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# How to use this book

All the activities in this book can be used either as short stand-alone activities or as part of a longer session, with other activities. You may like to use them to introduce the children to a Bible story, or to remind them of a Bible story that you have just listened to, and to get them involved in more of the detail. Each picture activity is designed to stimulate further thought on, and discussion of, the Bible story at the level of under-5s, as well as to provide them with plenty of fun!

Read through each activity before the session, so that you can ensure you have all the art materials you need. Most of the activities will require only crayons, paints, glue and collage materials, but some of them use less everyday art materials to get particular effects.

Have fun! A relaxed, welcoming and loving environment may tell the children in your group as much about God's love for them as the retelling of a Bible story.

**A taster verse or two of the actual Bible text is also given.** You could use this to help children relate the Bible stories to a complete Bible. Try looking up the verse in your Bible and showing the children the same words on the Bible page. (All actual Bible text used here comes from the CEV translation.)

**Tell the story.** The retelling of each Bible story has been written in a way that is accessible to under-5s.

**Read the story from the Bible yourself before the session,** so that you are familiar with all the details.

**Copy the picture –** one for every member of your group.

## A new place to live for Abram



### Use the picture

- 1 You can use the picture as an introduction to the Bible story or to help you review the story together.
- 2 Do the children remember what God had told Abram to do? God had told him to leave his home. So Abram did. God said he would give Abram a new place to live and a large family. Who God does that?
- 3 Look at the picture of Abram and Lot with all their sheep. The sheep need water to drink and grass to eat. Let the children colour or decorate the picture with collage materials.

### Read it from the Bible

#### Genesis 13

"I will give you and your family all the land you can see. It will be theirs for ever!" *Genesis 13:15*

### Tell the story

Abram and Sarai began their long journey. Abram was a very rich man and had lots of silver and gold. He also had lots of cows, sheep and goats. There were so many things to take.

Abram, Sarai and their servants travelled through the desert and stayed in many different places. They lived in tents. Wherever he was, Abram always remembered God. He was sure God would keep his promise.

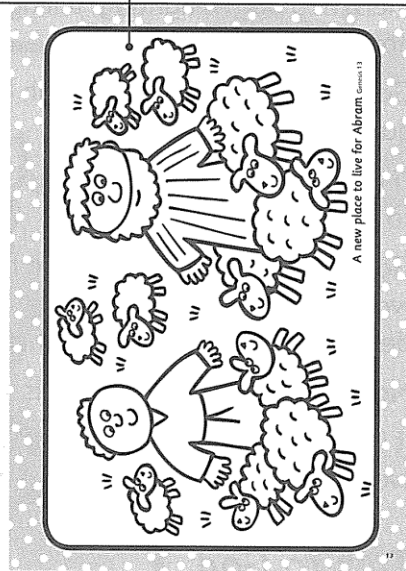
One day, God said to Abram, "Look around you. I will give you all the land you can see. One day you will have a very big family – so big that you won't be able to count everyone. This land will always belong to you and your family."

Abram found a lovely place near some trees and put up the tents.

"Thank you, God, for keeping your promise," he said. "Thank you for our new place to live."

### Talk to God

Thank you, God, that you always look after us and give us the things that we need.



**Talk to God.** Each activity is rounded off with the words of a prayer or an idea for a prayer topic that you can use with the group towards the end of your session.

**Use the picture.** Each activity gives you ideas on how to get the most from each Bible picture, stimulating further thought and discussion of the topics involved. Some of the activities can be used together as a mini-series.