

**IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson**

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**Lesson for April 15**

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**PIONEERS OF FAITH**

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 12:1, 2; Acts 7:4-7, 12-17.

GOLDEN TEXT—By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed . . . and he went out, not knowing whither he went.—Hebrews 11:8

Bible history is a story of men of faith called and used of God to carry out His purpose in the world. These thrilling accounts of worth-while lives are to be our special concern during the three-months we study the history of Israel and of the Church.

**I. A Call and a Covenant (Gen. 12:1, 2).**

God was now ready to make known His choice of a man to be the father of His chosen people. He went down into Ur of the Chaldees in the midst of heathen worship, and called out a man who had faith in the true God.

Abram, "when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Heb. 11:8).

The Lord called him out from his own land and kindred, to get him away from his heathen forebears and their worship. God wants separated believers in our day, too (read and ponder II Cor. 6:17, 18).

That call comes to every believer. To those who are to serve Him, there is a definite call much like Abram's (see Matt. 10:37-39).

With the call came a great covenant, a seven-fold promise given in Genesis 12:2, 3. That covenant God repeatedly renewed with Abraham and his descendants. It has been partially fulfilled, and God has put Himself on record that every bit of it shall be completed. He keeps His promises.

Why did God choose Israel? It was an act of His sovereign grace, not based on their merit or goodness. He had a threefold purpose:

(1) That they should be the repository for His truth (the Old Testament) in the earth; (2) that they should be the channel for the coming of the personal Redeemer to the earth; (3) that they should be a national witness to the one true God amid the nations of the earth.

They accomplished two of these, but failed in the last, and are now under God's judgment for that sin and failure.

**II. Obedience and Opportunity (Acts 7:4-7).**

Abram went out at God's command, even though he knew that it meant suffering and trial, being obedient without question or hesitation. Bible history reveals that God de-lights to do mighty things for those who give Him unquestioning obedience.

God did great things for Abraham, and yet he did not live to see the fulfillment of the promise. He knew it was to be so, realizing that God's plan was to be carried out in the children which he did not yet have (see Heb. 11:9-11).

Here is a lesson for us. Our faith today, and the measure in which we apprehend the grace of God for life and service, will bless not only us, but our children (Ps. 103:17). For their sakes we ought to seek to increase the spiritual heritage of our families. Certainly we should do nothing to blight their lives (Exod. 34:7).

One may not be able to boast of the greatness and fitness of one's ancestors, but one can be determined by the grace of God to be a good ancestor.

Observe that Abraham's obedience opened up the whole history of blessing and usefulness to the entire nation of Israel, a history not yet concluded by any means. Think what opportunity he might have destroyed by disobedience.

**III. A Family and Its Faith (Acts 7:12-17).**

Stephen, a portion of whose address of defense before the council is here before us, reviews the history of God's dealings with Israel. Tracing the line down through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, he recalls how God provided a haven of plenty for them in Egypt until they were ready to be brought up into the possession of their inheritance—the land of Palestine.

Lack of space forbids the review of the lives of these pioneers of faith. The study would be most illuminating, for it repeatedly throws into sharp contrast the awful failures of these men when they forgot God, and the mighty victories they gained when they believed Him.

In spite of their failures they were essentially men of faith, for God has counted them worthy of a place in that remarkable list of heroes of faith found in Hebrews 11 (see vv. 17-22).

The days in which we live are not pioneer days in the usual sense, but they are days when God is calling for new pioneers of faith to serve Him in a befuddled and bruised world. There are stirring days ahead for the Church of Christ if we as Christians will, like Abraham, hear the call of God and go out in obedience to Him.

**LIMEHOUSE**

The April meeting of Limestone Women's Institute was held at Mrs. A. Norton's on Thursday last, \$68.50 was raised during the month, but most of this was spent on boxes sent to local overseas men for Easter and on seeds for the school children's victory gardens, as well as raising the final payment on the victory bond. Mrs. J. L. Ellery was appointed delegate to the Federation of Agriculture health meeting on April 26th, and Mrs. A. W. Benton to the Children's Aid Society meeting on April 30.

Owing to the District Annual date being May 10, the next meeting of the W.I. was set for April 26th at 2 o'clock. The president announced that the members had a four part roll call for next meeting, payment of fees, a highlight of the year's work, your choice of a month for entertaining the branch, and characteristics for a good leader. Two new quilts, completed within the month were to be given the local Red Cross. Letters acknowledging receipts of cartons of clothing and quilts sent the Salvation Army and Can. Aid to Russia were read. Correspondence also acknowledged a ditty bag and a card from Norman McDonald, who is a prisoner of war. Mrs. McVey read current events and the motto "Never too old to learn" by Mrs. Roe. Mrs. Glsby read a poem entitled "Prayer for Planting." Items of interest were heard from convenors of standing committees. Following the National Anthem the hostess served lunch.

Mrs. A. R. Johnson arrived home from Toronto with their new son during the week end.

Misses Olive and Jean Given were guests at the Gates-Snow wedding on Saturday.

Mrs. Angus McDonald visited her sister, Mrs. Miller during the week end.

Pilot-Officers Pat Miles and Joe McMenemy of the Royal New Zealand Air Force were guests of the Mitchell's last week.

The garden committee of the "W.I." sponsored a picnic and dance at the school on Tuesday evening which proved quite a success. Highest scores were held by Helen Shelbourne and S. Norrie, and Mr. S. Norrie and Mrs. E. Miller won the spot dance. A number of lantern slides were shown at lunch time. Hot meat pies, peas and coffee were served. Messrs. Garnet Kay and W. Summers assisted by Miss Ruddell at the piano supplied music for dancing. Mr. Joe McDonald was the able foot manager.

A large number of relatives and friends of Mr. "Sandy" McDonald and Miss Helen Crawford gathered at Limehouse School on Friday evening to wish them happiness and to present them with miscellaneous gifts, both beautiful and useful. After a few dances, Mr. J. N. Newton called the prospective bride and groom to decorated chairs beneath pink and white streamers, while Mrs. Chas. Meredith played the wedding march. As the gifts were being presented balloons overhead, burst showering confetti over the couple beneath. Sandy thanked all for their gifts and good wishes. Lunch, supervised by Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Ellery, was served and the remainder of the evening spent in dancing.

**BALLINAFAD**

The March meeting of the W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. Robt. McNery. The devotional was in charge of Mrs. Foreman who made the scripture study very interesting. Mrs. F. J. Shortill had charge of the topic. Arrangements were made for the Spring Thank-offering to be held in the church Sunday evening, April 8, when Miss Lindsay, a returned missionary from Korea, will be the guest speaker.

The young people held a very impressive service in the church Friday evening. Clifford Riddler, the president presided and Rev. Foreman gave the address. A solo by Joanna Shortill was enjoyed by all present.

A goodly number gathered in the Ballinafad hall Thursday evening, when after a short program a miscellaneous shower was presented to Annie Snow, the coming bride. Lunch was then served and the rest of the evening spent in dancing. Barden's Orchestra of Hillsburg supplied the music.

An enjoyable evening was spent in Ballinafad Hall Monday, Mar. 26th, when a banquet was served to 75 members of the Farm Form. Mr. Lolton, a professor from the O.A.C. presented an interesting and humorous address much enjoyed by all. Plans were made to hold monthly meetings during the summer months.

**ASHGROVE**

Mrs. Lewis Beer, of Arthur, has been visiting with her cousin, Mrs. George Nurse, for a few days.

Mrs. Horn of Streetsville, was a visitor with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Dick for Easter.

Mrs. Stanley Gowland visited with Mr. and Mrs. R. Gowland, of Zimmerman, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson and Marilyn, visited with Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Hake, of Goderich, this past week-end.

Rev. R. D. Trank, B.A., of Abwood, conducted the service this past Sun-

day morning. Rev. Geo. Simpson, of Mt. Hope will conduct the service next Sunday morning.

Misses Isabel and Margaret Alexander spent the Easter vacation at their home here.

Miss Effie Bird, of Toronto Public School staff, spent the holiday week at her parents' home here.

Miss Jean Wigglesworth, of Milton, spent the Easter holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Horace Barnes.

**STEWARTTOWN**

(Intended for last week)

Easter services were very well attended at St. John's Church Good Friday. The service was at 3 p.m., being a pre-Communion service. Easter morning Communion service was at 9 a.m. The children's service with presentation of Lenten boxes was at 2 o'clock and well attended, and the Easter service at 3 o'clock. Rev. S. R. Cochrane was in charge of all services.

Easter visitors at Mrs. Jenkinson's were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jenkinson, Herbie and Marilyn, of Mt. Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. R. Standish, Edward, Richard and Rosemary of Thorold, and LAW Frances Jenkinson of Newfoundland.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Simpson of Bronte, Stoker and Mrs. Stewart Simpson were visitors with Mrs. Roy Smith Easter day.

Mrs. Lane, of Mt. Dennis spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. J. Sanford.

Mrs. Lawson and grandson Donald are visiting at Windsor for Easter holidays.

Our weather was very well timed. Good Friday was very pleasant and warm. Saturday it poured with rain. Easter Sunday was fair and cool. Monday it poured again.

L. Opl. S. Hunt of Brampton spent Easter at his home here.

The W.A. meeting last week was a quilting at Mrs. Bally's home.

Mrs. H. Lusty and daughters Joan and Barbara, of Georgetown, visited with Mrs. E. Hodge Friday.

Miss Lois Millemar is spending her holidays with her aunt at Mono Mills.

**BRAMPTON**

John McCulloch, R. R. No. 2 Brampton was elected President of the Peel Progressive Conservative Association at the annual meeting held in the Orange Hall, Brampton, last Saturday.

All town councillors were present at the meeting, and according to discussion which took place, Brampton will have a full time fire chief, and a full time assessor, the latter to work under the jurisdiction of the County Assessor.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green, Union Street, received a message this week that their son, F. S. Robert John Green, had been missing overseas on March 31st.

Wedding of Mary Margaret, daughter of Mrs. Robert Wood Campbell and the late Mr. Campbell, and Lieut.-Col. Russell Hamilton Noble, O.B.E., R.C.E. M.E., of Brampton, was quietly solemnized in High Park United Church last Saturday evening. — Conservator and Gazette.

**MILTON**

Following is the interim report of the Red Cross campaign. Cash in Bank \$5,601.32; Cash on hand \$19,000; Pledges \$241.00, making a total of \$68,612.32.

Resident of Milton for the past thirty-seven years, Arthur Whitney Merklely passed away on Mar. 28th, at his home here.

Councillor Fay gave an account of the progress being made on draughting of the building by-laws. A meeting had been held and a rough outline of the bylaw had been draughted.

The 47een Club have sponsored ten dances to date and the gross receipts have been \$1,596.26.

St. David's Church, Campbellville, was lovely with lilies and daffodils for the marriage on Saturday of Miss Eva Alberta Border, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Border, Campbellville, to Mr. William John Gowland Dixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dixon, Milton. — Champion.

**ACTON**

Able Seaman Gordon Gibbons, home on leave, was one of the crew of the "Trentonian" recently reported torpedoed. Five others lost their lives in the sinking of the corvette.

Returns in the Acton and District Red Cross Campaign are still incomplete, but yesterday Mr. W. K. Graham, the treasurer, reported receipts of \$4500, which is the same amount as last year at the close of the campaign, a \$1,000 over the objective.

The Acton Junior Farmers' Farm Forum held its last meeting of the winter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Swackhamer on Mar. 19th, with a good attendance. Prior to this an enjoyable evening had been spent at the home of Mr. Elwood Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. N. Armstrong, Mrs. Gordon Leslie and Mr. and Mrs. M. Nellis. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at the Johnstons & Rumley Funeral Home for Orlando (Andy) Cardinell, R. R. No. 3 Rockwood, Fallbearers, all friends of the deceased were Arthur Benton, Harry Brown, Fred Brown, William Fitzhugh, Charles Evans, and A. Lawson.

**GLEN WILLIAMS**

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Poole and son Leroy of Lambeth, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Hancock and Denis of Glen Williams, Mrs. Della Norton and son Wayne, Glen Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Williams from Hamilton were guests at Mrs. L. Poole's for Easter. This was a family reunion as Mrs. Poole's son, Pte. B. L. Poole, is home from England.

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