

Today's Bible Verse: Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" Genesis 15:5. (NLT)

The first book in the Bible is the Old Testament book of Genesis. Genesis tells us that God chose a man named Abram and his wife Sarai to start a family with a special relationship with God.

As our story begins, Abram and Sarai are living at a place called Haran with Abram's father and brothers and a lot of other relatives. But God speaks to Abram. God tells Abram to leave Haran, to leave his father and brothers, that God will lead Abram and Sarai to a special place in the land of Canaan.

Abram and Sarai obey God. They leave Haran and start off into the desert without even knowing exactly where they are going. They trust God's promise to bless them and lead them safely. Eventually, they come to a place named Shechem and build an altar to God there. But God tells them to keep going.

After more traveling in the big desert, they come to a place called Bethel, and build an altar to God there too. But again God tells them to keep going. Finally, God leads them to Hebron and they settled there.

But all this time, Abram and Sarai never have any children. One evening in Hebron, Abram is talking with God. He reminds God that he and Sarai want children to start a whole family to worship God.

God promises Abram that he and Sarai will be the parents of a great family. God says that their family will have as many members as there are stars in the sky. God tells Abram that part of his promise to this great family will be to change Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah.

So now our story is about Abraham and Sarah, but they are still getting older and older and they still have no children. Years pass. They are still waiting to have a child. They wonder how God will help them to start a family as many as stars in the sky when they have no children at all.

God sends three visitors to Sarah to predict that she will have a baby soon. Sarah just laughs because she thinks that by now it is impossible. But it really does happen. Abraham and Sarah have a baby son. They name him Isaac. Isaac gets married and has children and their children have children and their children have children, for thousands of years, worshipping God.

God's family. Our family. As many as stars in the sky, just as God promised.

Wonder Question: Why do you think God made the universe so immense with stars and planets and galaxies?

