

Abram And Sarai Visit Egypt

Genesis 12:10-13:1

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 40:4

Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many sheets of construction paper and balloons as the number of children in your class, tape and flashlights.

Masking tape, construction paper, and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Lighthouse

Pass out a sheet of construction paper to each student in the class. Have them cut out a row of windows across the top of the sheet. Blow up several light-colored balloons about 3" in diameter. Wrap the cut sheets around the balloon so the balloon is seen through the windows. Tape the lighthouses closed and use a flashlight to illuminate them.

Ask your class what lighthouses are for. Explain that God desires to guide us through our lives with His word and by His Spirit. Ask your class to describe what may happen if we ignore His plan for us.

LESSON TIME!

Throughout our lives we must hold fast to the word of God and His promise for our future good. Sometimes when bad things happen they can cause our faith to shake a little bit as we lose sight of the fact that our lives are in the Lord's hands and that He takes care of those who trust Him.

This is what happened to Abram and his wife Sarai. God had just given them wonderful promises concerning their lives. He had told Abram that He would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him. God told Abram that He would make his name great and that He would give Abram's descendants the land of Canaan. However, it was not time for God's promises to happen yet and Abram and Sarai were confronted with severe famine.

God placed them into very difficult circumstances. Instead of trusting in God's infinite love for them and the knowledge that He would take them through anything, their hearts were filled with unbelief and they tried to solve their own problems. But that just led to even more problems. **When we don't trust in the Lord, we fall into all kinds of problems.**

Let's look at our story for today and see what we can learn about how to handle problems in our lives and what happens when we don't trust in the Lord.

GENESIS 12:10

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

The first thing that we notice is that we don't see God telling Abram and his wife to go to Egypt. They chose to do so because of what was happening around them. There was definitely a very bad famine in the land. A famine is when there is very little food

because farms and crops don't do very well. But could God have provided for them right where they were at, or did they need to go to Egypt to find help?

It is interesting to note that often in the Bible Egypt is a picture of the world. So perhaps this is a picture and a lesson for us that when we begin to have problems we need to look to the Lord, not to the world to solve our problems. We have a loving Heavenly Father who takes care of His children and stands fast to His word. He made promises to Abram and He would certainly keep them. He has also made promises to us and He will always keep them.

Instead of waiting on God and rejoicing in an opportunity for obedience, they chose to face the world alone, forgetting God. This decision left them not only to deal with a famine physically, but also a famine in their own souls without the peace of God in their lives. **When we don't trust in the Lord, we fall into all kinds of problems.**

GENESIS 12:11-13

And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.

"Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.

"Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."

As Abram and Sarai began to follow their own path instead of trusting the Lord more problems began to arise. These are things that would have never come up had they stayed where they were

and sought the Lord. **When we don't trust in the Lord, we fall into all kinds of problems.**

They had already lost their peace and joy as they walked away from God's will. Because Egyptian men would murder without hesitation to gain a beautiful bride, Abram was filled with fear. No longer did He trust in the hand of the Almighty to save him. He selfishly requested Sarai to lie and sacrifice her honor so that he might be safe. **When we don't trust in the Lord, we fall into all kinds of problems.**

You can see here how that one bad decision leads to another. As soon as we take our focus off of the Lord and take matters into our own hand that is when we begin to mess things up. And it will continue to get worse and worse until we get right with the Lord. Have you ever been tempted to tell a lie so that you could stay out of trouble? Did telling the lie help you or get you into more trouble? Like Abraham when we lie it will only get us into much greater trouble.

GENESIS 12:14-16

So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful.

The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house.

He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

At first it seemed like Abram was getting away with the lie. Everything was going good. They all think Sarai is his sister, they are giving Abram all kinds of money and possessions and they are

safe. But at the same time Abram was putting his wife and himself in grave danger. It may seem like our plans and schemes are going well at first, but there comes a time when everything falls apart and we will end up in a greater mess than we ever could have been by just simply doing what was right.

When they got to Egypt, Pharaoh's men saw how beautiful Sarai was and Pharaoh brought Abram and Sarai to himself. Because he thought Abram was her brother, he gave Abram much wealth. Abram and Sarai continued the lie causing Sarai to face danger so that Abram could keep his safety. Our bad decisions don't only affect us, they affect others.

Although they gained a lot of wealth and possessions, they had no capacity to enjoy them because they had strayed from God's plan for their lives. Only God's way offers peace and joy. There is no enjoyment or fulfillment in life apart from fellowship with the Lord.

Abram and Sarai forgot that we are only complete while we experience communion with God. His ways alone are blessed. Abram gained his riches at a very high price, his relationship with the Lord and his wife. **When we don't trust in the Lord, we fall into all kinds of problems.**

Walk the Right Path

With masking tape, make a jagged path on the floor. On either side of the path, place "hazards" on construction paper. Blindfold a volunteer from the class and guide them through the path with oral commands. If they stray off of the path and hit a hazard, tell them what has happened to them. Allow several volunteers a turn until you have some successful travelers.

GENESIS 12:17-19

But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?"

"Why did you say, 'She is my sister'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way."

Well, as always when we tell lies the truth eventually comes out. And it did for Abram. God knew what was happening all along and it wasn't right. So He did something about it. Even though we think we might be getting away with something we never do. God knows what is in our hearts and what is happening. One day everything will come to light.

But through all that had happened, God still loved Abram and Sarai very much and continued to protect them. They made bad choices and suffered because of it, but even when we lose sight of who God is, He continues to be our loving Heavenly Father, caring for us and our lives. God caused a plague to be upon Pharaoh causing Pharaoh to desire to get rid of Abram and Sarai from Egypt.

Pharaoh, an unbeliever, confronted Abram and rebuked him. It is a very embarrassing and sad thing to see what happens to our witness when we don't obey the Lord. Instead of being an example to Pharaoh, Abram had to be lectured by Pharaoh on what is really right. We can't be a witness for Jesus in this world unless we are obedient to Him. Let's not allow the world to teach us what is right, we need to listen to and follow the Lord's commands. **When we don't trust in the Lord, we fall into all kinds of problems.**

GENESIS 12:20-13:1

So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South.

Abram and Sarai left Egypt and God's mercy prevailed. God's divine restoration delivered them from Egypt and brought them back into safety. God loves us much more than we can even begin to fathom. Even when we fail, He picks up the mess we make of things and restores us into fellowship with Him once again.

How much better it is when we trust in Him and follow His ways. He alone knows what is best for us. When we listen to Him, we don't have to live in fear or suffer the consequences of our disobedience. Abram and Sarai suffered because of their lack of faith in God. Let's listen to Him and cling to His promises because we can always trust Him to know what is right.

He loves us so much and has wonderful things planned for us as we follow His ways and listen to His voice. Let's trust in Him and allow Him to bless us more than we could ever imagine as we keep our lives in fellowship with Him, because **when we don't trust in the Lord, we fall into all kinds of problems.**

Abram and Sarai

Have your class re-enact the story of Abram and Sarai and their trip to Egypt. Have all of the characters represented. Ask the cast to describe what they might feel like if they had been the people they were playing.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust the Lord for everything in our lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.