



Genesis 18:1 (NIV) "The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day."

This week our story is about another Patriarch in the Bible. A Patriarch is a man who is the head of a big family.

A Bible Patriarch is an important leader in God's big family. Adam and Noah are two Bible Patriarchs. Today's special Patriarch of God's Family is a man named Abraham.

God talks to Abraham many times. And Abraham listens to God. When we first meet Abraham, his name is Abram, and his wife is Sarai. God gives them the new names of Abraham and Sarah and promises them a big family. Abraham and Sarah grow strong in God. They show Appreciation, Acceptance, Faith, and Humility- all of the Leadership Leaves on our Jesse Tree.

Even when God's promise of children isn't happening for them. They also show our new Leaf- WELCOME.

Abraham and Sarah live in a tent. Abraham's tent reminds us of some special things about Abraham. First, the tent reminds us that Abraham and Sarah moved around for God. A lot!

Abraham and Sarah follow God's directions for many, many years. God speaks to Abraham, telling them to move from Ur, to Haran, to Damascus, to Shechem, to Bethel, to Egypt, to Hebron, to the Plain of Mamre. They took their tent home from place to place. We see how they practice Acceptance and Faith.

The open tent lets Abraham look out easily, to see the stars, and to listen for God's plan. God tells Abraham that he will have more descendants than stars in the sky. Jesus is one of those descendants.

And, the tent is welcoming. Abraham can watch for visitors and run out to meet them. One day, while Abraham and Sarah are in the tent, Abraham sees three visitors standing nearby. He goes to greet them, offers them food to eat, water to wash their feet, and shade to rest in. Sarah bakes fresh bread for them. Together, they eat meat and drink milk.

Abraham's visitors are messengers from God. They tell Abraham that Sarah will have a baby son soon. Sarah laughs because she has been waiting for a baby for a long time, and they are old now. She can't believe it.

But Sarah does have a baby son named Isaac, to join them in their tent.

Abraham's tent is a reminder to follow God, to be open to God's message, and to welcome others into our hearts.

