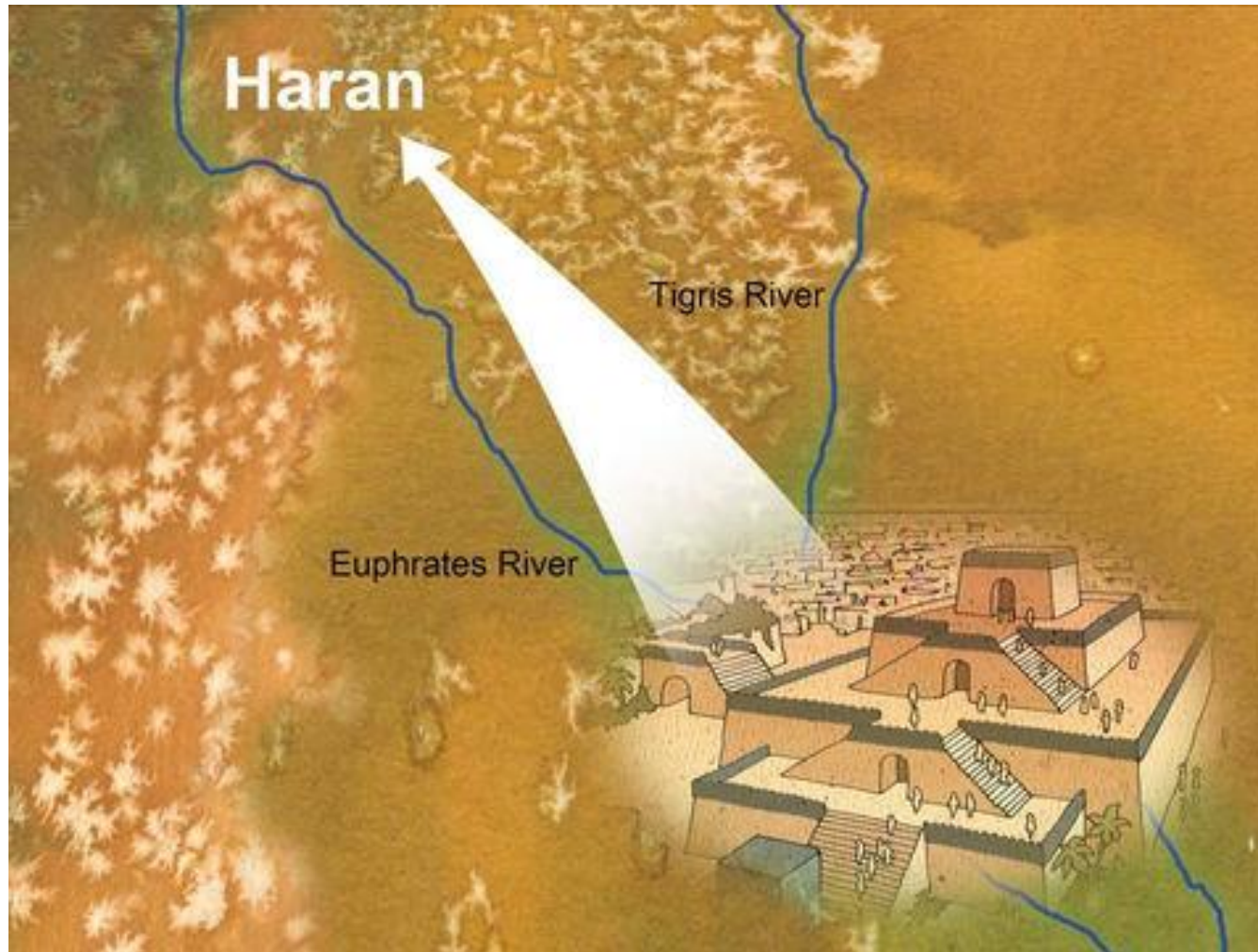




Who has ever been on a trip before? Or vacation? Where did you go? (Allow time for answers) What did you bring with you? (Change of clothes, suitcase, favorite toy, etc.). What if you had to go somewhere for a long time? You would have to pack everything you have and move. In today's story we hear about a man who left his home and family and moved far, far away from them. But God told this man something very special about leaving home. Let's find out what God said.



A Man Named Abram

God had scattered the people of Babel, and they moved throughout the world living in different places and speaking in different languages. One such place was the city of Ur.



God was always getting the world ready for Jesus. The whole Bible tells us about Him. It doesn't say His name, Jesus, in the first part (Old Testament), but it talks about God's promise and that promise was Jesus. The first thing God did to make the world ready for Jesus to come was to choose Abram.



Abram was from the city of Ur. The Bible tells us in Genesis 11 that Abram and his family lived in the city of Ur. Abram's father, Terah, his two brothers, Haran and Nahor, and then Abram's wife Sarai all lived in Ur. The Bible also mentions one of Abram's nephews, his name is Lot. Lot's dad was Haran. So, Abram was Lot's uncle. Ur was a very nice city with roads and buildings and a busy market and a harbor where ships would come. Men would leave their ships and bring beautiful fabrics and jewelry to trade in the city. In Ur there was even a library and a school. Ur was certainly a rich and comfortable city, but there was a big problem in Ur. People there did not worship God. They did not believe in Him. Instead they worshipped idols, or pretend gods. Ur was a very bad city.



One day Haran died. Soon after Haran died, Terah, Abram's dad, took his whole family and moved them east towards Canaan. The Bible says Terah and his family settled in a city before they got to Canaan. That means they decided to live there.



Time passed, and soon Terah died. That left Abraham and Sarai, Nahor and his family and Lot living in the city. The Bible tells us Abram's family had many flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. This meant they were very rich.



The Call

The Bible tells us that one day the Lord called Abram. He said, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.” God spoke to Abram and gave him very clear instructions. God did not tell Abram where the new country was located. But God did give Abram seven promises.



Seven Promises

These are the seven promises God said to Abram:

1. I will make you into a great nation.
2. I will bless you.
3. I will make your name great.
4. You will be a blessing.
5. I will bless those who bless you.
6. Whoever curses you I will curse.
7. All the people on earth will be blessed through you.



God was promising Abram that even though he was leaving his home and what was very safe and comfortable for him, God would be with Abram, would take care of him, and that he would know God's goodness. God promised Abram that many people would know who he was and that he would be a blessing to others. This meant God was going to show His goodness to the whole world through Abram.

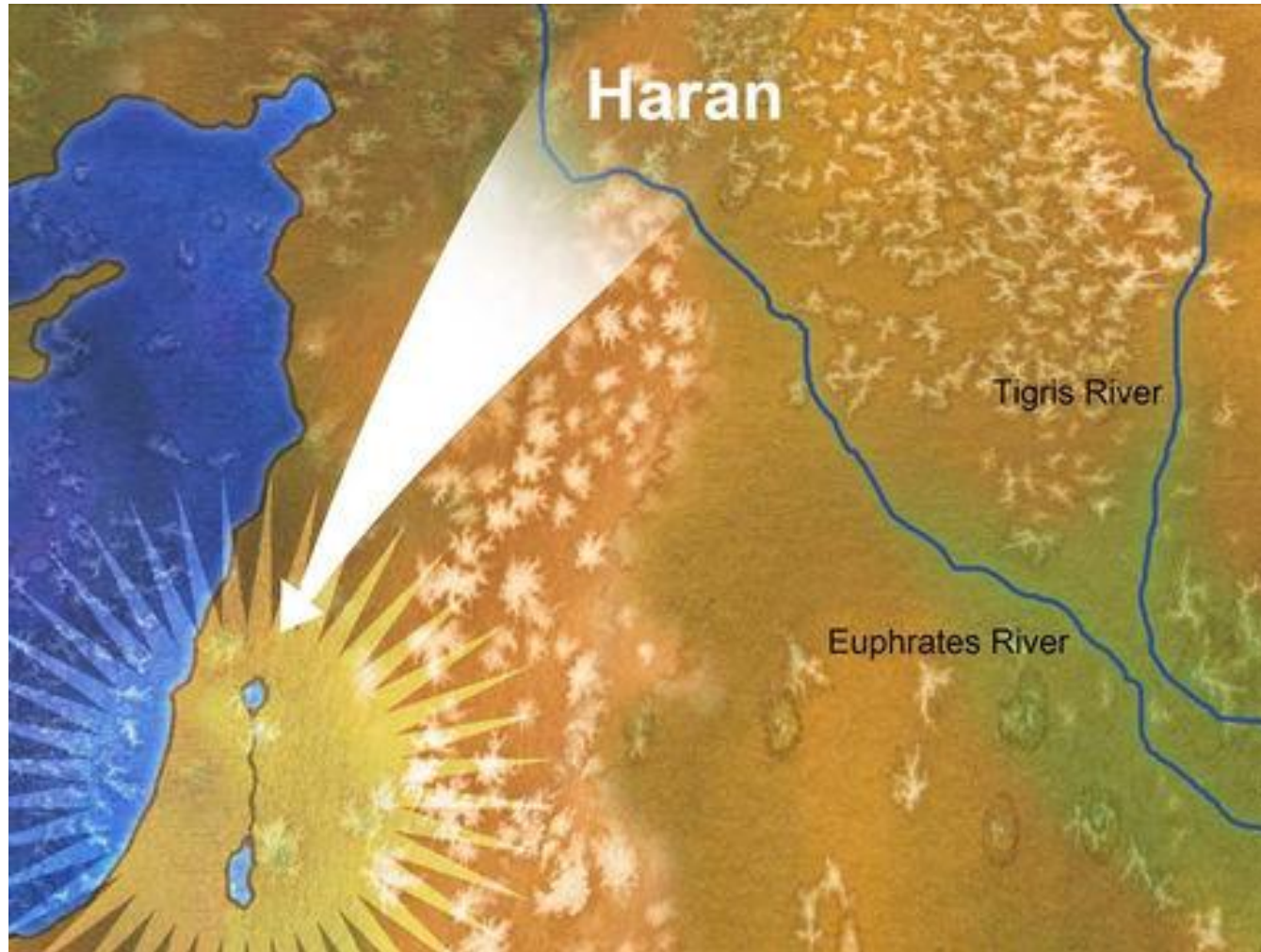


The most important promise that God made to Abram that day was the last promise. God said, “All the people on the earth will be blessed through you.” When God said those words, He was speaking about Jesus. You see, one day long after Abram would die, Jesus would be born. Jesus was part of Abram’s family and that would be a great blessing to everyone – even you and me who have been born long after Abram. The Bible says that Abram and his wife, Sarai, did not have any children then. But still they believed that God would keep His promises.



Abram Obeys

So, Abram said goodbye to his brother, Nahor, and his family at Haran, and Abram left as God instructed. Sarai and Lot left with Abram too. They took their servants and all the possessions they had gathered, and, the Bible says, they set out for the land of Canaan.



It wasn't easy to move in those days. There were no trains or cars or moving vans to help. Everything you wanted to take had to be packed carefully and carried on camels and donkeys. They would travel during the day and sleep in tents at night.



God Confirms and Abraham Worships

After a long trip, Abram finally arrived in the land of Canaan. People called Canaanites lived there. One day God appeared to Abram. “To your children I will give this land,” God told Abram. The Bible says Abram built an altar there to the Lord. An altar was a pile of stones and a sacrifice was made on top of it. It was a way to worship God and to remember what God had done or what God had promised. The Bible tells us Abram continued to move toward the hills east of a city called Bethel. Abram traveled near cities, but he chose to live outside of them in tents. Abram would continue to build altars and worship God. Abram would also pray to God a lot! God was with Abram just as He had promised. God continued to bless Abram with lots of cattle and sheep, but the best gift God could give Abram was to come. Next week we’ll find out what blessing God is going to give to Abram next!

Questions for Review

Have children answer “yes,” if the sentence is true, or “no” if the sentence is false along with the right answer.

- Abram chose God. (No! God chose Abram.)
- Abram had two brothers, Haran and Nahor. (Yes)
- Haran died and so Abram’s family moved away. (Yes)
- God told Abram to leave his home and family and to travel to another country. (Yes)
- God made four (4) promises to Abram. (No! God made seven promises.)
- Through Abram, God’s greatest promise – Jesus – would come. (Yes)
- God told Abram to move to Canaan. (Yes)
- Abram did not obey God. He moved in a different direction. (No! Abram obeyed God.)
- Abram worshipped God each time He moved. (Yes)

Scripture Memory and Hand Motions for Summer:

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:14

- **The Lord** (point upwards)
- **Will fight** (punch the air or shadow box)
- **For you; you** (point towards audience)
- **Need only to be still.** (stand completely still or frozen)

