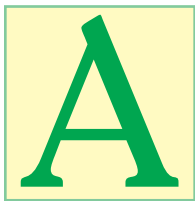




REFERENCES: GENESIS 12:7-9; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 127-131.

# Abram's Altars

Where does your family worship God? Do you have a special place for family worship? Where do you worship on Sabbath? Abram didn't have a church to go to. He didn't even have a room in a house, but he worshiped God everywhere he went. And he led others to worship God too.



Abram, Sarai, and Lot traveled for many days. Sometimes they may have walked. Sometimes Sarai may have ridden on top of a big

camel. Servants ran back and forth, keeping the herds of sheep and goats from wandering away. Pack animals carried the tents and their other belongings.

Sometimes people came to watch the large, strange caravan as it passed by. "Who are you?" they may have asked Abram. "Where are you going?"

"I am Abram," Abram would answer. "I worship the only true God, who lives in heaven. He told me to travel to a new country. I am obeying His words."

## Memory Verse

"Worship the LORD with gladness."

PSALM 100:2, NIV.

## The Message

Christian families worship God together.

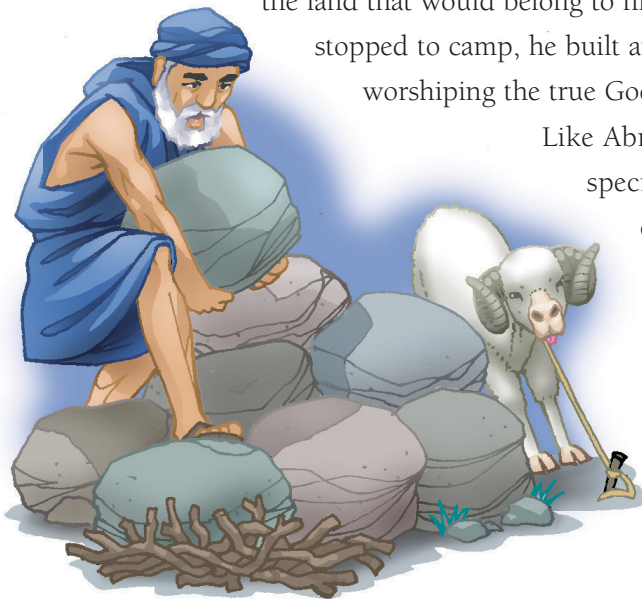
The people listening had never heard of Abram's God. They may have said, "Tell us more about your God." Some of the people who listened even decided to worship Abram's God, and they joined Abram's big caravan.

Finally, after a long journey, Abram and all that were with him crossed into the land of Canaan. They camped beside a great oak tree at a place called Shechem.

That day the Lord appeared to Abram. He pointed in every direction. "Abram," said God, "I am going to give this land to your children and your children's children and their children."

Abram saw that the people who lived in Canaan worshiped idols. They even worshiped their idols by the very tree where the Lord appeared to Abram. But Abram didn't worship their idols. Instead, he built an altar to the true God by that tree. He and his family worshiped God there. They thanked God for leading them throughout their long journey. They thanked Him for keeping everyone safe. And they thanked God for keeping their flocks and herds safe too.

Abram, Sarai, Lot, and their servants, and all the people who joined them traveled farther and farther into the land of Canaan. God led them. He was showing Abram all the land that would belong to his children. And every time Abram stopped to camp, he built an altar and led his people in worshiping the true God.



Like Abram, God's people today build special places to worship Him. Our church is one of them. We go there every week to worship Him.

# Do and Say

## SABBATH

Find or draw six stones and number them. Write one word of the memory verse on each stone. Mix up the stones. Help your child use the numbers to put the stones in the right order while saying the memory verse. Repeat as necessary, then take away a stone and have your child supply the missing word. (See page 62.) Practice the memory verse every day this week.



## TUESDAY

Act out the story of Abram and build an altar. Books or cushions can be good building blocks. Use the stones from Sabbath's activity to say the memory verse together. Thank God for the place where your family worships.

## WEDNESDAY

Go for a long walk together. Talk about the long walk Abram and his family took to reach Canaan. If appropriate, invite friends and neighbors to join you as you walk. When you get home, thank God for taking care of you today.

## SUNDAY

Together, read the lesson story from Genesis 12:7-9. Ask: How do you feel after a long journey? How do you think Abram and his family felt when they arrived in Canaan? How do you think the Canaanites felt when they saw Abram's altar to God? Thank God that you can worship Him wherever you are.

## THURSDAY

Tell your child about a special worship service you have attended or participated in (baptism, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter programs, etc.).

Plan tomorrow night's worship with your child. Decide what songs you will sing and what you will do.

## MONDAY

Review the story, then ask: What did Abram put on his altar? (a lamb) Do we give God lambs today? Tell your child that the lamb represented Jesus and that *our* offerings today say thank You to Him for being our Savior. What offerings do we give today? (money, time, obedience) Help your child think of one thing to give to God today. Plan to do it together.



## FRIDAY

Worship God with your family tonight, just as you planned yesterday. Thank God for your family and for His leading you day by day. Say the memory verse together.