From	To	Miles	Days
Ur	Haran	700	47
Haran	Shechem	500	33
Shechem	Bethel	25	1.5
		Total: 1225	Total: 81 (2.5 Months)

Camel Puppet Script

by Marilyn Alexander

(Information taken from the National Geographic site for children and from other internet sites)

Part 1 of 3 (See Lesson 08.17 for Part 2 and the puppet and Lesson 10.07 for Part 3)

Hello, children. I'm a camel. You may call me Camille if you wish. You may not think I'm beautiful, but I am, for that's what my name means—"beauty." If you have a different opinion about my outward appearance, I can tell you that my Maker, the Lord of heaven and earth, made me so perfectly adaptable to my needs and environment that you would have to call my body a beauty. I could take all day to tell you about the unique and awesome characteristics that God built into me, but I will stop at only five today.

1. My hump. I am a dromedary; I have only one hump. Bactrian camels that live in the Gobi Desert of Asia have two humps. Our humps store fat as energy; I can store 80 lbs of fat in my hump. This fatty tank reduces the heat-trapping insulation across my body, allowing me to survive under intense heat. [Say this sadly,] but my hump gets soft and flabby when my fat stores run out.

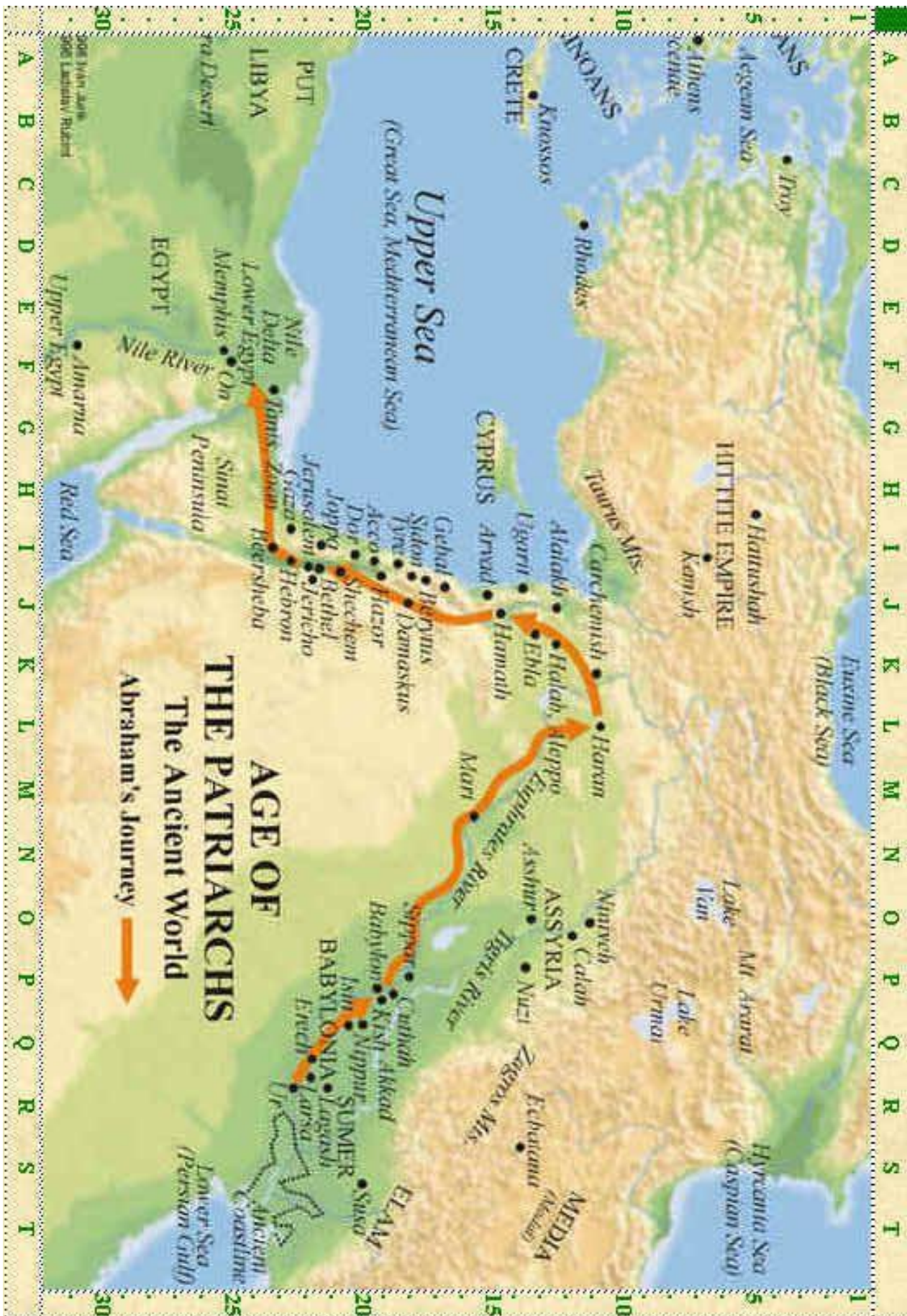
2. My legs and feet. All camels have wide-toed hoofs with nails and big, flat footpads to keep them from sinking into snow or sand. We move both legs on one side of the body forward at the same time, like giraffes and race horses. We can kick in all directions. We can also run very fast, up to 65 mph. In fact, some places have camel races. Six-year-old boy jockeys have Velcro sewed onto their pants so that they can stay on me as they race. Riding behind my hump, they hit my face with a stick in order to keep me going in the right direction. I can't race that fast for long distances. Although I can average running 25 miles per hour, I prefer to walk at about 3.5 mph.

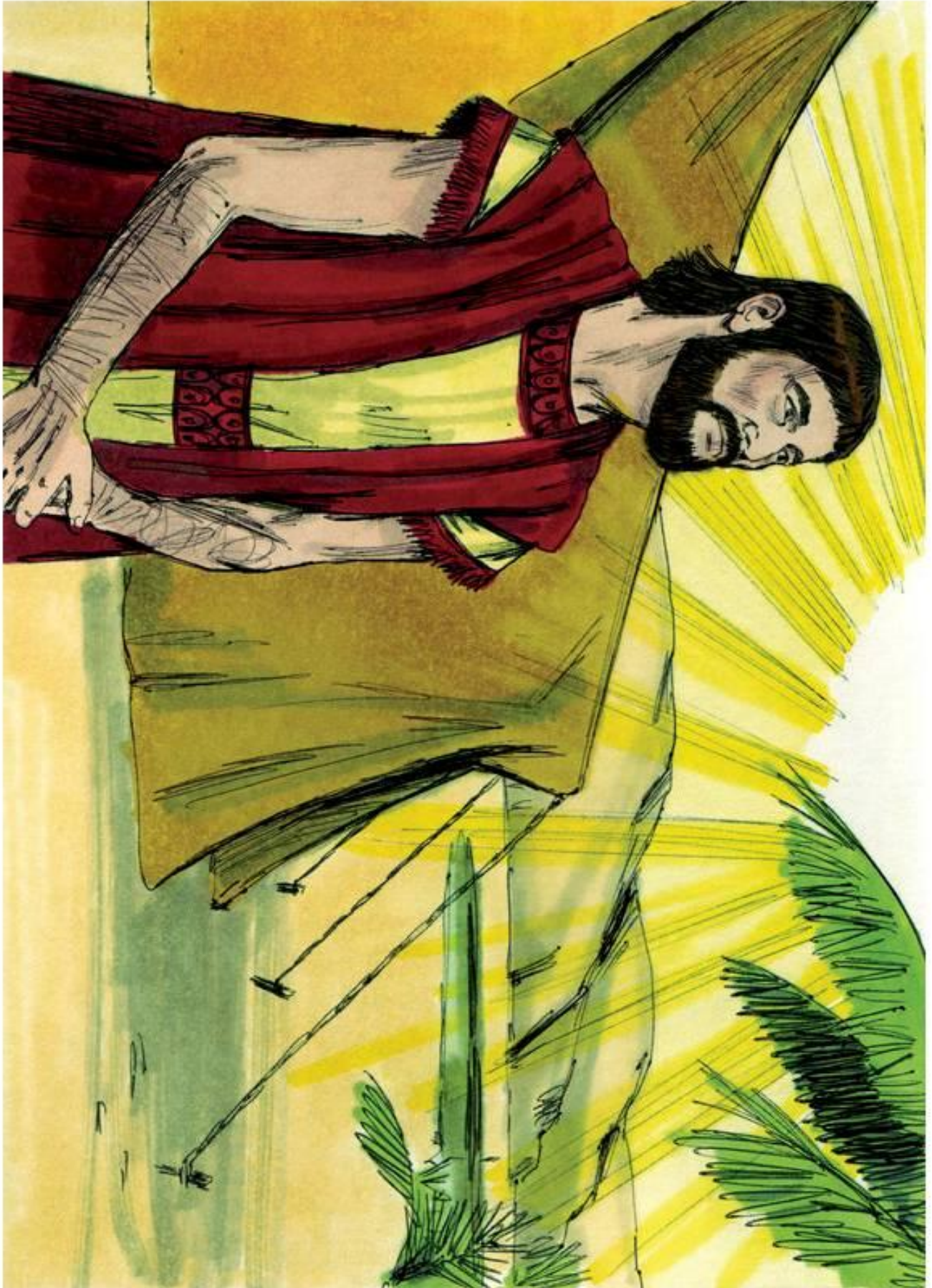
3. My spit. My spitting is essentially a throwing up of a foul-smelling greenish stomach fluid. If you don't want to stink bad, don't threaten me, I'll tell ya.

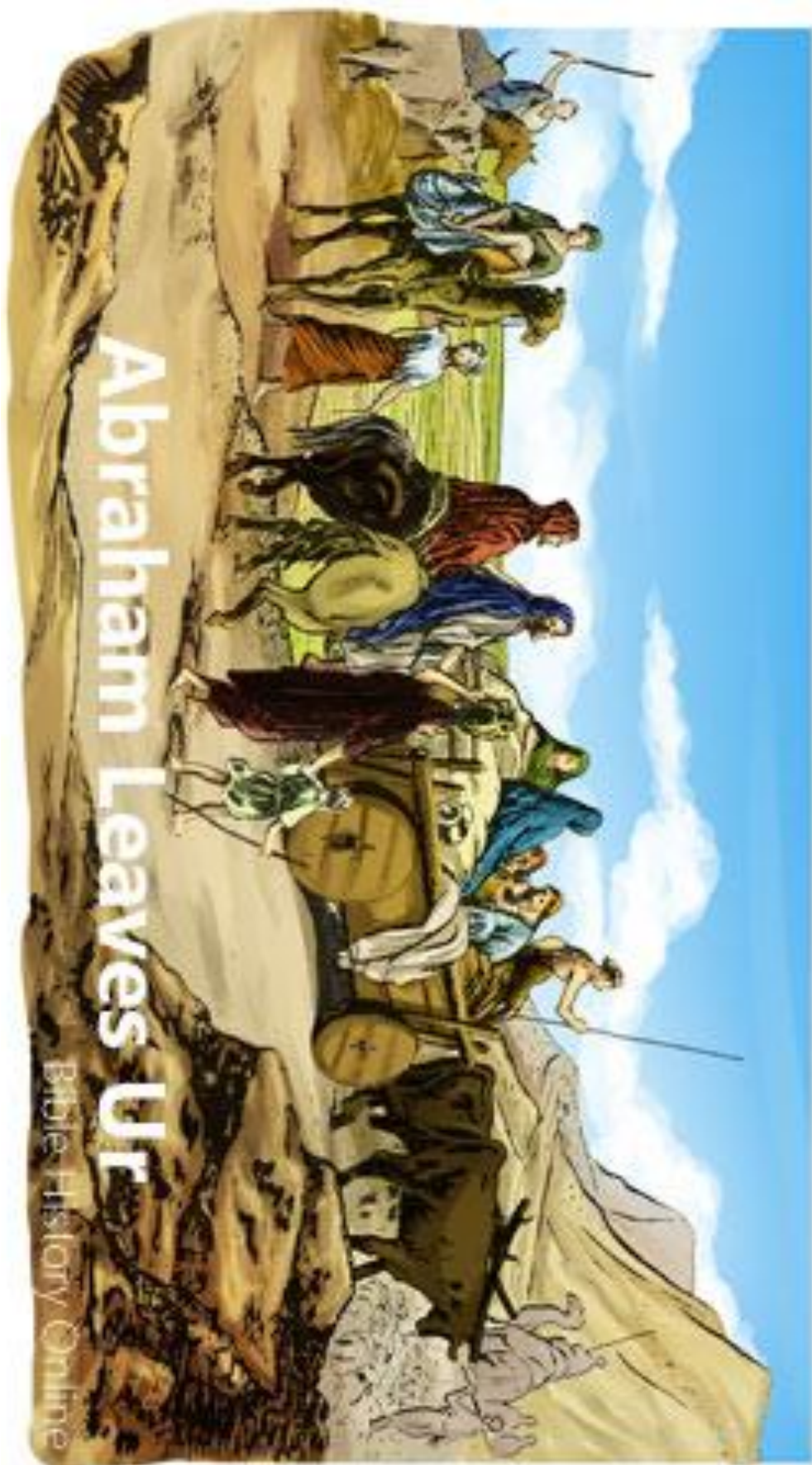
4. My eyes. We camels actually have three eyelids! Two of them have eyelashes (aren't they long and purty? And I don't even have to use mascara!). My third eyelid is thin. In sand storms I shut my eyes but can still see well through my thin eyelids.

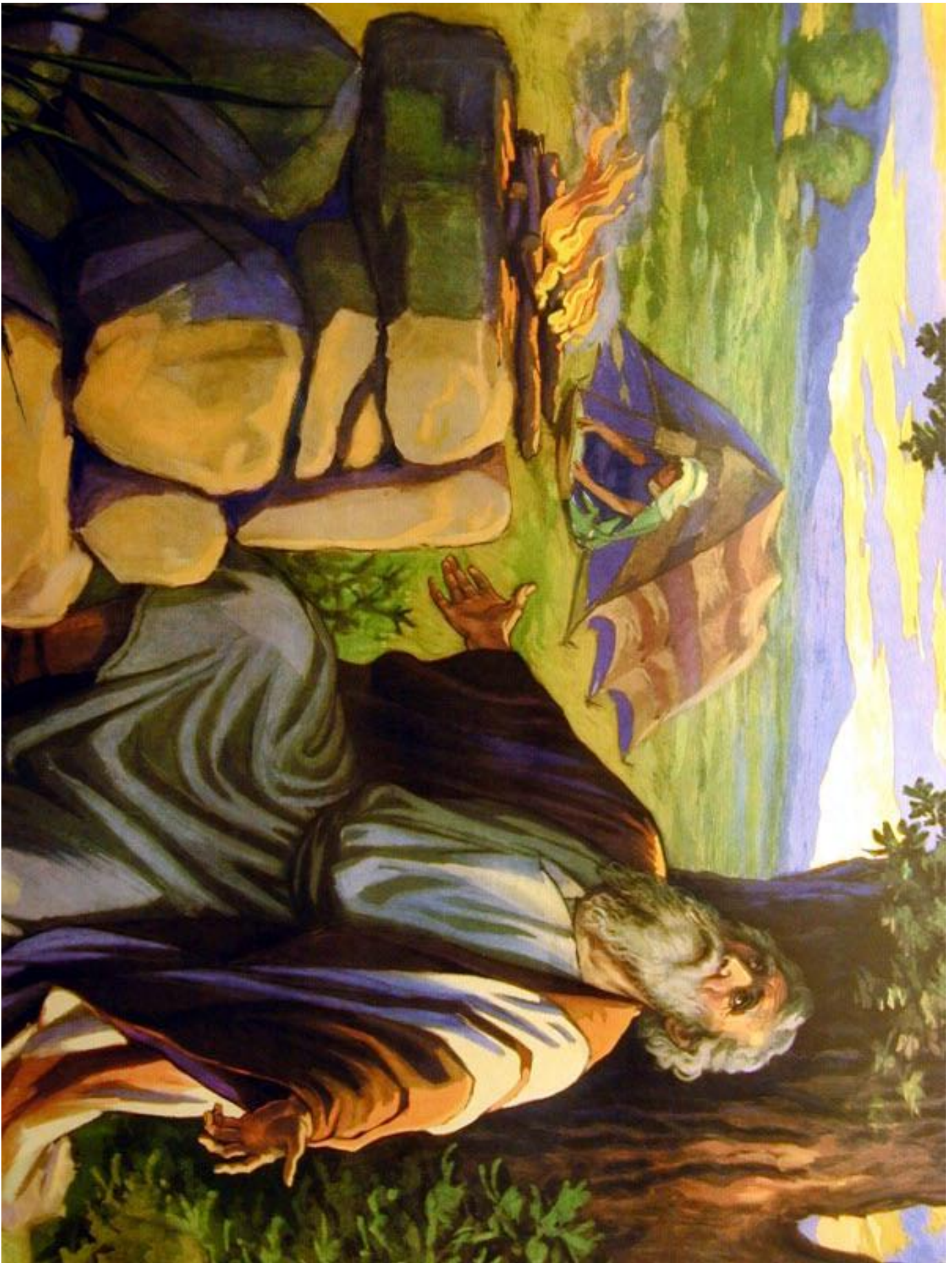
5. My size and age. I have a long neck so that I can reach high branches and so that I can dip my head to drink and graze without having to bend my legs. I'm about 6 feet tall at my shoulder, while my height up to my hump is about 7 feet. Most of us live about 40 to 50 years.

I'll tell you more about myself at another time, but I hope what I've said will help you to see how beautiful I really am. Well, you really shouldn't admire me so much as my Creator. Can't you see how great a designer He is? I'm perfectly made for my environment.









Abraham

Words and Music by M. Alexander

A F C7

1. "Go to a land that I will show you."
 6. God changed the names of A - bram and Sa - rai:
 9. Fi - nal - ly A - bra - ham and Sa - rah had I - saac:
 11. "Go to a moun - tain that I will show you."
 12. Sa - rah had died. It was time for I - saac to

3 F G7 C

This God said to A - - - bram.
 A - bra - ham and Sa - rah their names would be.
 "Abe" - was one hun - dred, Sa - rah, nine - ty years old.
 God was to test His friend A - bra - ham.
 find and mar - ry a suit - a - ble wife.

5 B \flat F C7 F

A - bram went to the land God showed him:
 Three vis - i - tors said they'd have a ba - by.
 "God" has made me to laugh," said Sa - rah. ("Ha! Ha!")
 A - bra - ham was read - y to sac - ri - fice I - saac.
 One named Re - bek - ah wat - ered all the cam - els.

7 F C7

He o - beyed sac - ri - fic - ing a lamb. (Go to B, v2)
 Sa - rah laughed, ("Ha! Ha!") but we'll wait and see. (Go to B, v7)
 He ful - filled what He had fore - told. (Go to B, v10)
 God made him stop (pause) and pro - vi - ded a ram. (Go to A, v4)
 She mar - ried I - saac; they were one for life. (fine)

9 **B** f C7

2. Fam - ine left no - thing to eat in Ca - naan.
 3. Lot's and A - - - bram's herds - men quar - reled:
 7. Sod - om and Go - mor - rah wick - ed - ies.
 10. Ish - ma - el mocked his half - bro - ther, I - saac.


11 f G7 C b \flat f

Down to E - gypt A - bram went. Ly - ing a - bout his
 Too man - y an - i - mals for the land. A - bram said, "You
 An - gels warned Lot to get a - way. Lot's wife turned back be -
 Sa - rah said, "Send him and Ha - gar a - way." They sur - vived the


An audio recording of "Abraham" may be found at teachingthebibleto kids.org.

14 

pret - ty wife Sa - rai pro - voked the pha - roah so out they were sent. (Go to B, v3)
have first choice; if you take the right, I'll take the left hand. (Go to C, v4)
came a salt pil - lar. The cit - ies burned up; they are gone to this day. (Go to C, v8)
des - erts dan - gers. Ish - ma - el's child - ren are called A - rabs to - day. (Go to A, v6)

17 


4. Four kings came and cap - tured of Lot, but A - bram's men, armed
8. Go - ing down to Ge - rar of Phil - is - ti - a, A - bra - ham lied a - bout

20 


to the neck, Caught those kings, re - leased the cap - tives.
Sa - rah a - gain. This time A - bim - i - lech let them stay there.

23 

A - bram gave tithes to Mel - chi - si - dek. (Go to D) 5. "Count the stars, so man - y child - ren
What God had pro - mised would hap - pen then. (Go to A, v9)

27 

you will have," this God said. "Ha - gar can be like a wife," said Sa - rai.

31 

Ish - mael was born; then Sa - rai was sad. (Go to A, v6)

Note: Major key for "happy" and minor key for "sad" events can be indicated on a *visual aid with a happy or sad face.
*Visual aid: Print words on paper, glue to the pages of an old spiral notebook that has 26 pages. Illustrate simply. Make a title page to glue to notebook cover.



<https://freeclipartimage.com/storage/upload/camel-clip-art/camel-clip-art-15.gif>