

## 08.02 Abram Sojourns in Egypt (Genesis 12:10–13:4)

✓ “*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 visual aids found at the end of this lesson. Please credit 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-sized terms are at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and attach to card stock.]

- *famine*: lack of food because of lack of rain; in extreme famine people starve. In addition, what little food there is becomes extremely expensive. People are forced to sell all that have just to get enough food to stay alive. Famines have often lasted many years, and at their end people are impoverished (*Ganz*).
- *to sojourn*: to live temporarily in a country not your own
- *harem*: the several wives of a man

### Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. 11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.” 14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. 16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

17 But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18 So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go.” 20 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

### Introduction/Review:

Abram was called by God in Ur of the Chaldeans to go to a land that God would show him. With his father, Terah; his brother, Nahor (his other brother, Haran, had died in Ur); his nephew, Lot (Haran’s son); and his wife, Sarai, Abram first went to a town in Syria named Haran (the same name as his dead brother). [Teacher, you might choose to show the chart from the last lesson showing distances and time traveled by Abram.]

✓That trip of 700 miles probably took 47 days if Abram and his caravan traveled 15 miles per day.

In Haran, Terah died. Nahor stayed there, but Abram then took off with Sarai and Lot for Canaan, ✓making the 500-mile trip in approximately 33 days. In the land to which God led him, Abram offered sacrifices to

God at Shechem and at Bethel.

When God had called Abram, He had made certain promises to him. Name one of those promises. [Teacher, you might choose to show the chart of promises from the last lesson. The answers are “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.”]

### **Story:**

Abram was ✓happily settling in this new land to which God had called him. Well, maybe he wasn’t exactly peaceful in his spirit, for here he was—a righteous man in the midst of a whole country of wicked people. What might “happen to Abram, who was worshiping God and building altars to the Lord in a nation filled with idol-worshippers and ruled by God-haters?” (Ganz).

### ***Famine***

Something happened to take Abram away from Canaan temporarily. A famine—a severe one—arose in Canaan. In times of famine for some reason (✓perhaps fertility near the Nile River) Old Testament people in several cases left Canaan and went down to Egypt. Abram is the first one we read about in Genesis who went to Egypt in order to escape famine; there will be others.

As Abram, Sarai, and Lot approached the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, “Sarai, you are a beautiful woman. I hear that Pharaoh has watchmen who look for beautiful women to add to his harem. Do me this favor, please. When we get to Egypt, tell those people that you are my sister. Otherwise, they might kill me in order to take you.”

### ***Lie***

Sure enough, when Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was very beautiful. The princes of Pharaoh saw her and they praised her to Pharaoh. Therefore Sarai was taken into Pharaoh’s house.

Now, Abram’s lie proved, at first, to be beneficial, for Pharaoh treated Abram quite well because of Sarai. He gave Abram sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. Notice, these words are all plural, not singular—sheep, other animals, servants. Abram, in a severe famine, was becoming wealthy rather than impoverished (Ganz).

But all was not well. What do you think God thought of this situation—this lying and putting Abram’s wife in a difficult situation that could become immoral? [He did not like it.] This is how God showed His displeasure: The Bible states, “The Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.” What does that mean? [Pharaoh’s household—his family and servants—became quite ill.]

We aren’t told how Pharaoh figured out that the illness plaguing his household was caused by the fact that Sarai was in his harem, but he did figure it out. He called Abram and asked, “What is this you have done to me? Why didn’t you tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’? I might have taken her for my wife” (KJV). “Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go.”

### ***Recompense***

I would have expected Pharaoh to give much more harsh treatment, maybe death, for Abram’s offense. I would have expected Pharaoh to take back all those animals and servants he had given, but Pharaoh merely sent Abram and his family away, richer than when they had arrived. The Bible states, “Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.” Ah! Livestock *and* silver and gold!

So Abram journeyed back to Bethel where he had made an altar, the second after he had entered Canaan. “There Abram called upon the name of the Lord.” ✓I believe this means he repented, feeling very sorry for his sin, and asked God for forgiveness. This is something we all should do whenever we have sinned against

God.

**Lessons from this lesson:**

- Don't sin; it only brings trouble and sadness.
- If and when you sin, confess it to Jesus and ask forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Merely saying, "I'm sorry," hardly shows sadness for sin. Tell the Lord (and others against whom you sin) exactly what the sin was. Then say, "I was wrong," and ask, "Will you forgive me?"

**Activities:**

- Play dough: pyramid, camel, donkey
- Do a quick line-draw of the lesson, or have students do it with the following suggestions: withered plants and bucket turned over for famine; camel for traveling; pyramid for Egypt; happy, beautiful Sarai; king's house; someone on bed for the sick Egyptians; arrow for "get out!"; altar for Abraham's act at Bethel.
- Play-act packing bags; traveling over mountains, wading through water, climbing on camels and/or donkeys; setting up tents.
- Act out the Egypt part of the story. Put baby powder on the king's family as the sickness. Use blankets or sheets as the king's royal cape (<http://www.missionarlington.org/pdfs/OTL1Year>).
- Locate the places of this story on the map found in Lesson 08.01.
- Sing first and second stanzas of "Abraham" found below.
- Ask review questions (most suggested by Ganz). (Game: Print and back with flannel or flocked scraps the Egyptian clip art page found below. Cut apart. Students place a picture on the flannel board for each correct answer.)
  1. Give specific examples to show that Abram lived by faith. [Left his homeland and family to go where God wanted him to go; offered sacrifices to God.]
  2. When did Abram live by fear instead of faith? [Going to Egypt and worrying about being killed because of Sarai's beauty.]
  3. How did Abram become rich? [Pharaoh gave him livestock and servants because of Sarai.]
  4. What happened to Pharaoh's household because of Sarai? [They were plagued with sickness.]
  5. How did Pharaoh punish Abram? [Sent him away.]
  6. Where did Abram go? [Back to Canaan; to Bethel (between Bethel and Ai).]
- Make trading cards. Print the pyramids and print the information about Egypt and the Bible on the back. Laminate, punch a hole, and put on a snap ring.

**Handwork:**

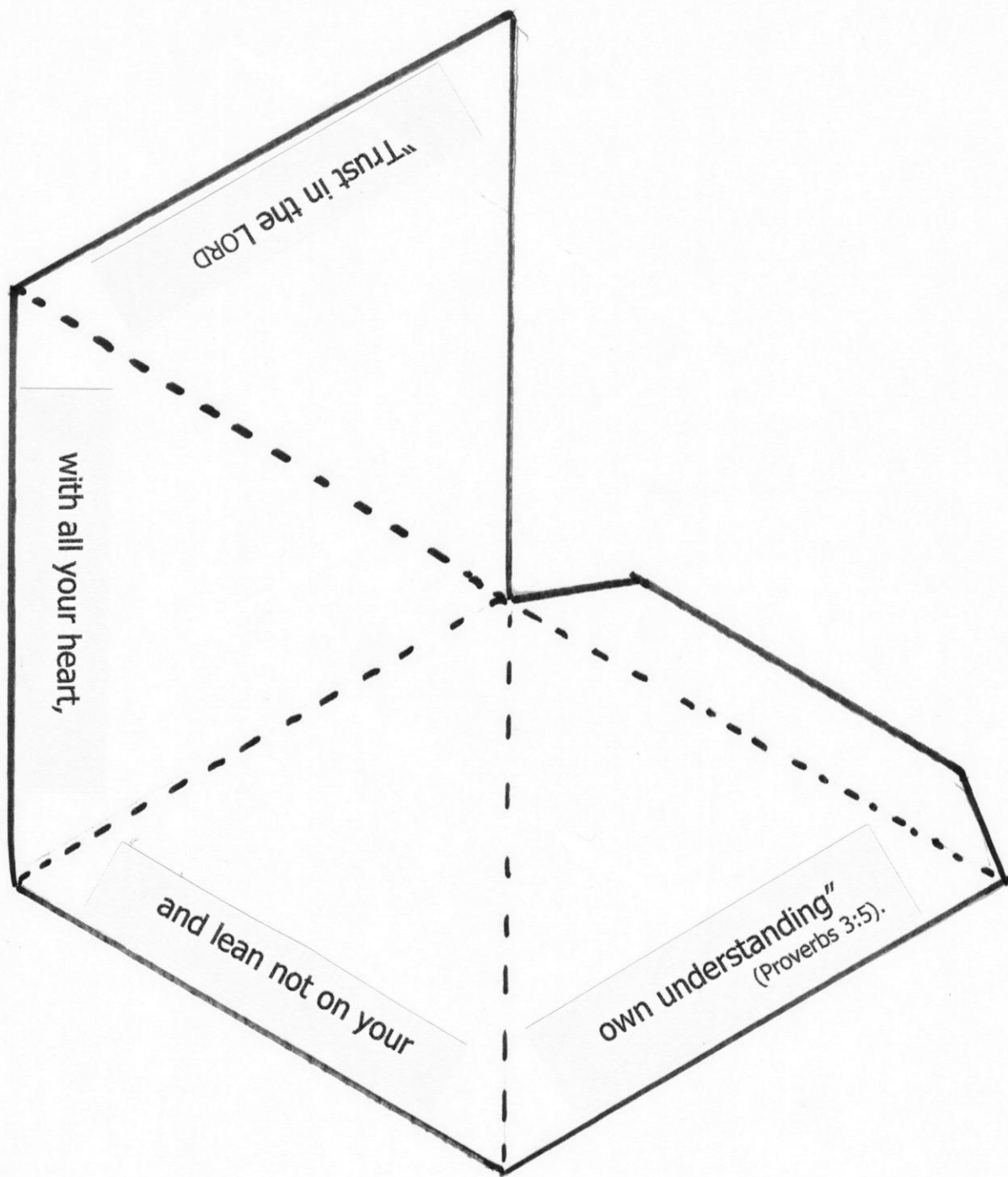
- Make copies of the pyramid model found below. Let students color and cut out the pyramid. Have them fold on dashed lines, put glue on the tab, and attach to the open edge of the pyramid.

**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 3:5—"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding."

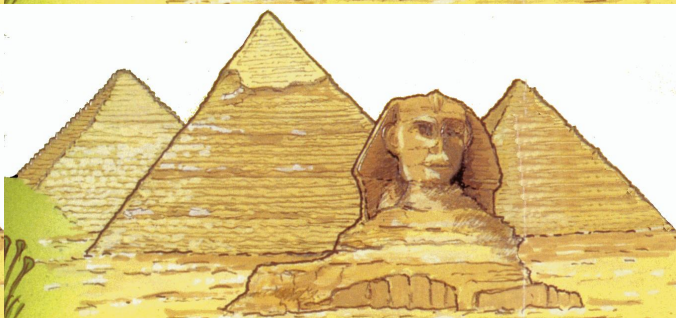
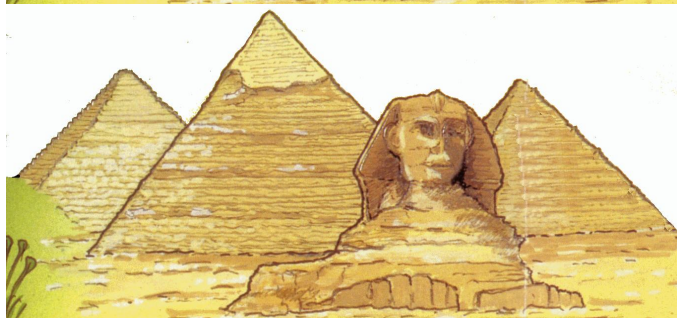
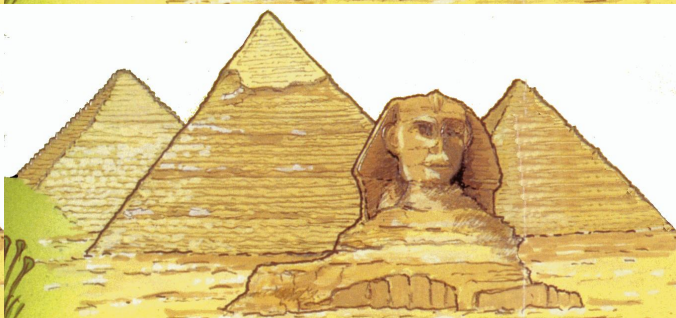
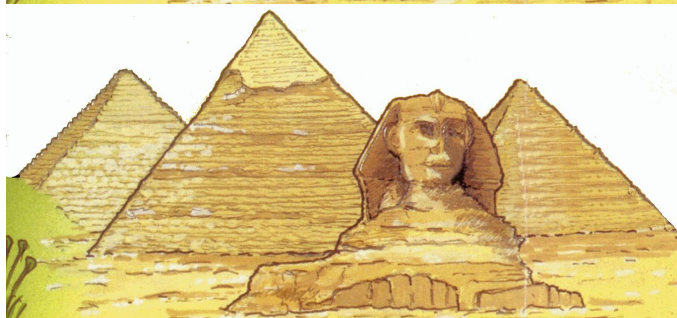
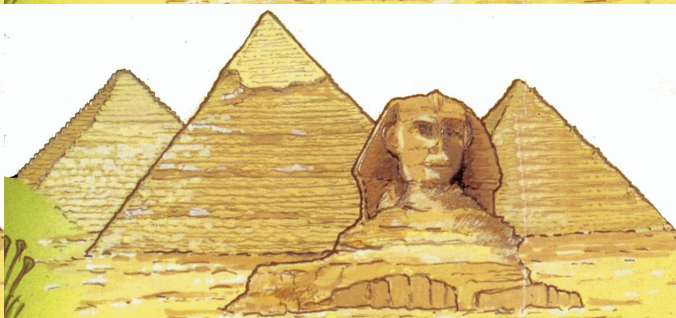
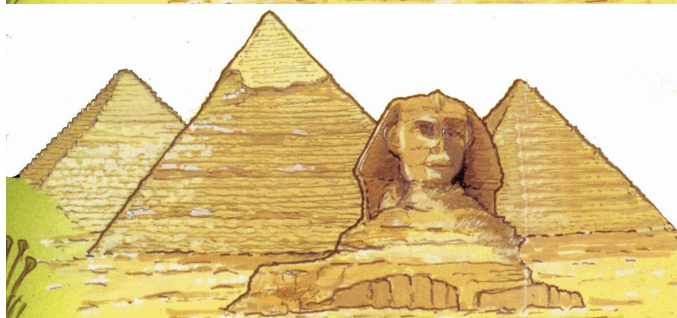
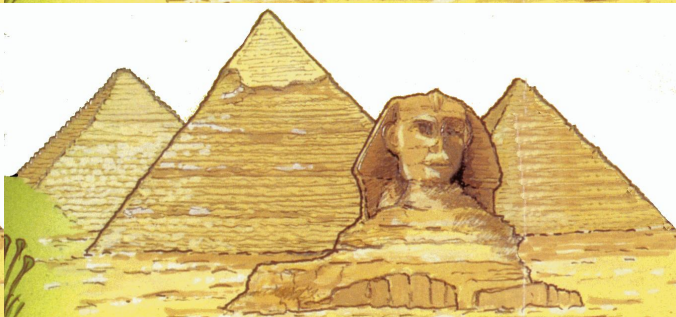
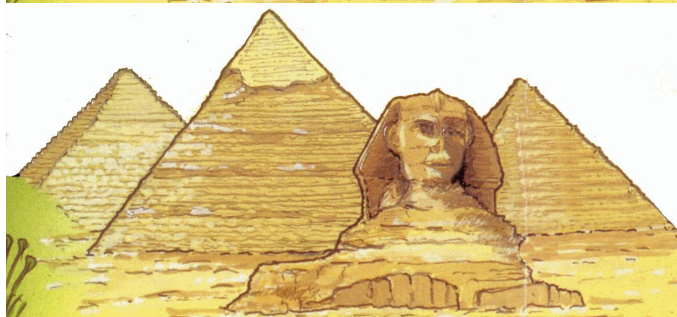
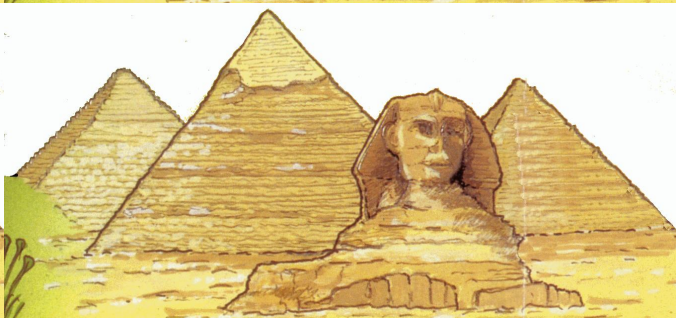
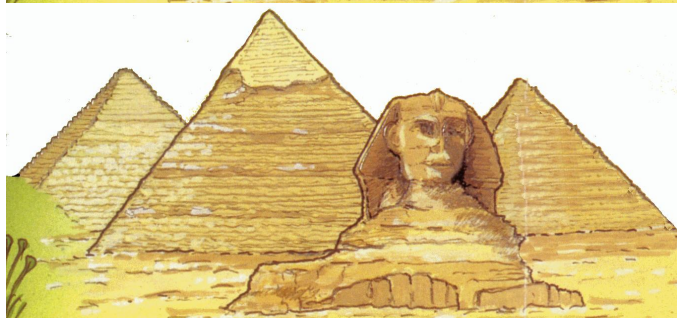
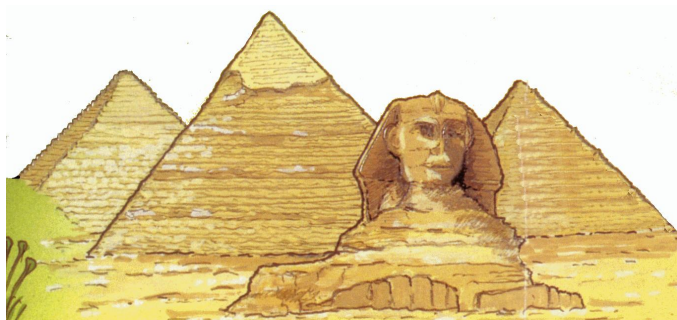
***famine***

***to sojourn***

***harem***







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# 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, v9)  
 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 were wick - ed cit - 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



# Abraham

2

14 C7 f 16 C7

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, v10)

17 C f C7 f

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 G7 Bb F C7 F

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 F C7 F D F C7

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 F G7 F b b f b f

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

31 f C7 f

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.

