

## Children and family talk for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.

Let's start our worship by singing;

**Hallelujah!**

Hallelu, Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah, praise ye the Lord! (X2)

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, (X3)

Praise ye the Lord!

Our Bible reading today is from Genesis 17.1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty. Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. I will make you a promise and will guarantee to give you countless descendants."

At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, "This is my promise to you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!"

"I will confirm my promise with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting promise: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

Then God said to Abraham, "Regarding Sarai, your wife – her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah. And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants."

Now we're going to sing a song I remember from my childhood, it's a bit of fun with the actions, so please join in, Father Abraham.

Father Abraham had many sons,  
Many sons had father Abraham,  
I am one of them and so are you,  
So let's all praise the Lord. Right arm!

Repeat with left arm; right foot; left foot; chin up; turn around; sit down!

## Let's talk about our Bible verses with Mickey the monkey:

*S: Hi Mickey, how are you?*

*M: Hello Sandy, I'm ok, hello everybody!*

*S: Well, it seems to me there are two things we can talk about today, we can talk about names*

*M: My names Mickey*

*S: I know that Mickey! And we can talk about promises.*

*M: Ok, let's start with names, my name's Mickey*

*S: you already said that*

*M: And your name is Sandy*

*S: Well, actually, my real name is Sandra*

*M: (Looks surprised) no it isn't*

*S: Yes, my mum and dad named me Sandra when I born, but my best friend at school changed it to Sandy, because it rhymed with her name, Mandy!*

*M: wow, I never knew that*

*S: Yes, and in our reading today, Abram's name was changed by God to Abraham.*

*M: God made it longer!*

*S: Ah, but it's not only longer, because in bible times names all had special meanings.*

*M: Some names still do now don't they*

*S: Yes Mickey. Your name comes from the name Michael which means 'who is like God'*

*M: Me, like God?*

*S: yes, hard to believe isn't it. Abram means exalted Father. And exalted means 'high' or 'glorious'*

*M: So why did God change his name then, cos, it seems a perfectly good name to me.*

*S: Ah, well, God changed it to Abraham, which means, 'Father of many', because of the promise God made to Abraham.*

*M: Is this where we talk about promises?*

*S: Yes Mickey, let's.*

*M: I know about promises, promises are when if I am good, you promise me I can have a banana, and then you give me a banana! I love bananas!*

*S: Yes Mickey, and you're being very good today, so don't spoil it!*

*M: Mmm, bananas!*

*S: But the sort of promise God made to Abraham wasn't about what Abraham would do for God and then God would do for Abraham. God had already chosen Abraham to be the head of this big family of God, and was letting Abraham know about it.*

*M: But how could Abraham have so many children, he was really old – 99!*

*S: Ah, well, this is why it was such a special promise, and the sort only God can give. Yes, Abraham was really old, and it would have seemed an impossible dream to him and Sarah to have lots of children.*

*M: Sarah had her named changed too didn't she*

*S: Yes, from Sarai to Sarah, which means beautiful princess. Sarai might have meant quarrelsome or argumentative.*

*M: wow, I bet she was pleased to have her name changed then! Did they have lots of children then?*

*S: Well Mickey, they did! Abraham and Sarah had a son called Isaac, who went on to have children of his own and they had children of their own and so on. In fact, his family line continued and can be read in the book of Matthew, reaching as far as Joseph who married Mary, who gave birth to Jesus.*

*M: So if Abraham was alive he could trace his family all the way to Jesus?*

*S: Yes, and because of this, Abraham is sometimes referred to as the Father of many nations, and he is considered very important.*

*M: sounds more like a great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great,*

*S: (Interrupting) Ok, Mickey, yes, a many times over great grandad.*

*M: so, what has this got to do with us?*

*S: Well, God made a promise that lasted down the generations, God said "This is the everlasting promise: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you." God is our God forever, and will never leave us, all God asks in return is that we serve God faithfully and lead a good life, as Abraham did.*

*M: fab, so I think I've been good today haven't I?*

*S: Ok Mickey, here's your banana!*

Let's talk to God:

Lord God, thankyou for the promises you have made us. Help us to keep our promises. We want to lead good lives and serve you. Help us when we are tempted to do wrong, to turn away. Thankyou God. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21762/28th-february-2021-activity-sheet.pdf>