

Chapter 4 ***The Covenant***

Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great. *Genesis 15:1*

To the Parents:

In chapter 4 your child learned the following:

- God called Abraham and Sarah to be our ancestors in faith.
- Abraham and Sarah responded to God's call with faith and trust.
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, shows us how to respond to God's call with faith and trust.

In his dealings with Abraham, God is revealed to be a maker and keeper of promises. Abraham heard God's promise that Abraham would have many descendants and a land for them to dwell in, and Abraham trusted God and held fast to the promise. Christians regard Abraham as "our father in faith" precisely because he was steadfast in his confidence in God. The story of Abraham is above all a story of the faithfulness of God, who proves worthy of Abraham's trust.

The story of Abraham and Sarah, invites you to look at your own lives in a new way. When you do, you may frequently hear God calling you through the people and events of everyday life. You begin to see the twists and turns your faith journey has taken. You may note the unlikeliness of the everyday miracles in your lives. And you recognize how faith calls upon you to let go, to trust more than you might believe yourself capable of trusting. The message in the Bible is "Be not afraid. Trust."

With Your Child:

1. Share with your child the moments in your life when it has been difficult to practice trust.
2. Ask your child if he or she has ever had someone promise him or her something special. Was the promise kept? How did that make him or her feel?
3. Relate a time when you made a promise that was difficult to keep.
4. Read the story of Mary, the Mother of Jesus on the Review and Explore page.