

# Mustard Seed Series

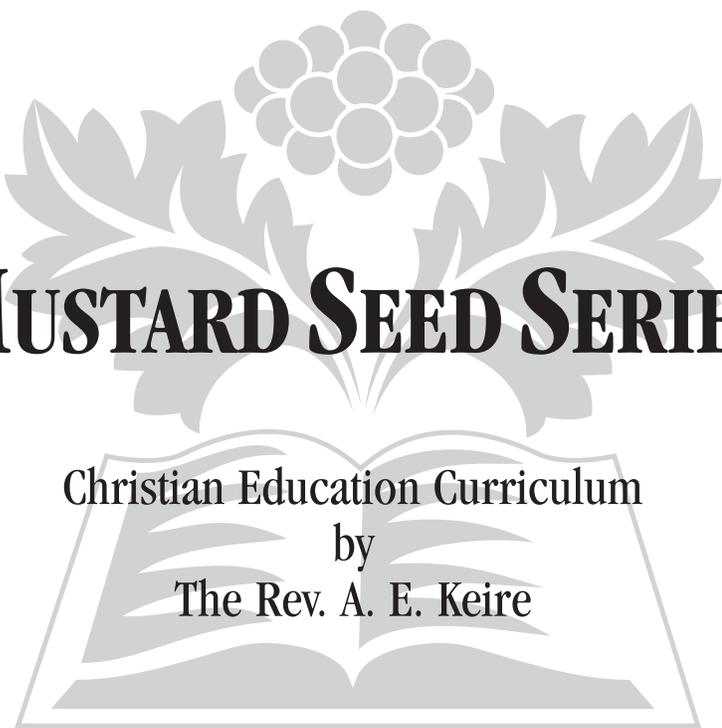
CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION



## Primary 1



**Primary 1**  
**Teacher Book**



**MUSTARD SEED SERIES**

Christian Education Curriculum  
by  
The Rev. A. E. Keire

Curriculum Development  
Associates, Inc.

[www.mustardseedseries.com](http://www.mustardseedseries.com)

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**The Mustard Seed Series.**  
**by Rev. A. E. Keire**  
**ISBN: 9780963391148**  
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Curriculum Development Associates, Inc.

**2017 Edition**

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*“The potential of a child is the most intriguing thing in all creation.”*

*Ray Lyman Wilbur*



# PRIMARY 1

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# OLD TESTAMENT

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## FOCUS

- Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, Our Spiritual Forbearers
- Trust and Faith in God



### ATTENDANCE AND SHARING

See Lesson One.



### REVIEW

- Have different students retell the story of Noah's Ark. Be sure that your students understand that God did not destroy the world by flood; the ancient Hebrews only thought that God did because the flood was so destructive. This ancient story has been in existence for at least 3500 to 4000 years. It probably existed for 2,000 years before it was put into writing.
- As an alternative, ask these questions:
  - Who was Noah?
  - What did God tell Noah to do?
  - What happened to Noah and his family when the rain began?
  - What happened to those who were not in the Ark?
  - What promises and what sign did God give to people at the end of the story?



### CLASS PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S LESSON

- Today we are going to talk about trust and someone who trusted in God's promises.
- Does anyone know what trust means?
  - Trust is a firm belief in a person's or thing's dependability. For instance, we trust when we go to sleep at night that we will wake up in the morning. We

trust that our lungs will keep working, that the air will remain clean so we can breath it and not get sick, etc.

- Whom or what do you trust?
- Do any of you have grandparents who have a new baby?
- Many thousands of years ago, a man called Abraham (say his name after me) had trust in God and did what God told him to do. Today's story is about Abraham. He and his wife were very old when Sarah gave birth to a baby boy named Isaac. The story is called "Abraham, Carrier of God's Promise." Are you ready?



### TODAY'S LESSON AND DISCUSSION POSSIBILITIES

- Why did Abraham decide to leave his homeland to settle in Canaan? (God asked him to.)
- Would you have trusted God and packed everything and traveled to an unknown land? Why?
- If you were Sarah, would you have been willing to move away from all your friends to a faraway place that was unknown to you?
- How old was Abraham when God first told him to go to Canaan? (75)
- About how old were Abraham and Sarah when the messengers from God arrived to tell them about the expected birth of Isaac? (Close to 100 and 90)
- Did Abraham and Sarah believe the messengers? Why or why not?

GENESIS 12:1-9;  
18; 21:1-8

## Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac



*The Lord said to Abraham, 'Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation.'*



GENESIS 12:1-2A

### MATERIALS

- Student Books
- Activity supplies

- Why was Sarah able to have a baby? (For God, nothing is impossible.)
- What does Isaac's name mean? ("He laughs.")
- What is the most important point in this story? (Listen to their answers and then suggest that it might be that Abraham trusted God.)



### STUDENT BOOKS

- Take from your Student's Book, page 11, "The Travels of Abraham." Which event happened first in the story? Put that number in the circle next to the picture. Which event happened second...?
- Turn the page to "Modern-Day Faith." What does this picture suggest? ("Faith is the daring of a person to go further than he or she can see.")



### ACTIVITIES—JOURNEY TO A NEW LAND AND/OR SARAH LAUGHED GAMES

- You may wish to use minimal costumes for this imaginary journey.
  - Let us pretend that God is calling us today to leave our town or city to journey to a faraway country where we know no one. God does not promise that our life will be made any easier than it is now. In fact, life may become more difficult. God does promise to bless us, give us land, and give us children who will form a great nation. What will be our answer to God? Will we be the carrier of God's promises?
  - Form two lines. The first line will answer God's call. The second line will stay behind in their present home. I will write on this poster board your reasons for leaving or for staying behind. Talk among yourselves about what you will tell me.
- You can add to this exercise by asking all of your students to line up behind you to prepare for their journey to a new country. Pretend you are a modern-day Abraham.
  - Children, we will be moving away from this place.
  - I will hear your questions and complaints.
  - The decision to leave has been made by me. You have to go with me. I am going to obey God whether it fits in with your plans or not.
- Start packing. What will you take with you? I will give you time to figure out what you will need. We will be traveling by foot and will be able to take only what we can carry. I will give you a few seconds to figure out what you should pack in your backpack. Let us discuss your decisions.
  - What things can you do without?
  - What things can you not do without?
- Let us start walking. Follow me. Pretend you are carrying your backpack.
- We will stop every so often. We are now in a new town and no one speaks our language. We are all hungry. How will we buy food? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ go over to that corner store and buy lunch for us.
- Do you think this would be a good town in which to settle? Describe to me what you see.
- Let us pray to God and ask God if this is the place. God does not respond. So that means we must continue traveling on.
- Repeat the walking, stopping, visualizing the new places, and praying to God. You may stop at such places as a farm, a desert, northern Alaska, the Equator, a city, etc. Always have the people speaking an unknown language. At last, God sends a sign that tells you to settle in a particular place. Make the place semi-arid, where the living will be difficult. Give make-believe jobs to your students to see how they will react. Then tell them this is where they and their children will live for many, many years.
- For the "Sarah Laughed" Game, have your class form a circle. Select one person to be Sarah and have her stand in the center of the circle. Give her a handkerchief, which she is to throw in the air. She laughs, and everyone in the circle should laugh with her. When the handkerchief touches the floor, she and everyone else should stop laughing. Whoever is laughing becomes the new Sarah.



### CONCLUSION

- Let us form a prayer circle.

*NOTE: The meaning of the Lord's Prayer will not be taught to your class for a couple of years. At this stage in their intellectual development, we must be satisfied with their learning the words.*

- By now do you all have a special place to pray at home?
- How often do you go to your special place? (Encourage your students to go there at least once a day to pray.)
- What we are going to try to do over the next several weeks is to compose prayers to God about what we are thinking. (Try to tape record their prayers and then write them in a notebook.)
- Prayer is not just saying prayers, like the Lord's Prayer. There are many other ways of praying to God. Do you remember what we said praying was? It is talking to God. God wants to hear what we feel, deep down in our hearts. So let us close our eyes and think something special about Abraham and how he obeyed God.
- How should we start our prayer? Perhaps we should greet God first: for example, "Hello God," or "Dear God," or "Good Morning, God," or "Oh God, I love you." What would you like to say first?
- Then we could thank God for giving us people such as Abraham and Sarah, who showed us how to trust in God.
- Let us pray.  
**Hello God. Help us to grow in our faith and to trust you just like Abraham and Sarah did. Help us not to complain about being made uncomfortable or tired or for having to move. We love you and trust you. Amen.**
- Do you know what *Amen* means? It means *and so be it* or *so shall it be*. It is similar to a postage stamp on a letter to God.
- Whatever prayers you create, let them flow naturally from you. Avoid reading a prayer. Remember, you are talking to God.

# ABRAHAM, CARRIER OF GOD'S PROMISE

Long ago, many thousands of years ago, there was a man who believed and trusted in God. His name was Abraham. Abraham was a rich man with many servants and many herds of sheep, cattle, and goats. He was very comfortable living in a place called Haran. Abraham was an important man among his people.

One day God spoke to Abraham. God said, "Abraham, leave your father's country. I will show you a land where you can live. It will be yours. I will give you many children, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and all those who treat you well. I will make your name famous."

Abraham thought and thought about what God asked him to do. He even thought about it at nighttime and could not sleep. He did not want to leave everyone he knew. He did not want to leave familiar places. He did not want to learn a new language. He talked to his family and friends. They did not want him to leave. But Abraham kept hearing God's call. Finally he decided to obey God. At 75 years old, Abraham, trusting God, packed his heavy bags, rolled up his belongings, and guided his wife, his servants, and his herds to a new and far away, strange land. Each place Abraham stopped, he wondered, "Is this the land God will give me?"

After many days and many nights of traveling far and wide, Abraham came to the land called Canaan. It was in Canaan that God spoke again to Abraham. God said, "This is the land I promised to you. I am giving you all of Canaan."

Abraham looked at the land. It had a great river that ran through it that made the grass green. The water was clear and tasted good for drinking. They could live in its mysterious caves if invaders attacked them. The great Mediterranean Sea lapped at its shore. Abraham saw that the land was good.

Abraham pitched his tents once more. He moved his family and herds inside the land of Canaan. He was happy in this new land that God gave him.

Now that the first part of God's promise had come true, Abraham wondered when he and his wife would have children. They were very old. They trusted in God's promise, but no children seemed to be born to them.

Many years passed, and Abraham's herds grew larger and larger. You could hear the sheep go, "Baa, baa" and the goats go, "Nee, nee." Abraham had become a rich man. Yet he still had no children. He wondered when God's promise would come true.

Then one day when Abraham was bent over with old age and his wife Sarah walked with a cane, three travelers stopped at Abraham's tent. Abraham invited them to stay for food and drink. They accepted. Abraham clapped his hands (*clap yours*) and ordered his servants, "Fix a meal for these three strangers. Make bread. Roast a leg of lamb. And while they wait, bring some fresh milk for them to drink."

Now these three men were no ordinary travelers. They were messengers from God who were sent to tell Sarah and Abraham that she would have a child.

When Sarah overheard them, she laughed and laughed. “ Ha! Ha! Ha!” She did not believe them, because she was too old to have a child. Sarah said, “How can I have a son? I’m too old. I’m old enough to be a great-grandmother.” But God’s messengers smiled at them. They knew that nothing is impossible for God.

A year later, when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90 years old, Sarah gave birth to a son. They called their baby “Isaac” which means “he laughs.” Abraham and Sarah loved their son Isaac very much. After 25 years of waiting and trusting, the second part of God’s promise to Abraham had now come true.

End of Teacher Book Preview.

Student Book Preview Follows.

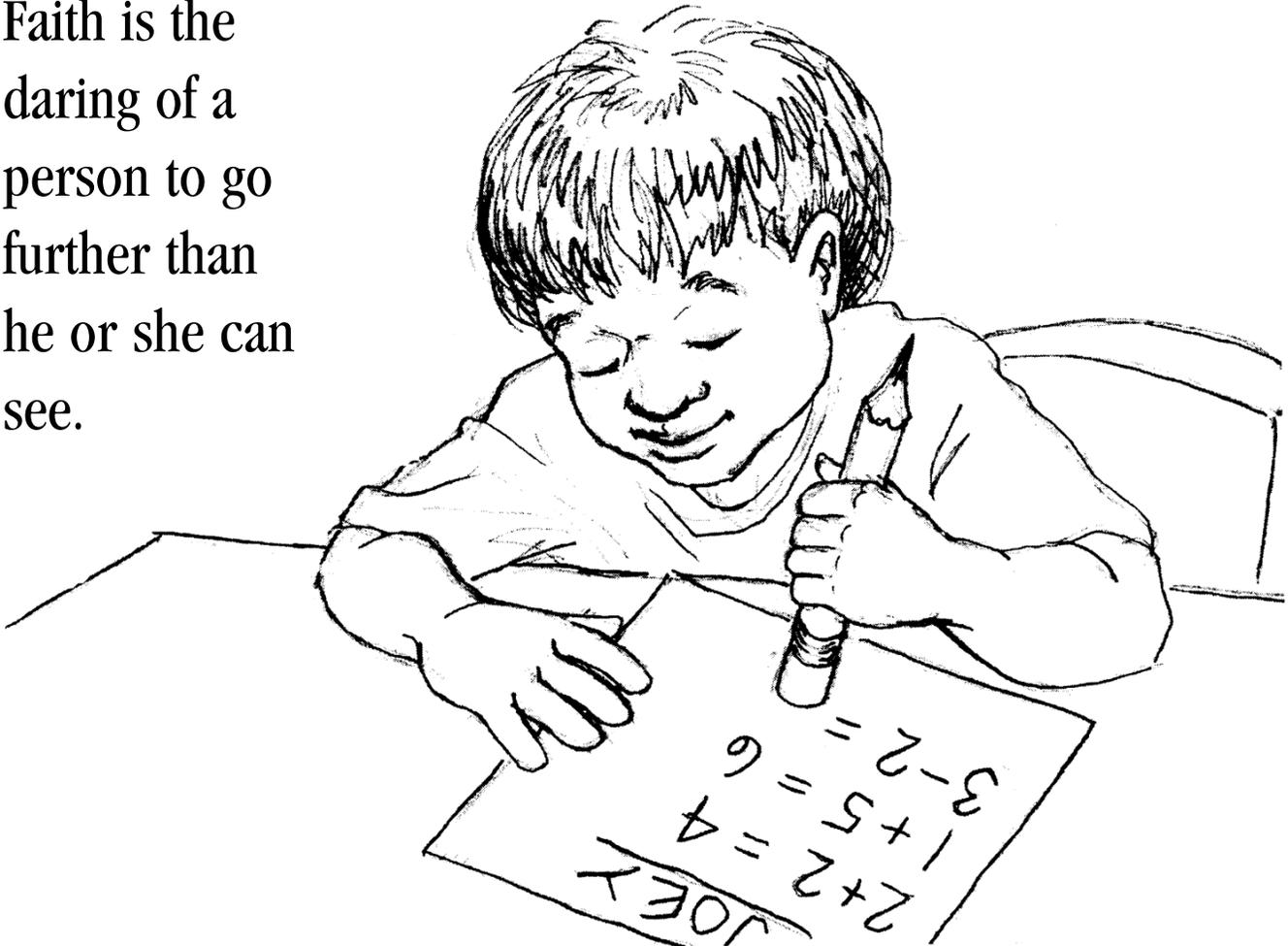
# The Travels of Abraham



Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

# Modern-Day Faith

Faith is the daring of a person to go further than he or she can see.



God makes a promise—faith believes it, hope anticipates it, patience quietly awaits it.

## *A Note Home:*

*Today your child began the study of the Patriarchs beginning with Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12:1-9; 18; 21:1-8.) Abraham trusted God and God's promises. God promised Abraham three important things; They were:*

- 1. God would give Abraham and his children land, specifically Canaan, which is our modern-day country of Israel.*
- 2. Abraham and his family would be blessed by God.*
- 3. Abraham and Sarah would be the parents of a great nation. Abraham is our spiritual forbearer.*