



Old Testament Story: God's Promise Brings New Life

Long ago there lived an old, old man and an old, old woman. They'd shared a good long life together, but they also shared one great sadness: They never had a baby. Although they'd prayed, it never happened. Now they were old enough to be grandparents, but they knew grandparents don't usually have babies.

One day when the old man, Abram, was quiet—listening for God—God spoke to him and said, "Go! Leave your country, your relatives and your home. I promise to lead you somewhere new."

So Abram, Sarai and their nephew, Lot, set off, wondering where they were headed. After many days of traveling they arrived in Canaan, where God spoke again to Abram. "This is the land I plan to give to you and to all your children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren and..."

Abram and Sarai looked at each other. What a strange promise. How could they have great-great-grandchildren when they didn't have even one baby? But God can do anything.

Before long, Sarai was pregnant. No one could believe it. Nine months later she had a baby boy. Just as God had promised—in that new land, in their old age—Sarai and Abram became a mother and father!

Their baby boy, Isaac, had children and those children had children, just as God had promised. The family of Abram and Sarai grew to include millions and millions of people. All the Jewish people in the world are members of that family—God's children—and so are you and I.

