



This is not a rehearsed pageant. The children have not seen the script. They have to listen to me to find out what they are supposed to do. Many of you know these stories, but only the Angel and I know the script.

As you know, the first Christmas was about two thousand years ago. The first story in our pageant starts thousands of years before that. A young man named Abram and a young woman named Sarai get married in a town called Ur of Chaldees, which is way back in the back of the church.

(Abraham and Sarah enter from the back, followed by servants.)

NARRATOR:

There they are, Abram and Sarai, followed by two of their servants. They move to a town called Haran, which is about halfway up the aisle here. They were young, so they could travel there quickly. They lived in Haran and were starting to get older, but they had no children. And one day God spoke to them and they did what you do when God speaks to you, which is to get down on the ground and put your face to the ground and listen. And God told them to move to the land of Canaan, which is in the front of the church here. So they got up and moved up here to Canaan — a little more slowly at this point because they were older now — and they settled in Canaan and they got to be really old. Sarai was 90 years old and Abram was 99 years old. That's getting pretty old. They couldn't stand up straight when they walked any more, but walked kind of bent over. And God spoke to them again, and it took them a long time to get down on the ground with their face to the ground.

And God spoke to them and gave them new names. Abram would be called Abraham. Sarai would be called Sarah. And God told them that the whole world would be blessed through them, and this would happen because they would have a child, and that child would have children and so on and eventually the people in the world because of Abraham and Sarah would be too many to count and God would use these people to do wonderful things.



And how did Abraham and Sarah react to this message? They laughed. They laughed and laughed. This was the funniest thing either one of them had ever heard. Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham was 99 years old and they were going to have a baby?

Their servants couldn't figure out what was so funny. They thought maybe Abraham and Sarah had gone crazy.

And the next year, Abraham was 100, Sarah was 91, and they had a little baby boy — Sarah, here is your baby.

(Assistant or Narrator hands the baby Isaac to Sarah.)

NARRATOR:

And they loved the baby and cared for him and named him Isaac. And Isaac became the father of Israel, and all the promises to Abraham and Sarah came true. So Abraham and Sarah, you can take a seat now up on the steps. Be careful, those are steep steps for an old couple with a little baby.

One of the things we learn from this story is that God is faithful.

One of the things this story reminds us of is that the birth of Jesus was also promised ahead of time.

That's our first story, so now we'll ask you all to stand and sing Hymn _____.

(Recommended hymns: 60 – Creator of the Stars of Night; 66 – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus; or 401 – The God of Abraham Praise.)

SCENE 2:

The Birth of Moses

NARRATOR:

Our second story takes place many years after the first story. And it takes place in Egypt, so we need a Nile River. Can the royal servants please bring out the Nile River?

(Servants enter from the front and bring out blue material.)

