

08.03 Abram and Lot Separate (Genesis 13:1–18)

✓ “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. Credit the sources of pictures.
- See “Activities” and “Handwork” for additional supplies.

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.]

- *herdsmen*: men who lead and care for livestock
- *strife*: quarreling; enmity
- *kinsmen*: kindred; family—cousins, parents, uncles, nephews, *etc.*

Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 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. 5 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, 6 so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, 7 and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

8 Then Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.” 10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the c Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, 15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. 17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” 18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Introduction/Review:

Abram had left Ur of the Chaldeans with his wife, Sarai; his father, Terah; his brother, Nahor; and his dead brother’s son, Lot. This caravan traveled to Haran up in Syria where something sad happened. Who was it that died in Haran? [Abram’s father, Terah.] After Terah’s death Nahor stayed in Haran, but Abram continued on to the land God had said He would show him, not knowing where it was. Abram’s nephew, Lot, went with Abram and Sarai.

When they reached Canaan, God told them they had arrived where He wanted them. Abram offered

sacrifices to God in two different places.

Even in this God-given land there was trouble. What was the problem? [A famine.] What is a famine? [A period of time in which crops do not grow, food is scarce, and some people even die of starvation.] What lie did Abram get Sarai to tell? [That she was his sister rather than his wife.] What benefits did Abram get from Pharaoh? [Livestock and servants; he became rich.] Is doing wrong worth getting rich? [No.] What happened when Pharaoh found out about the lie? [He sent Abram, Sarai, and Lot away with all their possessions.]

Story:

Back to Canaan Abram, Sarai, and Lot went. We don't know if the famine was done there, but ✓I would guess there was still some drought. Of course, Abram and Lot had many more sheep, goats, and oxen to feed than they had had before. Therefore, the land could no longer support both Abram and Lot, their animals, their servants, and their tents. ✓It wasn't long before Lot's herdsmen and Abram's herdsmen were quarreling:

Arguing

✓“You are overgrazing this land. Move on so that we can let our livestock graze here!”

“No, *you* move on! We were here first! Besides, Abram's sheep should have the best grass. You take Lot's livestock and get away from here!”

“Who do you think you are to order us around like that? Do you want to fight? Put up your dukes! Let's see who gets to graze here!”

Now, the Bible says only that there was strife between these herdsmen. We don't know what they said, but the situation was serious.

Pacifying

Abram heard about the strife and called Lot to him. “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen,” Abram said, “for we are kinsmen.”

Then Abram, who was, after all, the elder of the two kin, made a very generous offer. He said, “Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. I give you first choice: If you take the [Teacher, gesture with the right hand as you say “left” and vice versa so that the students see the correct direction] left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.”

✓Lot probably was happy with this opportunity of first choice. He “lifted up his eyes” [Teacher, do so] and looked over the land. ✓It was pretty dry around here, but, look, it was green down in the valley by the Jordan River near the cities of the plains. It reminded him of a fertile area of Egypt!

“I'll take the Jordan Valley,” he said. So Lot journeyed east and separated from Abram. He ended up settling among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as a city named Sodom. Oooh! Not a good choice of neighbors, for the Bible states, “The men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.”

Abram, on the other hand, settled in the leftover land of Canaan, far from those cities. ✓I have wondered if Abram regretted giving Lot first choice. I don't think so, for the Bible says nothing about that. Abram was a man who believed God. After all, hadn't he left family behind to go—he had no idea where? God had brought him to this land; God would take care of him. Even though he had lapsed once, the faith of Abram was strong!

Covenanting

After Lot had departed, God appeared to Abram (remember, the Old Testament had not yet been written and God spoke to people audibly) and said, “Lift up your eyes and look northward and southward and eastward and westward. [Teacher, look in these directions.] All the land that you see I will give to you and to your

offspring forever.” What was this promise? [God would give Abram all the land he could see.]

But that’s not all. Listen. God said, “I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also **can** be counted.” What does this promise mean? [Abram’s descendants would more than could be counted—like dust.]

What a wonderful promise to add to what God already had promised Abram. Let’s look at all of these promises. [Show and review the chart found below with the promises of today’s lesson added in red. The promise in blue was given after Abram came to Canaan.]

“So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD” (Genesis 13:18). [Teacher, locate Hebron on the map found in Lesson 08.01. Show the *alon* oak tree found below.] Abram built another altar to God; how he worshiped Him!

Lessons from this lesson:

- Be generous as Abram was. You can trust God to take care of you even when you give to others.
- “Bad company corrupts good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33) is a true Bible verse. As much as possible, stay away from people who might lead you to do wrong.
- Jesus makes promises to His people today. After He tells us to spread the good news about Himself, He says, “I am with you even to the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20).

Activities:

- Play dough: sheep, goats, cattle, tents, people
- Practice *left* and *right* with younger children: hands, feet, sides of the room or of a paper, *etc.*
- Sing first through third stanzas of “Abraham” found at the end of this lesson.
- “Let’s Not Fight” by Carolyn Warvel (Tune: “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”))

“Let’s not argue or have a fight,” Abram said to Lot.
“If you go left, then I’ll go right, whatever you want to do.” [Step to the left and then the right, then put hands up in the air, signing, “I don’t know.”]
With a step to the right and a step to the left, [Step to the right and then step to the left.]
Here a step, there a step [Step right, then left.]
Everywhere a step-step [Step in place twice.]
Right or left you get to pick, it’s all up to you. [Point right then left.]
[Repeat using jump, slide, march, walk, circle.]
- Review questions: (Game: Prepare oaks of Mamre flannelgraph pieces by printing those found below. Back with flannel, flocked scraps, or paper towel. Cut out. A correct answer may be rewarded by placing a tree on a flannel board.)
 1. What was the name of Abram’s nephew? [Lot.]
 2. Why did Abram’s and Lot’s herdsman argue? [They wanted the best pasture for their masters; there were too many livestock for the land.]
 3. Why was it important to Abram that he and Lot not quarrel? [They were kinsmen.]
 4. How did Abram show he was not selfish? [He let Lot choose which land he wanted and said he would take what was left over.]
 5. How did Lot show he was selfish? [When Abram gave him a choice, he chose the well-watered plains and let Abram have the less grassy land.]
 6. Where did Abram settle? [Near Hebron by the oaks of Mamre.]
- Do the puppet skit, “Matt the Moose and the Oaks of Mamre,” found below

Handwork:

- On a coloring picture of Abram and Lot's land, glue sand and pieces of green paper in appropriate places.

Memory Verse:

- Jeremiah 32:17: "Ah, Lord God! . . . There is nothing too hard for You." (Motions: praying hands and looking up; hands down and out)

herdsmen

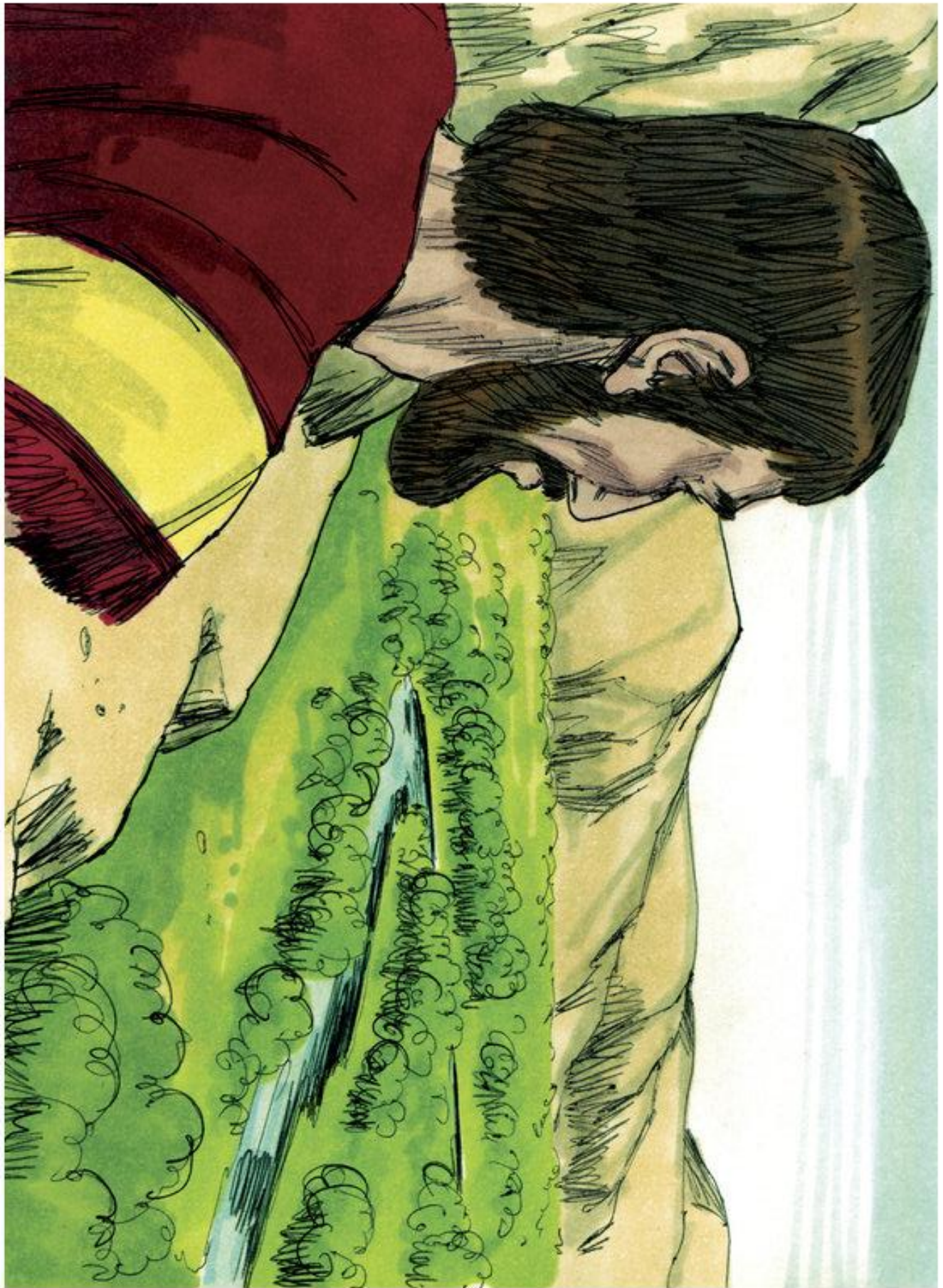
strife

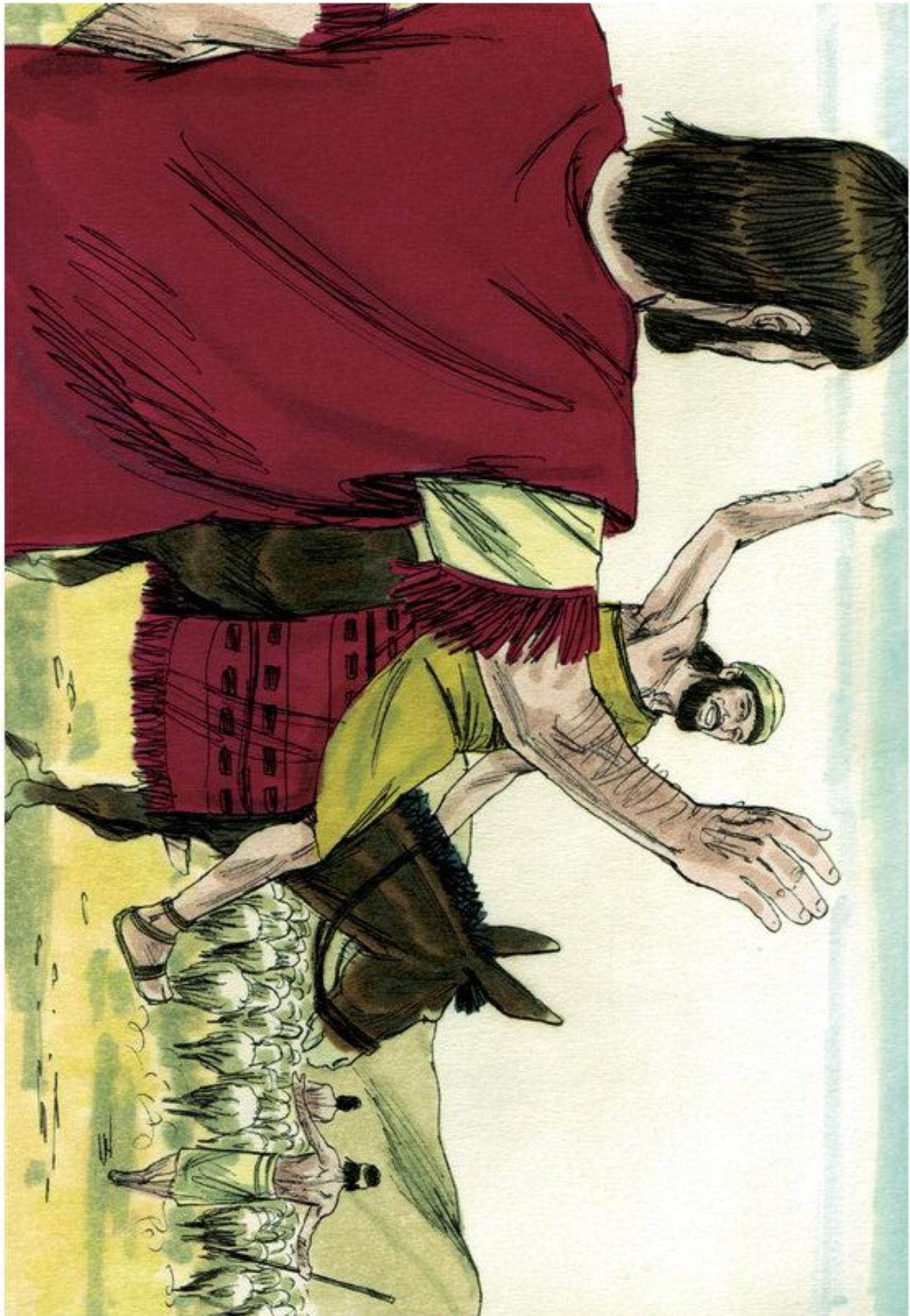
kinsmen

God's Promises to Abram

1. I will make of you a great nation.
2. I will bless you.
3. I will make your name great.
4. You will be a blessing.
5. I will bless those who bless you.
6. Him who dishonors you I will curse.
7. In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
8. I will give this land to your descendants.
9. I will give **all** this land to your descendants **forever**.
10. I will make your descendants as numberless as the dust of the earth.







Matt the Moose and the Oaks of Mamre

(Chomp, chomp, chomp)

Oh. Hi, kids. You caught me eating. (Chomp.) Sure is tasty—this tree I'm eating.

Did you hear that Abram settled down near some trees called The **Oaks** of Mamre? No **joke**; they were **oaks**. Every morning when he **awoke**, Abram saw an **oak**. (Heh, heh, heh.)

You are going to think I'm pretty smart 'cause I know the Hebrew word for **oak**; it's *alon*. (Heh, heh, heh.) *Alon*! Here's a photograph for you of what that kind of tree looks like. Doesn't look like our **oak** trees, does it? Of course, there are about 600 species of **oak** trees in the world. I guess we can't expect **oak** trees in Israel to look like **oaks** in Colorado.

I hear that dogs can be poisoned by eating **oak** trees. I looked it up online, but I couldn't find out if **oak** trees would make me **croak**. They sure aren't my cup of **Coke**, though.

Those **oaks** in Mamre are hardy **blokes**. They can resist drought. Trouble is they grow very slowly; so they wouldn't do us much good for a **cloak** from the sun unless we waited about ten years.

Today *alon* trees in Israel are more like bushes than trees due to overgrazing of sheep and **goaks**, uh, I mean goats. That reminds me a lot of Lot and Abram, huh? [Show photo of trees and sheep in hills.]

While we're looking at this photo, notice the lay of the land where Abram lived. Did you think Abram lived on flat land like we do? Well, look at those hills.

Lots of **folks** came to these **oaks** of Mamre near the town of Hebron. You'll hear about them as you study the Bible.

Well, I'd better be getting along. Need to **poke** my head around an **oak**. Don't think I'll eat it, though, so that I don't go up in **smoke**. (Heh, heh, heh. Chomp, chomp, chomp.)



Alon Tree (translated *oak* in many Bible references)

<https://blog.israelbiblicalstudies.com/holy-land-studies/two-biblical-trees/>



Country around Hebron near the Oaks of Mamre

<https://blog.israelbiblicalstudies.com/holy-land-studies/two-biblical-trees/>

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.

