

## November: God Chooses a People

**Props needed:** The November bag includes a chain, a desert backdrop, brown and blue felt to represent the Red Sea and the Jordan River, the Ark of the Covenant, the curtain, stone tablets, a scroll, and wooden pieces (sword, shepherd's crook, crown, and book).

Use the following supplies from the past stories: extra peg people, three smooth rocks, the black felt from the Creation story, and three blocks from the Falling Apart story.

To begin:

- Have a Bible open to the story you are telling
- Have a family member light the battery-operated candle and explain that this light represents God's presence as you tell His story
- Pass the first three blocks around the table and then place them in the center of the table

**Story script (you may use this script or tell it in your own words):**

"Once there was a man named Abram and his wife Sarai. They did not know God, but he knew them. The one true God loved them and said, "Move from your home and go to a new land that I will show you. I will go with you, and bless you to be a blessing to the world." ***Move Abram and Sarai.***

"He promised they would have a family far greater than the stars in the sky" (***wipe the sky with your hand***) "or sand on the shore" (***pretend to pick up sand and sift through your fingers***). "They would become a great nation and he would give them a land of their own."

"Abram and Sarai packed up their belongings and went." ***Move Abram and Sarai***

"They didn't know where... but God did. They trusted the one true God to show them the way.

Every place they went," ***move Abram and Sarai*** "God's presence was with them." ***Cover them with your hands.***

"God made a covenant with Abram. A covenant is a promise between God and his people and he always keeps his promises. He told Abram, I will make you the father of many nations and I will change your name to Abraham. Sarai will be Sarah, the mother of nations. Finally, they settled in the land that God had promised them." ***Move them again***

"Abraham and Sarah had children," (***bring in a few peg dolls***) "and their children had children" (***bring a few more peg dolls***). "This was an important family in God's Story. They were God's people. They were God's story keepers so someday the whole world would know God's story."

"In time there was no food to eat so the family went to Egypt where there was land, rain, and crops." ***Bring out the desert background.*** "They stayed there for many years and grew to be a nation." ***Bring out more people.*** "But in time, the pharaoh made their people slaves." ***Place a chain around the people.*** "He was cruel and forced them to work hard. They cried out to God to rescue them and he did, through a baby named Moses. He grew up, became a great leader, and told Pharaoh to let God's people go!" ***Present Moses.***

“After blood, bugs, boils, and more, Moses and God’s people packed up their belongings,” **(open the chain)**, “and left. They didn’t know where... but God did!” **Move Moses**. “They trusted the one true God to show them the way.” **Move the people**.

**Place the blue-felt sea down.**

“They came to a sea,” **(move Moses toward the sea)** “and God rescued his people by turning the sea into dry land.” **Roll back the blue-felt sea and begin to move people**. “When they got to the other side,” **(move more people)**, “God closed the waters...” **Roll back the sea**.

“They wandered in the desert for 40 years because even with God’s presence, his protection, and a great promise, they forgot to worship him as their King. They kept getting lost in the desert and lost from God, but his presence never left them.”

“While they were in the desert, God gave them the “10 best ways to live” written on stone tablets.” **put out the two tablets** “and told them to follow these rules... but as we will see they didn’t follow very well. “

“God asked them to build a large tent, a tabernacle, so he could live among them.” **put out the backdrop tent, and place the Ark of the Covenant block between the wall and the curtain**. “As soon as they built it, God’s glory filled the tent. God’s presence came like a cloud by day and fire by night. His presence was with them on their journeys, just like he was with Abraham. After all, they were God’s people. They were God’s story keepers so someday the whole world would know God’s story.”

“When they came close to the land God had promised Abraham, Moses died and God gave them another leader, Joshua.” **Remove Moses by placing him in one hand and your other hand over him reverently. Then place another peg person down as Joshua**.

“They came to the Jordan River and it was very deep! God rescued his people again.” **Place the blue and brown felt down again and roll back the water**. “As soon as the priests dipped their toes in the water, God caused the river to stop flowing and rise up tall. God wanted them to remember this special day so he told them to gather 12 large rocks from the river and they obeyed.” **Pile up rocks next to the blue felt**. “They piled the rocks on top of each other so that when their children asked the meaning of the rocks, parents would tell them, ‘These rocks help us remember that God is all-powerful. He walked us through the Red Sea’ **pointing back toward Egypt** ‘to rescue us from Egypt. He walked us through the Jordan River, to bring us home. God kept his covenant.”

“When they met with trouble, God helped them.

When they said they were sorry, God forgave them.

When they needed protection, God protected them.

A covenant is a promise between God and his people and God always keeps his promises.

His people did not.”

“They forgot the true God again and worshiped the gods of their enemies. So God gave them deliverers,” **(put down a sword)**, “to lead them in battles and deliver them from their enemies.”

“Even this didn’t help them to follow God. The Bible tells us in those days everyone did

whatever seemed right to them.<sup>1</sup>

“God gave them priests to lead them to God, but he said the priests were like shepherds who didn’t protect their sheep...”<sup>2</sup> (*put down a shepherd's crook*)

“God gave them kings.-” (*put down a crown*) “because they wanted to be like other nations. God warned them, they would not be happy but they didn’t listen.<sup>3</sup> King David was a good king. He was a man after God’s heart. Another king built God a temple, a place for his presence to live” (*build a temple with 3 blocks*). “But most kings didn’t listen to God so the people forgot to listen too.”

“God gave them many prophets to speak for him,” (*put down a scroll*), “and to remind them how far they had separated from him even though God never left them. They didn’t listen to the prophets or come any closer to him.”

“Armies came, they tore down God’s temple” (*knock down the blocks*), “and took God’s people away so they lived in exile in Babylon.” (*put down a chain*). “God’s presence went with them and he promised someday he would bring them home.<sup>4</sup> After all... they were God’s people. They were God’s storykeepers so the whole world would someday know God’s story.”

“Many years later some of God’s people came back home but others chose to stay away.” (*remove the chain*) “Those who returned to rebuild the Temple,” (*put the Temple blocks back together*) “remembered to go to God’s house to worship. Would they finally come close to God? Would they follow his rules?”

“For so long many of them had forgotten God, some worshiped God along with other gods. Were they ready to listen? Would they finally ask God to be their King?” (*pause*)

“No, they hadn’t changed their ways. But God didn’t change and he never will.”

“One last prophet,” (*bring in a prophet next to the scroll*) “gave them a message from God, ‘If you return to me, I will return to you.’ God didn’t want to be separated from his people. But most of the people didn’t listen and continued to worship other gods.”

“A few of them heard and did what was right and their names were written in a book in God’s presence.” (*place the book down*) “He remembered each of them.<sup>5</sup> They were God’s people. They were God’s story keepers so someday the whole world would know God’s story.”

“The prophet told them” (*point to the prophet*) “that someday another prophet would prepare a way for the true King” (*point to the crown*) “of the world to come and bring God’s kingdom with him. But God’s people just stopped listening, stopped worshiping, and sin and evil continued to grow. Something strange happened. God became silent.” (*pause*) “And he stayed silent.” (*pause*) “And they waited, and they waited for 400 long years to hear him again!”

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<sup>1</sup> Judges 17:6

<sup>2</sup> Ezekiel 34

<sup>3</sup> 1 Samuel 8

<sup>4</sup> Jeremiah 29:11

<sup>5</sup> Malachi 3:16

## Wondering Time

Share the following wonder statements:

- “I wonder if God still makes promises like He did with Abraham.”
- “I wonder if God still rescues people as He did with Moses and Joshua.”
- “I wonder if the 10 best ways to live are for me too”
- ***Point to each of the wooden pieces*** “I wonder if God will send anyone else to help them.”
- “I wonder why did God become silent.”
- “I wonder if God ever rescues them again.”
- “I wonder if people worship other gods (idols) now.
- “I wonder where I fit into this story.”
- “I wonder if we could put our names in that book.”
- “I wonder if God’s presence goes with me wherever I go.
- “I wonder who are the story keepers now.”
- “What do you wonder?”