

Abraham Is Our Father in Faith

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 6*.

❖ God chose to reveal himself to Abram, a 75-year-old shepherd. God promised to make Abram “a great nation.” Even though Abram did not understand what that meant, he obeyed at once. Abram had to leave his friends and most of his family. He showed great willingness to know God by trusting in God’s call.

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❖ God made a covenant with Abram. Covenants can be made between people, or between people and God. God made covenants with many people. These covenants offered salvation to the people. God told Abram that he would have as many descendents as there are stars in the sky. That meant that his descendents would be special people protected by God.

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❖ God told Abram that he would be called Abraham. He said that Abram’s wife, Sarai, was to be called Sarah. Sarah was 90 years old, and Abraham was even older, when God told her she would have a son. When God told Sarah that she would have a child, she laughed because she thought she was too old.

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❖ A patriarch is the male head of a family. Abraham was the first man selected to receive God’s promise and to pass it along to his descendents.

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❖ When we place our trust in God as Abraham did, we are living the First Commandment. God did not give the commandments until the time of Moses. Despite this, Abraham lived the commandments without being told to do so.

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❖ When we are baptized, we enter into a covenant with God. He gives us eternal life. We promise to believe in him and to live as Catholics.

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❖ The Canaanites believed that the sacrifice of their firstborn child would give them abundant crops, strong herds, and blessings. Abraham was worried that he would have to sacrifice his son, Isaac. God did ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, and Abraham, though sad, was willing to do it. Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son reminds us of the death of Jesus. God made the ultimate sacrifice in his Son when Jesus died for our sins. An angel stopped Abraham before he sacrificed his son.

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❖ The story of Abraham and Isaac teaches that God does not want human sacrifice, but a sacrifice of will. Those who trust in God are rewarded. The story shows us that all life is sacred. God would never ask us to do something that did not treat human life with dignity and respect.

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