

# Journey of Faith



## The People of God

"So is Peter like the Church's great-great-great-great grandfather?" Tomás asked.

"Kind of," Mrs. Evans said with a smile. "Church history is like a family tree. We can even trace our roots back before Jesus was born! We call it our salvation history. Our ancestors in faith have helped shape a lot of the traditions we have today. We can read about them in the Bible."





*What do you want to learn about the history of the Church?*

## **Abraham and Sarah** **Genesis 15—21**

Abram believed in God when God revealed himself to Abram. When God said, "Abram, take your wife Sarai and go to a place that I will show you," they left their home, friends, and family to follow God. God led them to a place called Canaan and changed their names. Abram became "Abraham," which means "father of many nations." Sarai became "Sarah," which means "princess of the people."

God promised that Abraham would have more children and grandchildren than there were stars in the sky or grains of sand on the shore. Sarah and Abraham were happy, but they were old and didn't have any children. How could God's promise come true?

At last, a son was born, and they named him Isaac.



*How do you think God's promise to Abraham came true?*

## **Isaac and Rebekah** **Genesis 24—46**

Isaac grew up and married Rebekah. They had twin boys named Jacob and Esau.

God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Israel then had twelve sons (Abraham's great-grandsons). The sons of Israel were the beginning of Abraham's many nations.

Jacob's son Joseph had dreams about his brothers bowing down to him. When he told his brothers about his dreams, they were jealous. They plotted to get rid of Joseph and sold him into slavery. But Joseph became a slave to the Pharaoh in Egypt. The Pharaoh liked Joseph so much he made him his second in command.



Back home, Joseph's family was starving. The brothers went to Egypt and begged the Pharaoh for food. They didn't recognize Joseph, but he knew who they were. Joseph wasn't angry. He loved his brothers and forgave them. He told his brothers to bring their father to Egypt. His family stayed in Egypt and lived with Joseph for many years.



*Why do you think Joseph forgave his brothers?*

## Moses Book of Exodus

The twelve families of Israel grew and were called the Israelites. After many years, a new Pharaoh began to worry that there were too many Israelites. The Pharaoh made them slaves and had their sons killed at birth. One mother hid her son in a basket

and put it in a river. The Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and named him Moses. She raised Moses as her son. But when Moses grew up, he got into trouble and ran away.

God told Moses to return to Egypt and tell the Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Moses was afraid because the Pharaoh was powerful. So God let him bring his brother Aaron with him.

When the Pharaoh said no,

God sent ten **plagues**, things that brought trouble to the Egyptians, until the Israelites could finally leave (Exodus 7—12).

Then God parted the sea so the Israelites could pass through safely (Exodus 14) and sent them manna, or bread, from heaven to eat on their journey (Exodus 16).



**How does God continue to protect Abraham's descendants?**

**What other "bread from heaven" has God sent us?**



## David 1 Samuel 16—17

Samuel was a prophet. One day, God told Samuel to anoint a king for his people. God sent him to Jesse, a man in Bethlehem who had eight sons. David was the youngest son, a shepherd boy. When Samuel saw him, God said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!" (16:12).

When the Israelites were at war with the Philistines, a tall, strong Philistine named Goliath bragged that he could defeat anyone. David was brave and agreed to fight him. All David had were five stones and a slingshot. He didn't even have armor! But David had God. God worked through David to do something great! David hit Goliath on the head using his slingshot and won the battle.



**What does the story of David teach us about God's view of power and kingship?**

**Where else does God show us this view of power and kingship?**



## The Road to Freedom

After God's people left Egypt, they traveled in the desert for forty years! They were tired and hungry and sometimes they lost faith in God. They complained to Moses a lot. But God stayed with them and took care of them until they reached the Promised Land. You can read more about their journey in Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.



# WHO'S WHO IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Match the name of the biblical person in the left column to his or her role in the right column.

Abraham

Sold into slavery

Moses

Mother of Isaac

David

Brother of Moses

Aaron

Wife of Isaac

Sarah

Led the Israelites out of Egypt

Joseph

Father of Israelites

Rebekah

Great king

## In Short



- The Old and New Testaments record key events of our salvation history.
- The New Testament continues the Old Testament.
- We share a common history with our ancestors in faith.

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