

Lesson 1

Abraham and the Angels

Genesis 18 : 1-15

Introduction:

How glad we are when people come to visit us! We greet them happily and invite them into our homes and chatter to them ever so happily. We make sure we have some good tempting food to offer them. And do you know, God is also very happy when we receive guests in to our homes? (Rom:12:13). There are several stories in the Bible about people visiting their loved ones and the hosts entertaining them cordially. In the Book of Genesis we read of three persons who called on Abraham and how he received them.

Lesson:

Abraham lived in a tent with his family, not in a proper house. One day as he sat in the doorway he saw three men standing a little way off. He ran to meet them and bowed down as he greeted them. He was a very humble man, you see. How do you greet your teachers ? Don't you bow your head a little as you greet them? It is polite to do so. And it shows humility. Abraham ran up to them, bowed down and addressed the leader as "My Lord".

Now Abraham was a very rich man and he need not have addressed a stranger so, but Abraham was a humble man too, and he treated all his guests with honor and respect.

He said, "My Lord, do not pass me by. Let me get some water to wash your feet. Please rest here in the shade of this tree, and I will bring you some refreshments."

So they sat in the shade of the tree, while Abraham hastened into the tent to make all the necessary arrangements. What do you suppose he gave his guests? Well, he asked his wife Sarah to make Wheatcakes which she did, and served it with milk and butter. A servant meanwhile had prepared some meat which was served, too. Abraham took all these out to his guests and served them himself.

He did all this even though he did not know that his guests were actually angels or messengers of God. It says in the New Testament that he entertained angels without knowing who they were.

After they had eaten and rested, the angels talked to Abraham. They asked him about his wife Sarah who was in the tent and had not come out to greet the guests. The angel promised to bless Sarah. "About this time next year, she shall have a child"

Sarah heard this and laughed for she had no children and she was already ninety years of age. "Why did Sarah Laugh?" Asked the angel. "Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I shall return and Sarah shall have a son".

The guests went their way shortly afterwards. Abraham walked a little way with them as was the custom. On his way back, God spoke to him. What do you suppose He said? It was a very important message. God was planning to destroy two great cities because the people who lived there were very wicked. God had to destroy them. He destroys even angels if they do not obey Him. But He will bless those who are obedient to His will.

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 13: 1-2, "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Questions

1. How did Abraham receive his guests?
2. What did Abraham give his guests to eat?
3. What were the two important things that God told Abraham?
4. Why must we obey God?

Lesson 2

Hagar and Ishmael

Genesis 12:10; 13:1; 16:1-15

Introduction :

In the last lesson we learned that God made a promise to Abraham. Do you remember what that promise was? The promise was that Sarah, Abraham's wife would bear a son. That promise was fulfilled and Sarah did bear a son, Isaac. However, Abraham already had a son who was about fourteen years of age. His name was Ishmael and his mother's name was Hagar. Today we shall learn the story of Hagar and Ismael.

Story: Abraham was a tent-dweller, a nomad, who wandered with his flocks from one place to another. It so happened there was a famine in Canaan so he took his family and his flocks to Egypt where there was food and water. Sarah hired a girl named Hagar from Egypt as her maid and when Abraham returned to Canaan Hagar went with Sarah. This was a blessing for Hagar for she came to a family that prayed to the living God and not to an idol, so she also learned about God.

Years went by. Abraham was a rich man and he had many male servants and maidservants. He also had large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. However, there was great sorrow in his life. His wife Sarah had no children. Children, do you know how much joy you bring into your parents' life?

As Sarah grew older she gave up expecting a child and thought of another plan. She asked Abraham to take Hagar also as his wife. He did so and Hagar soon realized she was going to have a child. It made her proud and she began to look down on her mistress. That made Sarah very angry and she began to treat Hagar very harshly. Hagar was made so unhappy that she ran away, but out in the wilderness an angel came to her and comforted her. Remember, when we are in great sorrow God is always ready to help us. The angel told Hagar to go back to Sarah and be obedient to her. The angel also promised her that she would have a son who must be