

## 08.11 Gerar (Genesis 20:1-18)

## 08.12 Birth of Isaac (Genesis 21:1-7)

✓ “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:

- Pictures and other visual aids found at the end of this lesson. Please credit sources for pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” below for other suggested items.
- (optional) *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 in the following story will be acknowledged by [Ganz].

### Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:

- *sojourn*: to live temporarily in a country not one’s own
- *harem*: a collection of wives

### Scripture: (ESV)

**20:1** From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. **2** And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. **3** But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.” **4** Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, “Lord, will you kill an innocent people? **5** Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.” **6** Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. **7** Now then, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

**8** So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. **9** Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.” **10** And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you see, that you did this thing?” **11** Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ **12** Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. **13** And when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, I said to her, ‘This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, ‘He is my brother.’”

**14** Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. **15** And Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you.” **16** To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.” **17** Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. **18** For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

**21:1** The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. **2** And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. **3** Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. **4** And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. **5** Abraham was a hundred years old when

his son Isaac was born to him. 6 And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” 7 And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

### **Introduction/Review:**

In which city did Lot live? [Sodom.] Why did Lot and his family need to get out of Sodom? [God was going to destroy it with fire.] Besides his wife and two daughters, who else did Lot convince to leave Sodom? [No one.] What happened to Lot’s wife? Why? [She became a salt pillar because she looked back.]

God delivered Lot and his two daughters from the terrible destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other cities of the plains. What did Abraham see the morning after the destruction? [Smoke like that from a furnace.]

### **Story:**

✓ Burning brimstone (sulfur) from the massive fire of all those cities must have left a horrible stench in the whole area. ✓ For a while the beautiful lush green valley, the Jordan Valley, must have looked black and bleak. ✓ Smoke, soot, and ash undoubtedly hung in the air [Ganz]. ✓ Any place in the region of those cities must have been uninhabitable. Abraham had to leave Hebron, where he had lived many years. Where would he go? He went toward the southwest to sojourn in a city called Gerar, on a river less than ten miles from the “Great Sea” and in line west from the thumb of the Dead Sea. [Locate on a map.] This city was in the land of the Philistines, who did not fear God or man.

#### ***Same lie***

Our Abraham, who has shown such trust in the Lord, begins again to fear. Just as he did when going to Egypt, he does now. What had he done in Egypt? Hint: this has to do with his wife. [He had said Sarah was his sister.] Why did he do this? [Because he was afraid that the king would slay him for his beautiful wife.]

“She is my sister,” said Abraham again.

“He is my brother,” Sarah concurred.

Can you imagine an 89-year-old woman still being so beautiful as to catch the eyes of the king of Gerar? Well, she did. The king, whose title was Abimelech, noticed Sarah and added her to his harem. (Maybe he was an old man himself.) How scary for Abraham and Sarah! They could not even be together. Oh, Abraham, what a mess you’ve made for yourself and your wife!

#### ***Sovereign God***

Can God fix this mess? Yes, He can, and, yes, He did. In a dream he appeared to Abimelech. “You are a dead man,” God said. What does this mean? [Abimelech would die.] Why would he die? God gave that answer: “Because you took another man’s wife.”

“Lord, will You destroy an innocent nation? Didn’t he say, ‘She is my sister’? Didn’t she herself say, ‘He is my brother’? I didn’t know. I am innocent.” All of this Abimelech answered to God.

God replied, “I know you didn’t know. That’s why you have not come near to the woman—I have kept you from her. Therefore, give her back to her husband. He is a prophet. He will pray for you, and you will live. If you don’t give her back, you and all that is yours will surely die.”

#### ***Rebuked man***

What a dream! It certainly impressed Abimelech. In the morning he called all his servants and told them what he had dreamed. They were all extremely frightened. Abimelech called Abraham and asked, “What have you done to me? Why have you done this?”

Abraham answered, “Because I thought no one fears God in this place, and they will slay me for my wife. This is the agreement we’ve had for years: when we go into a place like this, I say, ‘She is my sister,’ and

she says, ‘He is my brother.’”

### ***Rewarded man***

Strangely, instead of kicking Abraham out, Abimelech gave him sheep, oxen, men servants, and women servants, and one thousand pieces of silver. When Abraham had deserved a great payment from the king of Sodom after delivering Lot from the foreign kings, he had refused it. ✓Now, when, in my opinion, he deserved a good spanking, he accepted all these animals and servants and money from this king. ✓Perhaps Abimelech felt it was part of his making things right so that God wouldn’t kill him. ✓Perhaps it was for the honor of Sarah somehow [Ganz]. At any rate, it is what Abimelech did for Abraham. In addition, he offered Abraham the whole of his land to live in.

For his part, Abraham did pray for Abimelech, and all his people were healed of the malady of not being able to conceive children as long as Sarah was in Abimelech’s house.

### ***Fulfilled promise***

Now, when the Lord had come with the other two visitors to Abraham’s tent in Hebron, He had said Sarah would have a son within how much time? [Within a year.] How many months are there in a year? [Twelve.] About how many months does it take for a baby to be born? [Nine months—three months less than a year.]

Did God keep His promise? Yes, He did! Within that very year Sarah, at age 90, and Abraham, at age 100, had a son. His name was Isaac. What does Isaac mean? [Laughter.]

Do you remember when your little brother or sister or a younger cousin or friend was born? What do people do when they see a new baby? [They smile, coo, and laugh.] Just imagine Sarah and Abraham laughing at the impossible miracle they were holding, laughing at all the cute little things little Baby Isaac did, laughing at God’s sense of humor in giving old people a baby, laughing at . . . you fill in the blank. [Teacher, allow students to share other expressions of laughter with an infant.]

Oh, what a happy time! But not everyone was happy. Our next story will tell us about that.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- Trust the Lord even when—or especially when—you are afraid.
- God wants us to be honest.
- We have learned about God’s wrath against sin in sending Adam out of the garden and sending Cain to the east, in the flood, in the separation by languages at Babel, and in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In what events have we seen the incredible love of God? [In saving Adam and Eve by the sacrifice of animals; sparing Noah and his family; calling, leading, promising, and fulfilling promises to Abraham.]

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: baby
- Talk about being honest and truthful. Share experiences from your life and how you told the truth in a hard situation or how you did not tell the truth and the consequences that happened. Kids will like to hear how you dealt with things and learned a lesson from them.
- Sing stanzas 1–9 of “Abraham” found at Lesson 08.01 or the Songs page at [teachingthebibletochildren.org](http://teachingthebibletochildren.org).
- For preschoolers, let them wrap a blanket around a baby doll and pretend it is baby Isaac (<http://www.missionarlington.org/pdfs/OTL1Year>).
- Some kids may want a daring adventure. Try baby food (applesauce and bananas aren’t that bad). Talk about what it must have been like for an old grandmother to raise a baby (<http://www.missionarlington.org/pdfs/OTL1Year>).

- Review questions. (Game: Young students who answer correctly get to hold and rock a baby doll. See next activity for older students.)
  1. ✓ Although the Bible doesn't state it, what is a likely cause for Abraham to move from Hebron? [The stench and smoke and ash from the destruction of the cities of the plains.]
  2. What did Abraham and Sarah say about each other in Gerar of Philistia? ["She's my sister"; "He's my brother."]
  3. What did Abimelech of Gerar do to Sarah? [Added her to his harem.]
  4. How did God fix this situation? [Spoke to Abimelech in a dream, telling him the truth and warning him to give Sarah back.]
  5. What had happened to the people in Abimelech's kingdom while Sarah was in his harem? [Had been unable to have children.]
  6. What did Abimelech do for Abraham? [Gave him men servant, women servants, sheep, oxen, and a thousand pieces of silver.]
  7. What means did God use to heal Abimelech's people? [Abraham's prayer.]
  8. What was the name of the son born to Abraham and Sarah? [Isaac.]
  9. What does the name *Isaac* mean? [Laughter.]
  10. Why do you suppose God had Abraham and Sarah name the boy Isaac? [Because they had laughed when God promised him; later because they enjoyed the child so much that they frequently laughed.]
- More review questions: (Game: Make signs using the words *Abraham* and *Sarah*, *Isaac*, *God*, and *stars* found with terms below. Have students identify each word. Place signs in different locations around the room. Students go to the sign that answers the question [David C. Cook].)
  1. Who wanted a child? [Abraham and Sarah.]
  2. Who promised a child? [God.]
  3. What did Abraham try to count? [Stars.]
  4. Who was getting older? [Abraham and Sarah.]
  5. Who remembered God's promise? [Abraham and Sarah.]
  6. Who kept his promise? [God.]
  7. What was the baby named? [Isaac.]
  8. Who laughed when Isaac was born? [Abraham and Sarah.]
  9. Who always keeps his promises? [God.]

**Memory Verse[s]:**

Genesis 18:25—"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

**Handwork:**

- Use macaroni and glue to spell out the phrase "Tell the Truth" on paper. Let the kids take it home and put it on their mirror to remind them to tell the truth (<http://www.missionarlington.org/pdfs/OTL1Year>).

**harem**

**sojourn**

**Abraham**

**Sarah**

**God**

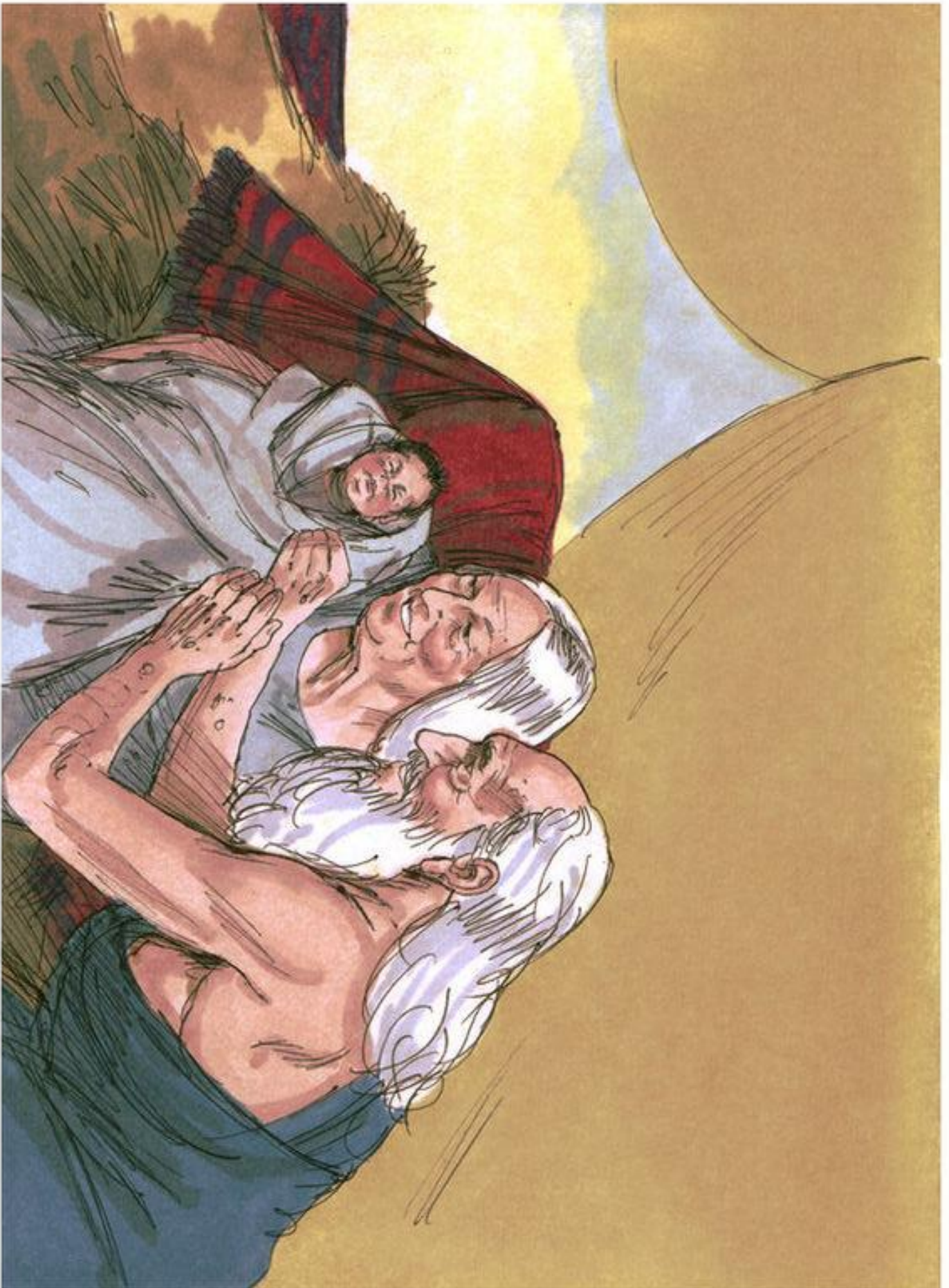
**Isaac**

**stars**

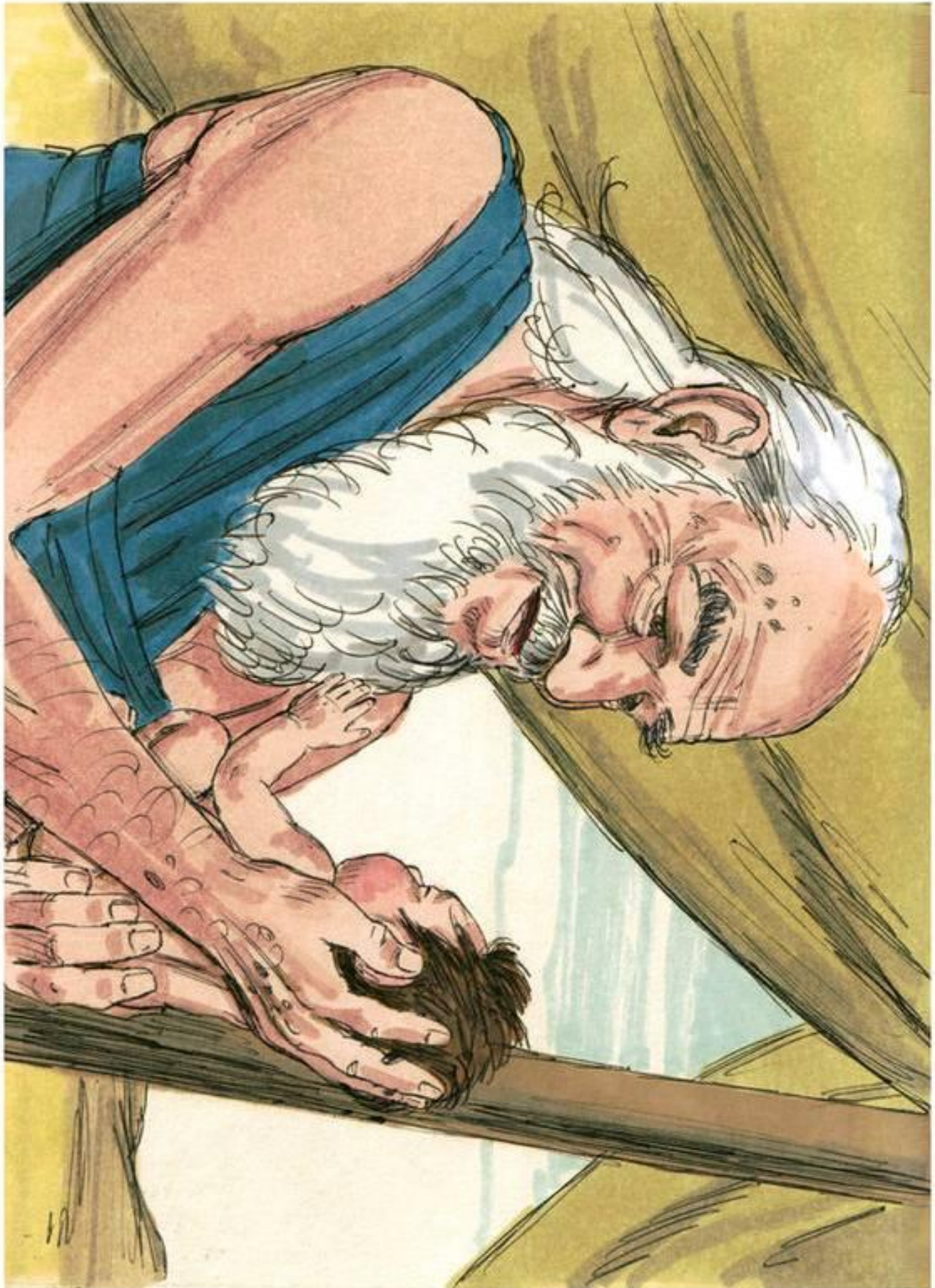




# Abraham y Abimelech







# Father Abraham (altered)

Folk Song

Fa - ther A - br - ham had two sons: Ish - ma - el and pro - mised

I - saac. By faith I can be Ab - r'am's So let's just praise the

Lord; 1.Right arm; 2.Left arm; 3.Right foot; 4.Left foot; 5.Chin up; 6.Turn a - round; 7.Sit down!

Sing the song seven times, each time repeating the previous motion(s), adding another motion, and continuing those motions while singing the next stanza. Note that the last stanza is shown in the music above.

1. "Right arm" (clench right fist, bring fist to shoulder)
2. "Right arm; Left arm" (Clench left fist and bring to left shoulder)
3. "Right arm; Left arm; Right foot" (Step with right foot)
4. "Right arm; Left arm; Right foot; Left foot" (Step with left foot)
5. "Right arm; Left arm; Right foot; Left foot; Chin up" (Move head up and down)
6. "Right arm; Left arm; Right foot; Left foot; Chin up; Turn around" Turn body around)
7. "Right arm; Left arm; Right foot; Left foot; Chin up; Turn around; Sit down" (Sit down and cease all motion)

Father Abraham

had 2 sons

Ishmael and

promised Isaac.

By faith I can be

Ab'ram's child.

