

# SARAH

Adapted from a variety of sources by Elaine Sanderson & Nina Taus

Do you know who the mother of the Jewish people is? Her name is Sarah. She is one of the most important women of the Bible. Many women are named after her. Maybe you know someone named Sarah. Listen to her story and think about what it means to be wanted and loved as much as her son Isaac was, and as we all are--after all we, too, are really Sarah's children!

Sarah lived many years ago when people lived in tents and traveled around on camels. She was famous for her beauty. Do you know what the name Sarah means? It means "princess." In many ways, Sarah lived like a princess. Her life with her husband Abraham was quite comfortable. She was kind to the guests that visited her home. Her life seemed happy, from the outside at least. But oh, on the inside, it was different. How she longed and prayed for a child of her own to hold and to love!

Years went by and she got older and older and still had no children. Her servants had children--one child Abraham especially loved. The child's name was Ishmael. It was hard for Sarah to see all of these children, especially Ishmael. It made her want her own child even more. Oh, how sad she became.

God told Abraham not to worry. He did say he would bless Sarah and give her a son. "She will be a mother of many nations; kings will come from her." Abraham laughed. He didn't quite believe it. After all, he and Sarah were old enough to be grandparents, maybe even great grandparents.

Sarah's husband, Abraham, was a very special man. God spoke to him many times. He told Abraham to travel to a land and settle there, and raise his family. God did not tell him the name of the land, where it was, or exactly which way to get there, but Abraham had great trust in God and wanted to do what God told him. Sarah knew her husband could not travel alone, so they began their journey together.

Leaving wasn't easy for Sarah. She missed her family and her friends. Traveling by camel was hard. She wished she had children of her own to keep her company. But Sarah was brave. She believed in Abraham's God and what He wanted them to do: find the land and raise a family in the way God wanted. Finally, after a long journey they found the land. Today we call that land Israel. But still, Sarah did not have any children.

One day three guests came to visit Sarah and Abraham. Sarah made some special cakes for them. Abraham and Sarah always treated their guests well. It was one of the reasons God favored them so much. Sarah stayed in the tent while the men ate under a tree and talked.

She listened. She heard one of them say, "I will be back before the year is up. And by then your wife Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was really very old by now. Her skin was wrinkled, and her hair was gray. She certainly didn't expect to have any children now! They must be teasing she thought. So Sarah laughed. She laughed and laughed.

"Can I have a child now? At this age?" she asked.

"Is anything too hard for God?" answered the guest.

"Oh," said Sarah, a little frightened because she did not want to offend God. "Oh, I didn't really laugh."

"Oh, yes, you did," replied the guests. And then they left.


God remembered Sarah, just as He promised. He promised Sarah that she would have a son, and she did! Can you imagine how happy she was having a child of her own, in spite of her laughter? They named the son Isaac (יצחק) which means "laughter" (צחק).


There was a bris for Isaac. Sarah put her beautiful child in her arms and said, "God has made laughter for me. Maybe people will laugh at me because I am a mother at such an old age."

Sarah, the sad princess, became Sarah, the laughing princess, and the mother of the Jewish people. Her child had children, and those children had children, and soon there were as many as the stars in the heavens. And you and I are here today, many children and grandchildren later, born after Isaac, the son who made Sarah laugh.

## SARAH IN THE TENT

### Directions:

1. Cut out the tent pages. Color them.
2. Fold each tent in half vertically.
3. On the bottom of each half there is a letter. Match A to A, B to B, etc. by placing the backs together. Attach all four together with glue to make a free-standing tent. The top view will look like a +.
4. Trim the edges if necessary.
5. Tape a piece of yarn to the back of the  after cutting it out.

Attach the other end somewhere on the right side of the tent with the other Hebrew letters. When telling the story, place the  to the right of the letters.



תורה

