

Join renowned storyteller Francine Rivers and her daughter, Shannon Rivers Coibion, as *they bring the stories of the Bible to life!*

Illustrated by Pascale Constantin

From this gifted mother-daughter team come the Bible stories you'll want to share with the growing kids in your life. Meet thirty important people from the Old and New Testaments—some of them famous Bible figures like Abraham and Paul, and others unsung heroes like Amos and Priscilla.

The stories will *capture kids' hearts and minds*, and the "Growing Time" sections will help them apply the lessons of each story so they can *live for God today!*

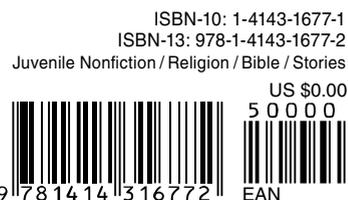
Available September 2007!

FRANCINE RIVERS

Francine is a wife, mother, and grandmother living in northern California. She has been writing for adults for more than thirty years. After becoming a born-again Christian in 1986, she wrote *Redeeming Love* as her statement of faith. Since then she has published numerous books and has won industry acclaim, awards, and reader loyalty. Her novel *The Last Sin Eater* won the ECPA Gold Medallion.

SHANNON RIVERS COIBION

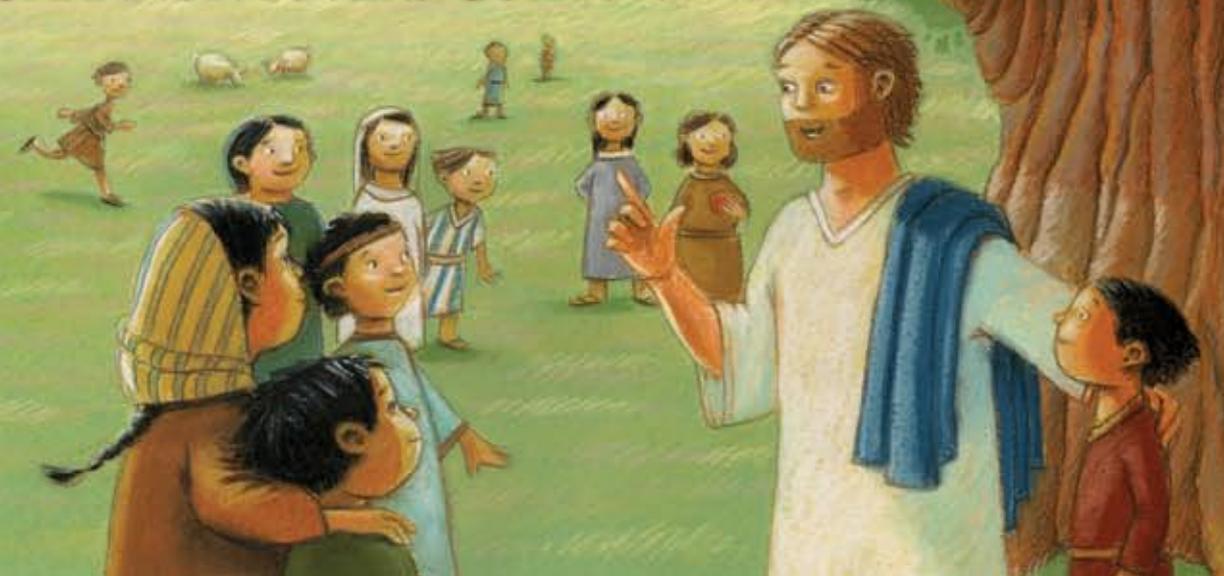
The daughter of Francine Rivers, Shannon is a full-time homemaker and homeschooling mom. She lives in northern California with her husband and two children.



Bible Stories

for GROWING KIDS

FRANCINE RIVERS
&
SHANNON RIVERS COIBION





BIBLE STORIES FOR GROWING KIDS

Bible Stories

for GROWING KIDS



by Francine Rivers and Shannon Rivers Coibion

Illustrated by Pascale Constantin

TYNDALE is a registered trademark of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Tyndale Kids logo is a trademark of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Bible Stories for Growing Kids (Sampler)

Copyright © 2007 by Francine Rivers and Shannon Rivers Coibion. All rights reserved.

Illustrations copyright © 2007 by Pascale Constantin. All rights reserved.

Author photo copyright © 2006 by Elaina Burdo Photography. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Carol Stream, Illinois



A family adventure

We live in difficult times. Our children and grandchildren face issues and situations daily that challenge their faith, morality, and way of thinking. Teaching them *what* to think will not prepare them for the worldly philosophies they face. Teaching them *how* to think, reason, and apply God's truth to their own lives will better equip them to live in the world without becoming part of it. Therefore, it is with great excitement that Shannon and I, along with the Tyndale team, present this collection of stories and growing times to you and your family.

This is not intended to be just a children's book. We hope it will become a family adventure in which you share with one another truths from Scripture, life experiences, and the power of God to change lives. And what's most important of all is that you teach your children how to put God's teachings into practice every day.

I've written each fictionalized story from the point of view of one person. In some cases, several stories cover the same situation but from different perspectives. Once the story is read, Shannon's section, Growing Time, will help involve family members in open discussion about interesting historical facts. Then you'll find questions that go beyond facts and require deeper thinking about each individual and how the issues and challenges people faced thousands of years ago are those we still face today. The prayer suggestions will help teach the principle of praying through the truths from Scripture. Children are encouraged to pray that the lessons they learn will become evident in every part of their lives.

It is our prayer that this book will strengthen the faith of each family member and equip you to go into the world. As you learn from the lives of 30 of God's people, may you become better armed and ready to point the way by word and example to your Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.



Francine Lewis

Dear reader,

Have you been listening to Bible stories and looking at Bible storybooks for as long as you can remember? Do you think you have learned everything there is to know about the people in the Bible? Well, guess what. I'm a mom, and I'm still learning! And guess what again. My mom is a grandmother, and she is still learning too!

The Bible is a very special book, because it is a gift from God. He wanted you, your parents, your grandparents, and everyone else to learn that He created people to be His friends. To help us understand that, He had many stories written down. Some of them are about people who learned to love and follow God. Others are about people who chose not to love or follow Him.

My mom, who is a good storyteller, thought it would be a good idea to learn as much as she could about 30 different Bible characters. She wanted to bring them to life through her writing. So she has written 30 stories about 30 Bible people for families just like yours. Her stories are in this book.

I'm a mom who homeschools my two children. We like to talk about Bible stories together as a family. We discover interesting facts about Bible times and talk about the people in the stories. We pray that we will learn the lessons they learned, and we ask God to help us not make the mistakes they made. I wrote the Growing Time pages in this book to help you and your family do the same.

We hope you will enjoy this book. But most of all, we pray that the stories and discussions will help you learn to be a better friend and follower of God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

With love from

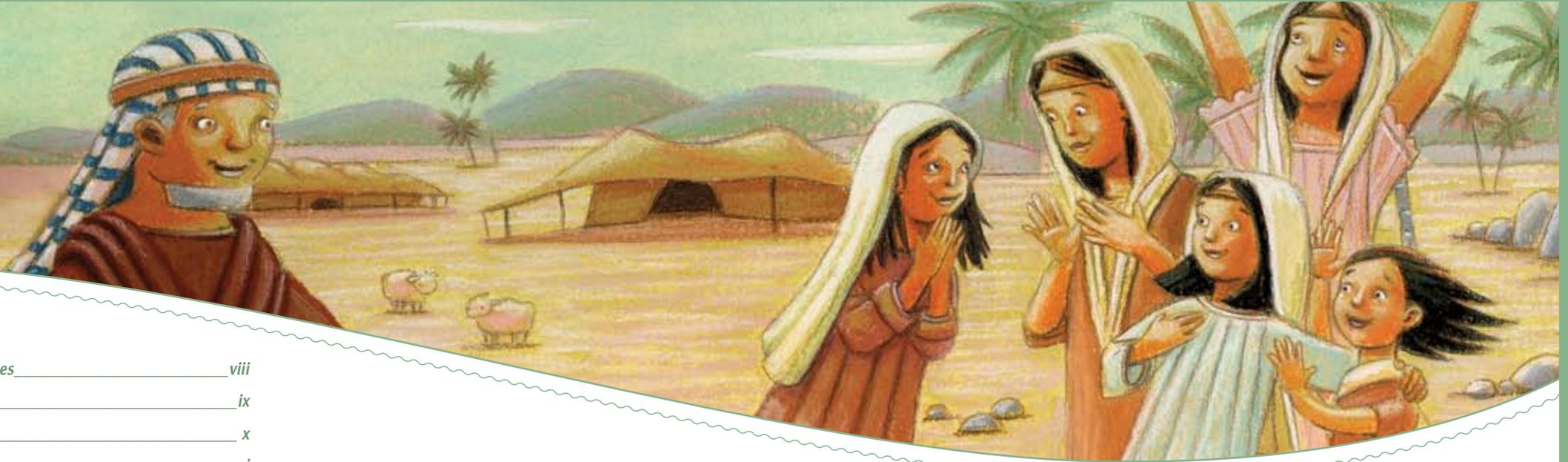
Shannon Rivers Corbitt

and from her mother

Francine Lewis



contents



<i>Alphabetical List of Bible Names</i> _____	viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i> _____	ix
<i>A Family Adventure</i> _____	x
<i>Letter to Readers</i> _____	xi

Old Testament

Abram (Abraham) • <i>Genesis; Hebrews</i> _____	2
Hagar • <i>Genesis</i> _____	10
Lot's Wife • <i>Genesis</i> _____	18
Dinah • <i>Genesis</i> _____	24
Miriam • <i>Exodus; Numbers</i> _____	30
Caleb • <i>Numbers</i> _____	36
Balaam • <i>Numbers</i> _____	42
Daughters of Zelophehad • <i>Numbers; Joshua</i> _____	50
Deborah • <i>Judges</i> _____	56
Gideon • <i>Judges</i> _____	62
Naomi • <i>The book of Ruth</i> _____	70
Abigail • <i>1 Samuel</i> _____	78
Queen of Sheba • <i>1 Kings, Proverbs</i> _____	84
Jehoiada • <i>Deuteronomy; 2 Kings; 2 Chronicles</i> _____	90
Hezekiah • <i>2 Kings; 2 Chronicles</i> _____	96
Job • <i>The book of Job</i> _____	102
Amos • <i>The book of Amos</i> _____	108

New Testament

Elizabeth • <i>Matthew; Luke</i> _____	116
Samaritan Woman • <i>John</i> _____	124
Lazarus • <i>John</i> _____	132
Zacchaeus • <i>Luke</i> _____	138
Judas • <i>Matthew; Mark; Luke; John</i> _____	144
Pilate • <i>Matthew; Mark; Luke; John</i> _____	150
Thomas • <i>John</i> _____	156
Sapphira • <i>Acts</i> _____	162
Saul (Paul) • <i>Acts; 2 Corinthians; 2 Timothy</i> _____	168
Ananias • <i>Acts</i> _____	174
Dorcas • <i>Acts</i> _____	180
Priscilla • <i>Acts</i> _____	186
Timothy • <i>Acts; 1 Corinthians; 1 Timothy; 2 Timothy</i> _____	192
<i>Scripture Index</i> _____	200
<i>About the Authors</i> _____	202
<i>About the Illustrator</i> _____	203

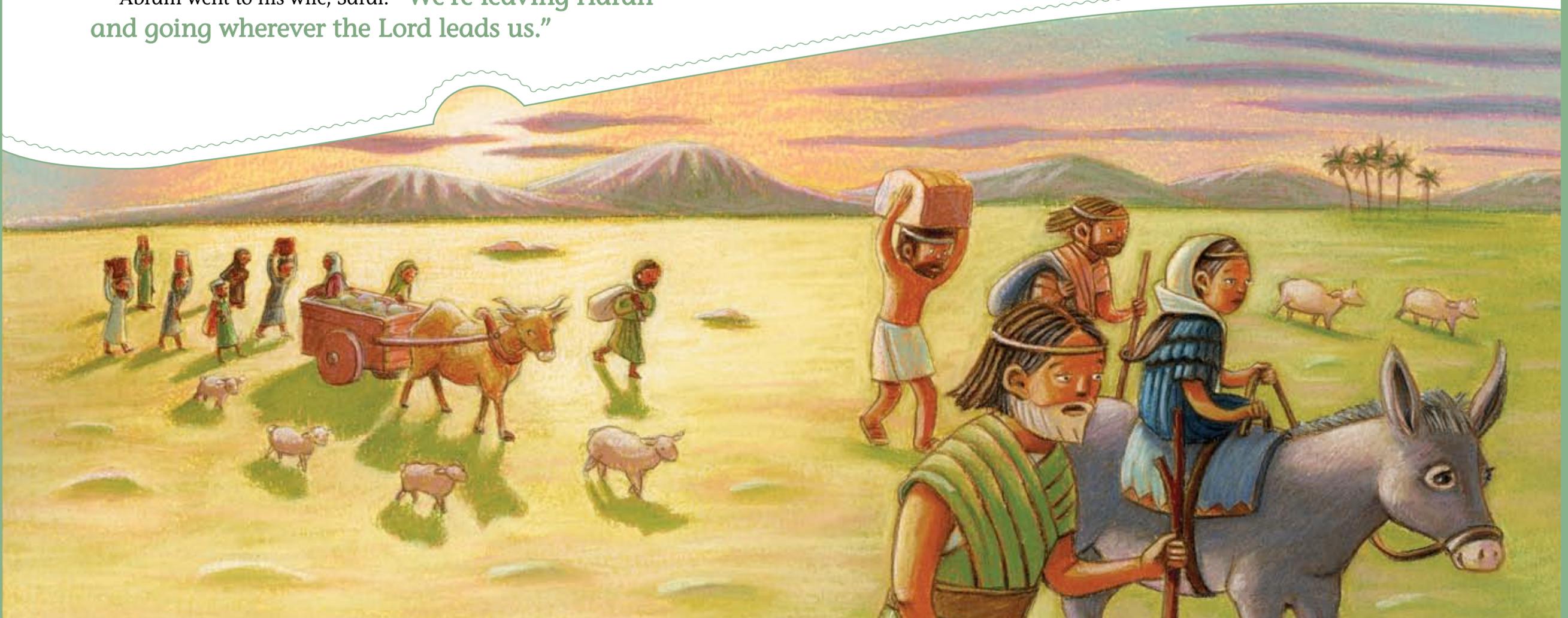
Abram heard a voice. It came as a whisper, but he could feel the power of it. It was God who spoke!
“Leave your country and your relatives, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you the father of a great nation. I will bless you with good things and make you famous. I will bless those who bless you and use bad things to curse those who curse you. But all the families of the earth will be blessed through you.”

Abram went to his wife, Sarai. **“We’re leaving Haran and going wherever the Lord leads us.”**

Abram’s nephew Lot came with them. They all packed their belongings, took their animals and servants, and traveled south. They camped beside an oak tree near the city of Shechem (SHE-kum) in the land of Canaan.

There the Lord appeared to Abram. “I am going to give this land to your children and their children.”

Children! Abram and Sarai had no children, so God’s





promise gave Abram hope. He built an altar for worshipping God and called it Bethel, “the house of God.”

After a while, a famine came to Canaan. No crops would grow. Abram was so worried about providing food for his family that he moved to Egypt without asking God what to do.

The Egyptian king, Pharaoh, wanted Sarai for himself. Afraid for his life, Abram told the king that Sarai was his sister. God was angry. When Pharaoh learned who Sarai was, he sent her back to Abram.

Abram and Sarai left Egypt and took with them a maid named Hagar to help Sarai.

When Abram and Sarai and Lot and all their servants reached Canaan, they had so many animals there was not

enough water or grass to feed them all. Abram’s servants began to fight with Lot’s servants. Abram and Lot decided they must separate. Though Abram was older and deserved first choice, he asked Lot where he wanted to go. Lot chose the best piece of land. Abram stayed in Canaan.

After Lot went away, the Lord spoke to Abram again.

“I am giving all this land to you and your children forever. I will give you so many people in your family that no one will be able to count them all!”

Years passed. Abram and Sarai grew old. Sarai gave up hope in God’s promise of children. She told Abram to sleep with her servant, Hagar, and have a son. Abram did what Sarai asked, and Hagar gave birth to Ishmael (ISH-may-el).

When Abram was 99 years old and Sarai was almost 90, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham. God also changed Sarai’s name to Sarah. Then God visited them with two angels and told Abraham that Sarah would have a son within a year. Abraham believed, but Sarah laughed silently. So God told them their son’s name would be Isaac, which means “laughter.” And so it was, for they laughed with joy when their son was born.

One day Sarah saw Ishmael making fun of little Isaac, and Sarah feared for her son. She went to Abraham and told him to send Ishmael and Hagar away. The Lord told Abraham to listen to Sarah. Isaac was the child God had promised Abraham, and through Isaac blessings would come to the world.

Isaac grew up to be a fine boy. Abraham and Sarah loved him very much. God tested Abraham’s faith by telling him to

take Isaac to the top of a mountain and give him as an offering to God. So Abraham got up early in the morning, chopped wood, made bundles of food and coals, saddled his donkey, and set out for Mount Moriah (moh-RYE-uh) with Isaac.

As they walked up the mountain, Isaac said, “We have wood and fire, Father. But where is the lamb for the offering?”

“God will provide a lamb, Son.” Abraham believed God would keep His promise of many children through Isaac. If he had to give up his son as an offering, Abraham trusted God to bring Isaac back to life.

When they reached the top of the mountain, Abraham placed the wood on a flat rock and put Isaac on the altar.

As Abraham took out his knife, God told him, “You can lay down the knife, Abraham. For now I know that you truly trust Me. Because you were willing to give your son as an offering to Me, I will bless you. **And all the nations of the world will be blessed because you obeyed Me.**”

Jesus, the Messiah, Savior and Lord of the world, came from Abraham’s family many years later. Abraham is called the father of everyone who has faith in God.

Scriptures: Genesis 12–13; 15–18; 21–22; Hebrews 11:17-19



growing time

Interesting Facts

- Abraham means “father of nations.” Sarah means “princess.” Their grandson Jacob had many grandchildren of his own. Their families became part of many nations. So Abraham really did become the “father of nations”!
- If there is not enough rain to make crops grow, there will not be enough grain to make bread and other food. Then people die, and we say there is a famine. Famines were common in Bible times because there often was no rain.

Truths from God’s Word

God is pleased when we believe what He says and obey Him as Abraham did. Sometimes God has us wait a long time for His promises to come true. He wants us to trust in Him as we wait. Trusting in God is believing that He will do what He says.

Thinking about Abraham

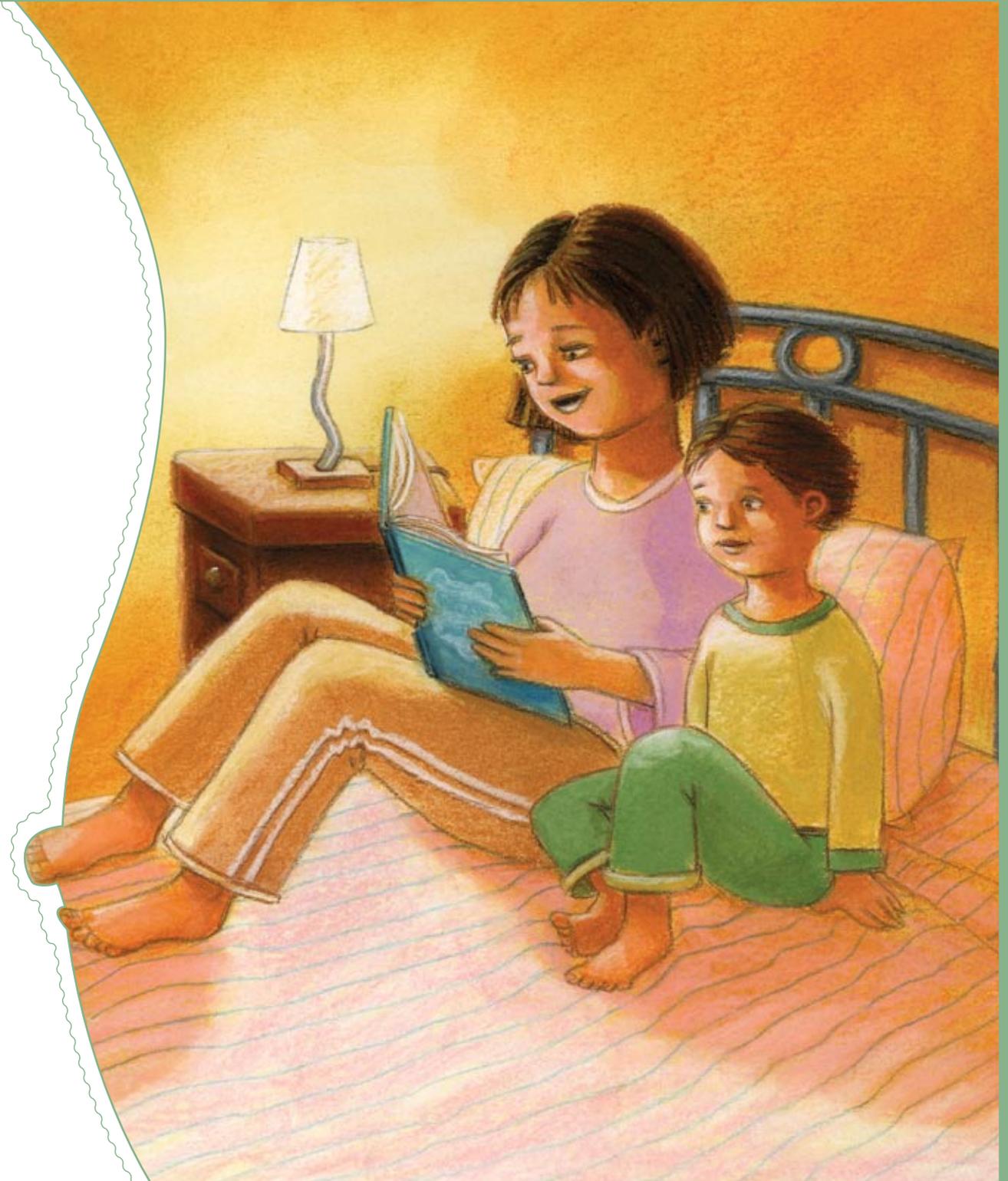
God called Abraham His friend and made him the father of all those who have faith in the one true God. When God said all nations would be blessed through Abraham’s family, God was speaking of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would save the world from sin. Name some times when Abraham didn’t understand everything God was asking him to do. Can you tell about some ways Abraham showed that he trusted God, even when he didn’t understand everything?

Thinking about YOUR Life

What are some things that God is asking you to do, but you don’t understand why? Which of God’s promises to you seem like they will take a long time? How can you show that you trust God to do what He says, no matter how long it takes?

Praying for Help to Trust

1. Pray that God will help you trust Him.
2. Ask for faith to believe that God will always answer your prayers at the right time.
3. Pray that God will help you follow and obey Him, even when you don’t understand where He is leading you.





about the authors

Francine Rivers

Francine is a wife, mother, and grandmother living in northern California. She has been writing for adults for more than 30 years.

After becoming a born-again Christian in 1986, she wrote *Redeeming Love* as her statement of faith. Since then she has published numerous books and has won industry acclaim, awards, and reader loyalty. Her novel *The Last Sin Eater* won the ECPA Gold Medallion.

The characters in Francine's novels, whether real people from the Bible or fictional contemporary figures, come to life as she creates realistic conversations and background descriptions. She has written the stories of five Bible women in her Lineage of Grace series and is in the process of writing about five men in the Sons of Encouragement series. The story in each book is told from the viewpoint of one main character. And now, for the first time, Francine has used the same approach in this book of children's Bible stories.

Francine says she uses her writing to draw closer to the Lord, that through her work she might worship and praise Jesus for all He has done and is doing in her life.

Shannon Rivers Coibion

Shannon is the daughter of Francine Rivers and a full-time homemaker and homeschooling mom. She lives in northern California with her husband and two children.

Shannon, who wrote the Growing Time sections of this book, grew up in a family that read the Bible together. She was influenced not only by the after-dinner Bible readings but also by the knowledge that her parents got up early each morning to read Scripture and pray. Now Shannon lets her children know that she reads her Bible before arising each morning. And she makes certain that their schooling includes a daily reading from a one-year kids' Bible, followed by a discussion time.