


GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS**UNIT ONE:** Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham.**Lesson 7:****Visitors from God****CONTENT:**

1. God appeared to Abram and asked him to obey him. He promised to give him a son, though he and Sarai were old. He changed his name to Abraham, which means 'Father of many countries' and Sarai's name to Sarah, which means 'princess'.
2. One day Abraham saw three men approaching his tent. They were really angels. Abraham welcomed them as if he was welcoming God himself.
3. Before going away the angels promised that Sarah would have a son soon. Their promise came true. Sarah had a baby boy, whom they named Isaac, which means 'laughed'. Abraham gave a big feast to celebrate.
-  4. Jesus told his disciples, 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me.' Like Abraham, we must be ready to welcome people (especially priests, missionaries, poor people) to our homes as if we are welcoming God himself. God will surely bless us, as he blessed Abraham.

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout at home. Tell the story of Abraham to your family. Invite someone over for a meal: a priest, sister, missionary or poor person.

REFERENCES: Genesis 17:1-5,15-16; 18:1-15; 21: 1-7. Matthew 10:42. CCC 1658, 2571.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; A sheet of A/4 size paper; colouring materials, glue scissors, black felt pens.

I. STARTER:

- Today we are going to talk about guests. Guests are people who come to our home to have a meal or to stay with us for a while. Close your eyes and try and remember any special guest who came to your home for a meal... Who was the guest? What did you do to make him or her feel comfortable? Did you talk to him/her? [Allow the children to share]

II. DEVELOPMENT: [Story of Abraham's Visitors]

- Do you remember Abram, and how he left his home and went off when God called him? Whom did he take with him? *[His wife, Sarai and his nephew, Lot; his servants.]*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God again spoke to him. He said, "I am God Almighty! Keep on listening to me,. Now I am changing your name to Abraham because I will make you the father of many, many people of different countries. (That's what Abraham means: father of many countries!) Then God said, "Sarai's name will now be 'Sarah' (Sarah means 'princess') and I will bless her and give her a son." Abraham wanted to have a son very much but he wondered how this could be possible, because both he and Sarah were very old. Old people don't have babies .

One hot day, some time later, Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent. Suddenly he saw three men walking in the distance. Abraham ran up to them and bowed down. He said, "Please stop and rest for a while in the shade of these trees. I will give you some water to wash and some food to eat." The men said, "Yes. We will stop and rest."

Abraham rushed off and got water for the men. He made them sit under the shady trees near his tent and then he went inside and called Sarah. "Quickly get some flour (maida) and make some rotis for our guests!" Then he went to where his animals were and chose a young calf . He told a servant to kill it and cook the meat and make a tasty dish for the guests. When everything was ready, Abraham took curd, milk and the meat and rotis and served the men. He stood nearby while they ate and drank.

When they had finished eating, one of the men said, "We will come back next year and Sarah will have a son." Sarah was listening from inside the tent. She laughed to herself when she heard what they said. "How can I have a son now that I am old?" she thought.

But the man's promise came true. In nine months time Sarah had a beautiful baby boy. She called him Isaac, which means 'laughed'. She said, "It's a good name for him, because now we are laughing and everyone is laughing with us!" Abraham had a big party to show how happy he was!

[Give out handouts and read the first part. The children fill in the names ABRAHAM, SARAH and ISAAC. They could colour the picture.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Do you remember the story you heard last time? God gave Abram a new name. What was it? What does it mean?
- What was Sarai's new name? And what does her name mean?
- What about their baby boy; what name did they give him? What does it mean?
- What did Abraham do when he saw the three men?
- How do you think the men knew that Sarah would have a baby?.. Do you think they were ordinary men.. or something else? They were really angels, looking like men. God had sent them to Abraham and Abraham treated them as if God himself had come to visit. God was very happy with Abraham and Sarah and he blessed them with a son.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

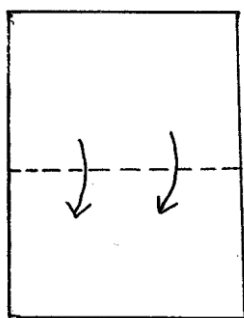
- God wants us to be like Abraham. Jesus once told his friends, 'WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU, WELCOMES ME!' [Write this on the blackboard.] He said, "If a person gives even a cup of cold water to someone for my sake, that person will get a reward."
- If we welcome a holy person like a priest, or a nun, or a missionary God will be very happy. If we welcome a poor person for Jesus' sake, God will surely bless us, just as he blessed Abraham and Sarah.
- Will you try to be like Abraham? Will you go home and talk to your family about it? Then let's pray. [Make a sign of the cross and pray:]

Lord Jesus / Thank you for giving us a chance / to welcome you to our homes. /
Help us to be like Abraham / and to welcome people lovingly / for your sake. / Amen.

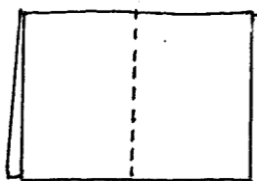
IV. ACTIVITY:

[With a sheet of A/4 size paper make a house as follows:]

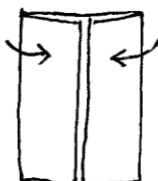
1. Fold the sheet in half.
2. Fold in half again, then open out.
3. Fold the two sides inwards towards the centre crease.
4. Open each side again, holding the inner edge in place and pulling open the outer side. Press down.
5. Make 2 cuts so that the 'doors' open. Stick around the doors.
6. Children write: '**Jesus said: WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU, WELCOMES ME**' with black felt pen on the roof. They draw their family standing at the doorway welcoming guests. They colour the house.



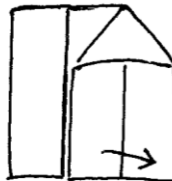
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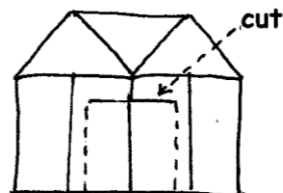
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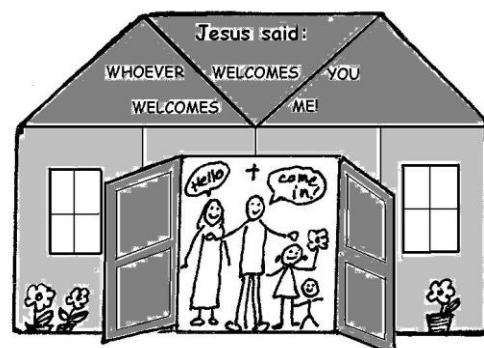
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Home assignment: Read the handout at home. Tell the story of Abraham to your family. Invite someone over for a meal: a priest, sister, missionary or poor person.