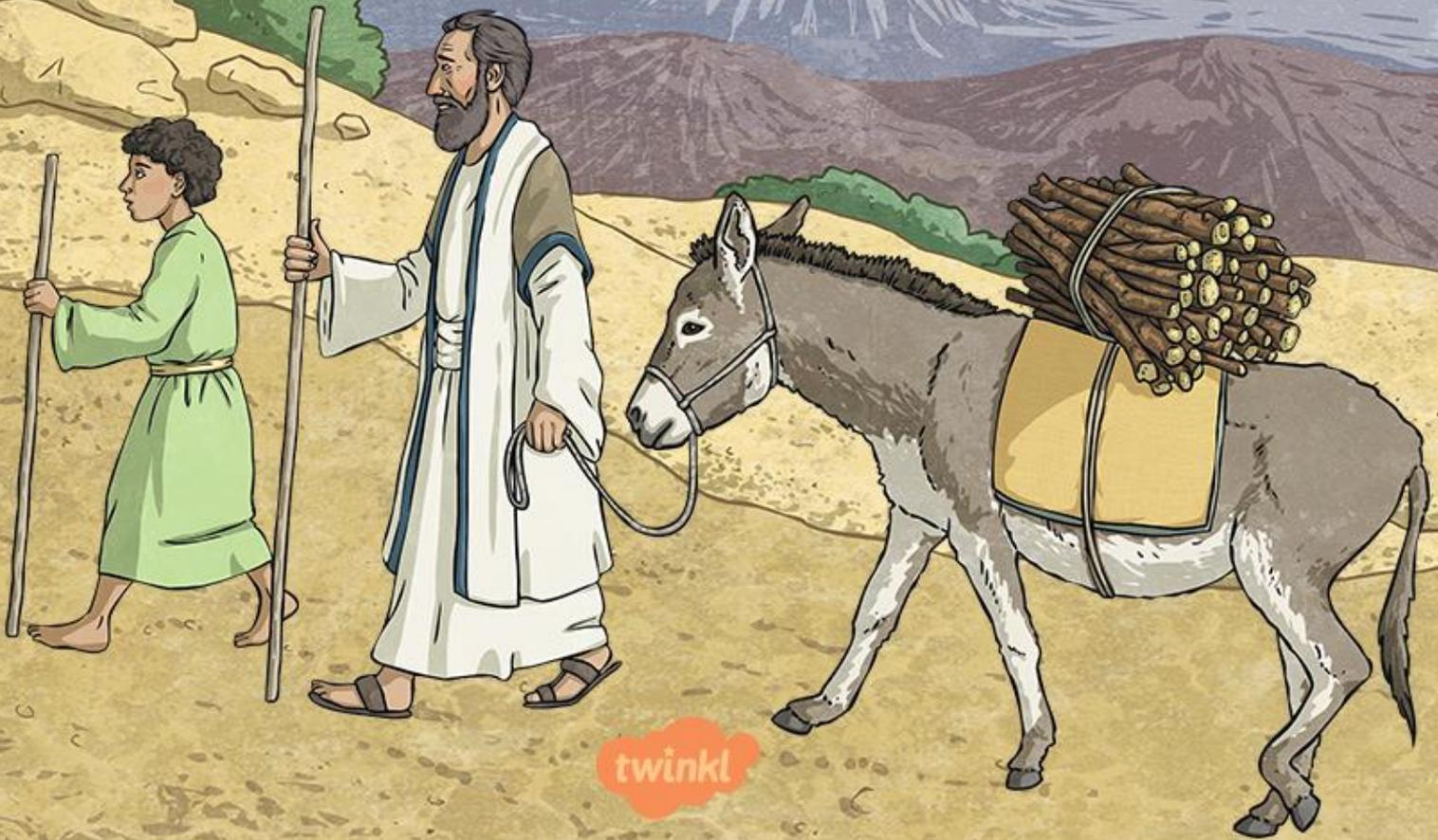


Going Home



Abraham and Sarah

The story begins in Israel with a man named Abraham, who was married to Sarah. Although Abraham was an old man, God had assured him that he and his wife would have a son. Abraham and his wife were delighted when they discovered Sarah was pregnant - God had blessed them!



The Young Boy

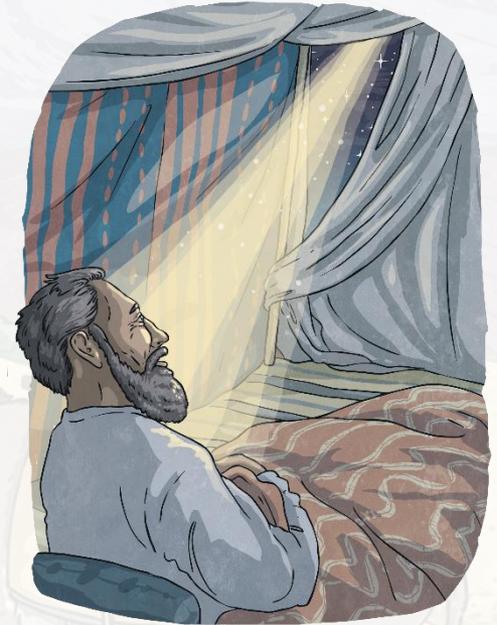
Sarah gave birth to the long-awaited son. They named him Isaac, which means 'he laughs'. Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter and everyone who hears of this will laugh with me."

As Isaac grew, Abraham taught him all about God. He also made sure that Isaac knew that he was a special boy, whom they were so grateful for.



A Shocking Request

One day, God spoke to Abraham.
“Abraham,” said God.
“Here I am,” Abraham replied.
“Take your son, your only son, whom you love, and take him to the place called Moriah. Sacrifice him there as an offering.”
Abraham was desperately sad. He loved his son dearly, but he was a righteous man who also loved God. He had to do what God had told him.



Did You Know?

To offer a sacrifice to God meant killing an animal for Him as a show of love and respect. That was considered a show of love because animals were so precious to people in those days.

A Last Journey



The next day, Abraham woke early with a heavy heart and called to Isaac.

Abraham cut enough wood for the offering and loaded it onto the donkey along with food and water.

Together, Abraham and Isaac travelled for three long days to the place that God had told them to go.

A Dark Day

When they finally reached the place, Abraham carried the wood and concealed the knife.

“Father, we have the wood and the fire. Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” asked Isaac.

Abraham looked sadly at his son and quietly replied, “The Lord will provide a lamb.”



A Sacrifice to the Lord

Abraham began preparing for the sacrifice by building an altar from rocks, then he laid the chopped wood on the top. He sadly bound Isaac and laid him on the woodpile.

Abraham took out the knife and raised it into the air. Suddenly, he heard an angel of God call to him, "Do not do anything to the boy. You have shown your love and loyalty to God."

Abraham was so relieved that his son would be safe, but he still needed to make a sacrifice. Looking up, he saw a ram caught in a bush. He caught the animal and sacrificed it to God in thanks and praise.



The Lord's Blessing



The Lord said to Abraham, "Because you have done this, and you were willing to give me your only son, I shall bless you and your descendants. You have obeyed me."

The Lord's Blessing

Abraham and Isaac worshipped God, then set off on their long journey back home.





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