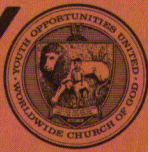


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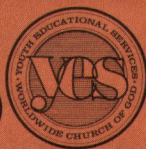


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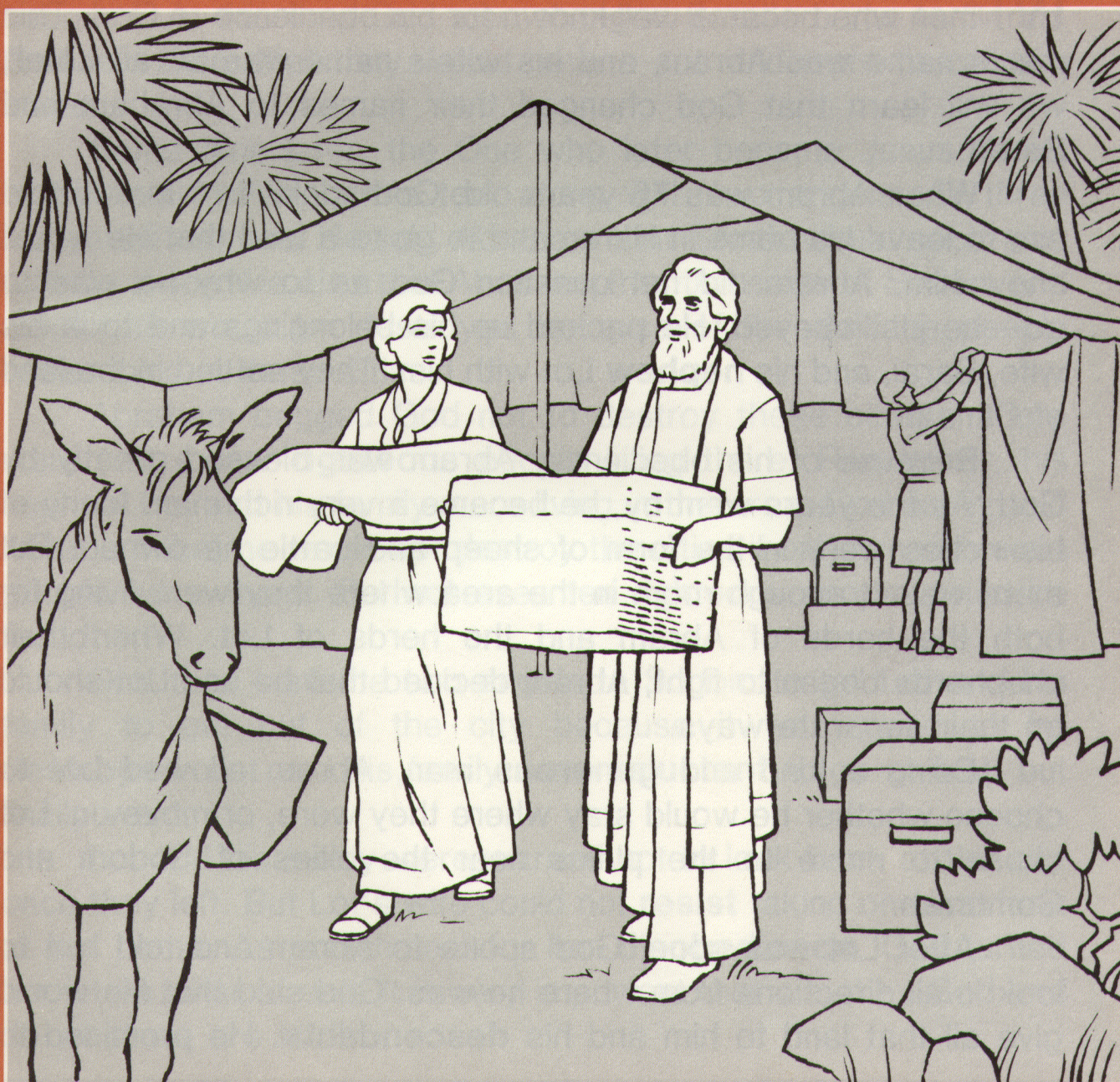
BIBLE

LESSONS



6

LESSON



Abraham—God's Obedient Servant

ABRAHAM—GOD'S OBEDIENT SERVANT

Many **generations** after Shem (a son of Noah), there was a man who became well-known for his obedience to God. This man's name was Abram, and his wife's name was Sarai. Later, we will learn that God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah.

When Abram was 75 years old, God spoke to him and told him to leave his home in Haran and to go to a land that He would show him. Abram did not question God as to why he was to go—he just obeyed. He packed up his belongings and took his wife, Sarai, and his **nephew** Lot with him. They settled in the land of Canaan.

Because of his obedience, Abram was blessed greatly by God. As the years went by, he became a very rich man. Many of his riches were in the form of sheep and cattle he owned. But there wasn't enough room in the area where they were living for both the herds of Abram and the herds of Lot. When their shepherds began to fight, Abram decided that he and Lot should go their separate ways.

Being a kind and **generous** man, Abram allowed Lot to choose whether he would stay where they were, or move on. Lot chose to move to the plains near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

After Lot was gone, God spoke to Abram and told him to look in all directions from where he was. God said that He would give all that land to him and his **descendants**. He promised to

bless Abram and make his descendants as many as the specks of dust on the earth.

It was hard for Abram and Sarai to understand how God was going to give them so many descendants. They were both getting older and as yet had no children. It took a great deal of faith for them to continue to believe God's promises.

When Abram was 99 years old, God spoke to him and changed his name to Abraham, which means "a father of many nations." At this time God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. God told them that they would have a son and were to call him Isaac.

Some time later, the One who later became Jesus Christ **appeared** at Abraham's tent along with two angels. All three appeared as men. He told Abraham that Sarah would soon give birth to a son. He also told Abraham that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed because of the **evil** the people were doing in these cities.

Abraham begged God not to destroy these cities if there were just a few **righteous** people living there. Remember, his nephew Lot and his family were living in the area. God finally told Abraham that he would not destroy the cities if only ten righteous people were there. But not even ten righteous people could be found!

God then sent the two angels to Sodom to tell Lot and his family to get out of the city because it was going to be **destroyed**. Lot and his family were **reluctant** to go at first, but finally went.

Lot and his family were warned not to look back at the city once they left. But Lot's wife could not **resist** taking one last look at her home. As punishment for her **disobedience**, God turned her into a pillar of salt. It is very important that we obey God and do what we are told!

When Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah had a son whom they named Isaac. God had kept His promise!

Up to this time, Abraham had done all that God asked him to do. However, God wanted to be sure that Abraham would obey Him by doing whatever He told him to do. So God decided to give Abraham a very difficult test.

One day, God told Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him as a **burnt offering**. Abraham started to go to the mountains early the next morning. He was going to obey God. Abraham knew that if God did **require** him to **sacrifice** Isaac, God could also **resurrect** him. He also knew that God had promised to give him many children through Isaac.

After a three-day **journey**, Abraham finally reached the area where God told him to go. He then tied Isaac and placed him on the altar they had built. Abraham was about to **plunge** the knife into Isaac when he heard a voice ordering him to STOP! It was God speaking to him through an angel. Now God knew Abraham feared Him and would do anything He asked him to do! Isaac was a very happy young man! He and his father then saw a ram caught in a nearby bush and offered it for the offering.

Because Abraham was willing to withhold nothing from God, God again promised him that his descendants would be blessed. This is why the nations of Israel are so blessed today.

When Sarah was 127 years old she died. Later, Abraham married again. This time his wife's name was Keturah. Abraham continued to obey God the rest of his life. He was 175 years old when he died.

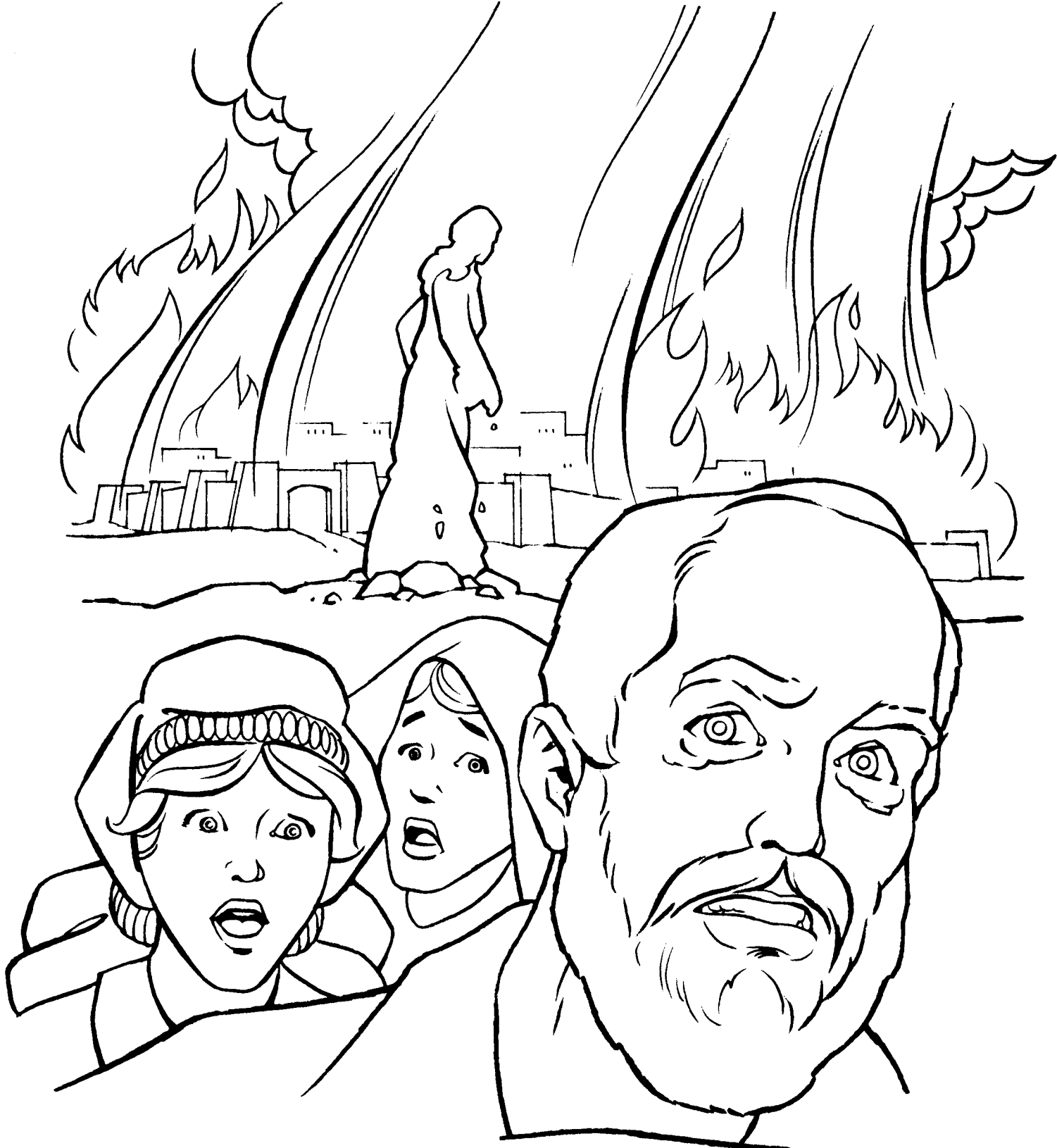
Parents: Explain all **boldface** words. You may wish to prompt further discussion by asking your child some of the following questions: Why did God promise to bless Abraham and his descendants? Does God ever test us? Why? Why did God tell Lot and his family not to look back? Why did Lot's wife turn into a pillar of salt?



Abraham and Lot go their
separate ways.



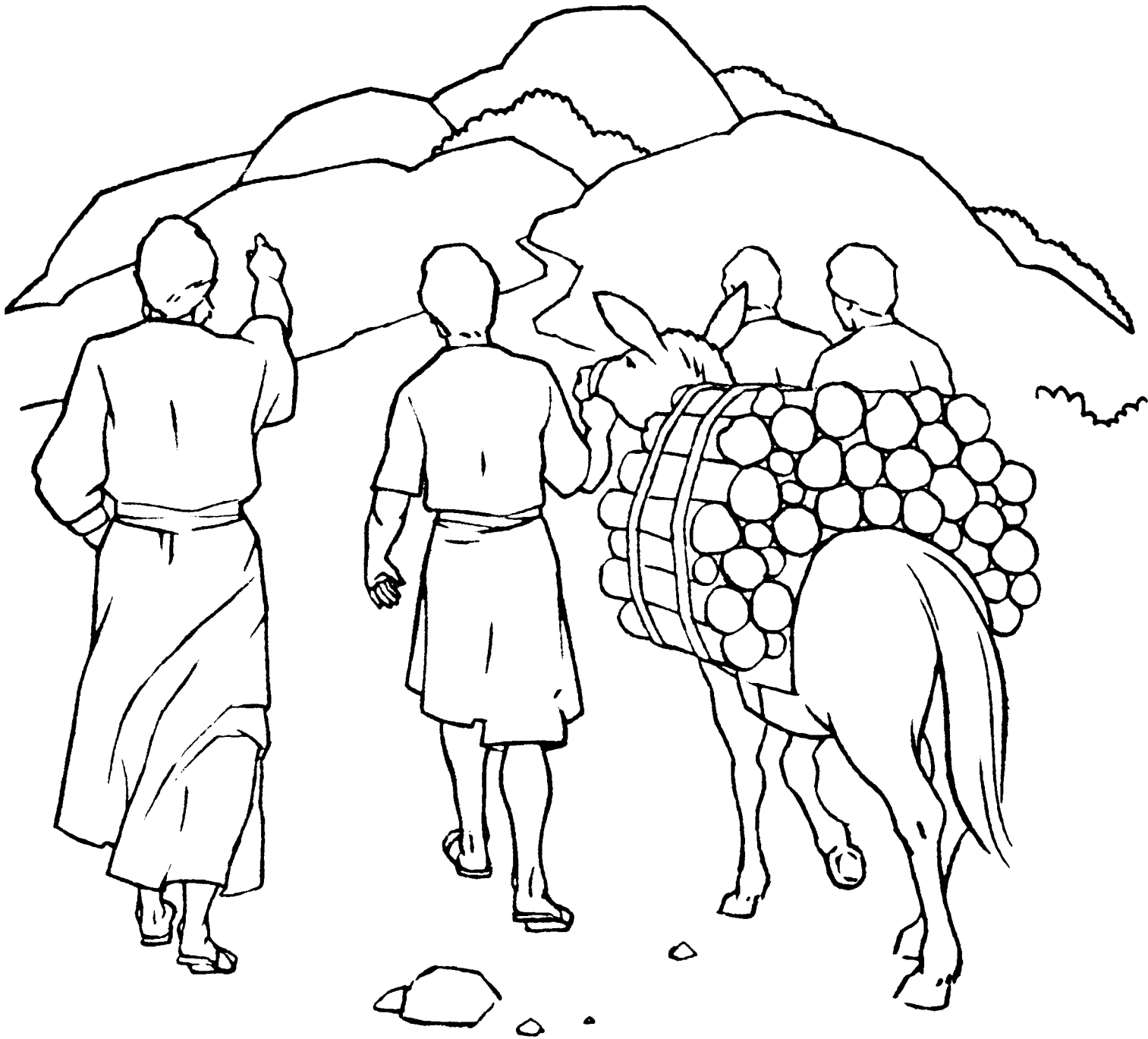
Abraham learns that God will
destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and that
Sarah will soon have a son.



Lot and his family leave Sodom.
Lot's wife disobeys by looking back
and becomes a pillar of salt.



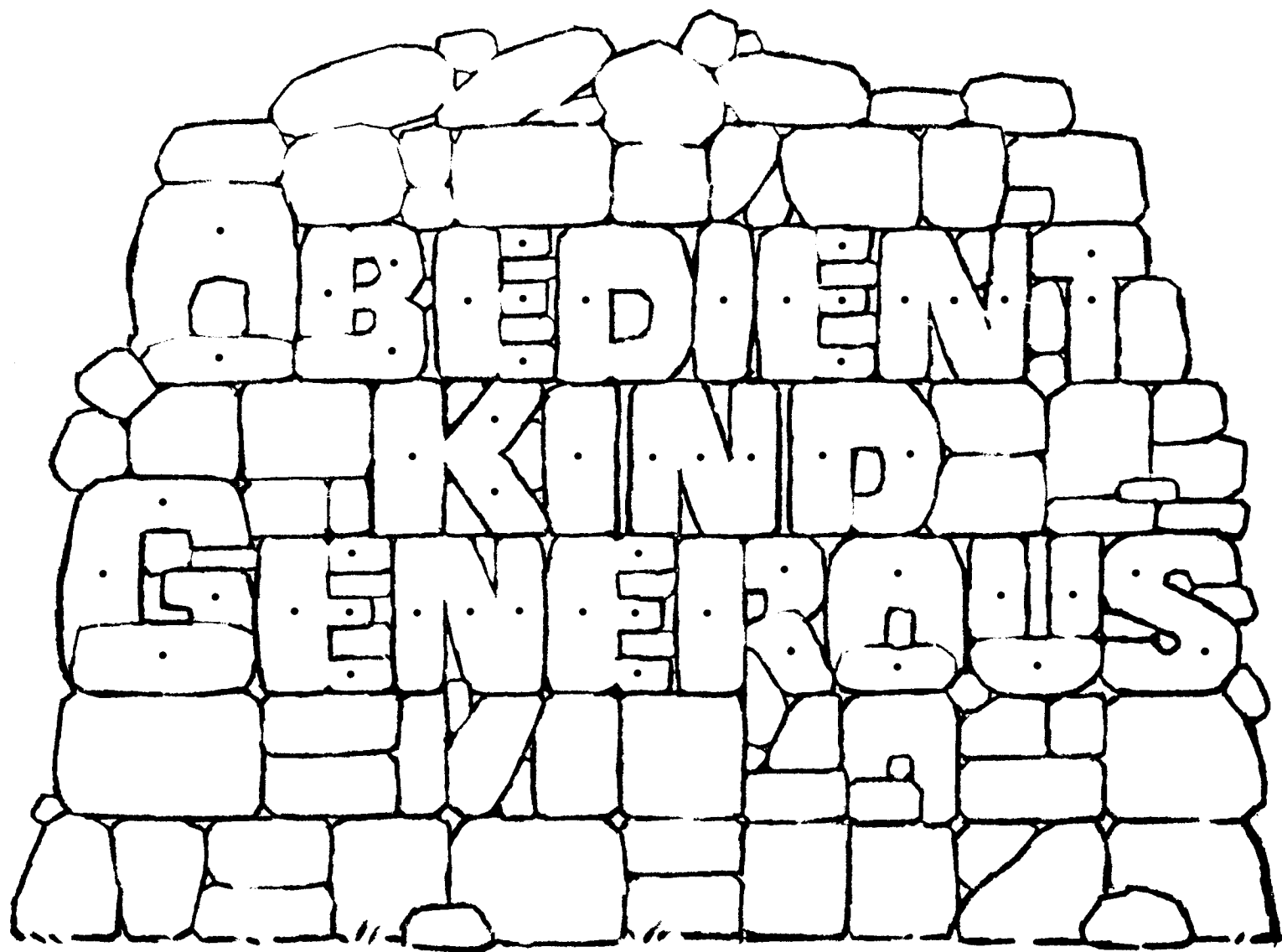
As God promised, Abraham and Sarah did have a son whom they named Isaac.



Abraham left early in the morning
to offer Isaac, as God told him to do.



When God knew that Abraham would obey Him, God provided a ram in the place of Isaac for the burnt offering.



Color the dotted rocks one color
and all other rocks another color,
to see the words that describe
Abraham's character.

EDITOR IN CHIEF: **Herbert W. Armstrong**

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BIBLE MEMORY

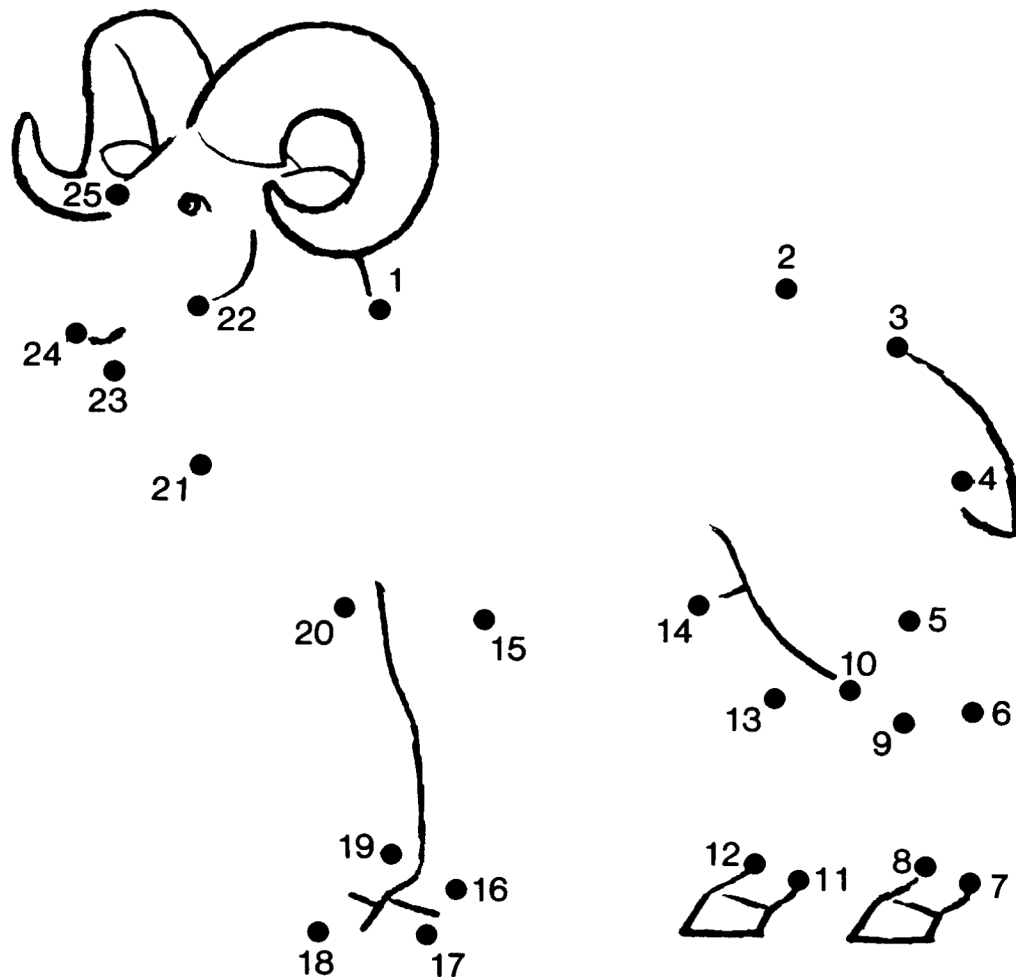
Books of the
New Testament

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John

5. Acts
6. Romans
7. I Corinthians
8. II Corinthians

9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians

13. I Thessalonians
14. II Thessalonians



Connect the dots to find out what took
Isaac's place as a burnt offering.