**Abraham and the Three Visitors**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 18:1-15**

**Bible Story Number: 1010200**

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**Abraham and the Three Visitors**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God had already made a profound promise to Abram (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

God told Abram to leave his country and go to the place God would show him. Abram obeyed.

Note: Most agree that the three visitors in this event were angels in human form. (Hebrews 13:2 says, “Don’t neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.”) God was also present and spoke to Abraham and Sarah. (See Genesis 18:16-22.)

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 18:1-15**

This is what the Bible says.

God appeared to Abraham while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. He hurried to them and bowed down low to the ground and invited them to rest under the tree for a while. As was the custom, he offered water to wash their feet and a meal.

The three men agreed. So Abraham told Sarah to bake some bread, and he selected a choice calf and had one of his servants prepare it.

When the food was ready, Abraham served the men and stood close by while they ate. The men asked Abraham where his wife Sarah was. He told them she was in the tent. Then God said to Abraham, “I will certainly come back to you in about a year’s time, and your wife Sarah will have a son!”

Sarah was near the entrance to the tent and was listening. Both Sarah and Abraham were already old and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought about having a child at her age.

Then God asked Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Can I really have a baby when I’m old?’” God asked, “Is anything impossible for the Lord?” Sarah was afraid and so she lied and said that she did not laugh. But God said, “No, you did laugh.”

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What did God tell Abraham that caused Sarah to laugh to herself?
* Why did Sarah laugh?
* How did God respond to her laugh?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.