



ABRAHAM'S SEARCH FOR GOD

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In this creative legend, Abraham discovers something greater than idols of clay and stone and concludes that there is, in fact, One God.

For many of us, coming to understand God is a lifelong journey. Judaism itself does not purport to offer one single view on God. Some of us wonder, “Can I be a good Jew if I am not sure I believe in God or what I believe about God?” Without clarity of our own theological beliefs, we wonder how we can successfully discuss God with our children. Reading *Abraham’s Search for God* is a wonderful way to start the first of many discussions about God.

DISCUSSING GOD

While there are no easy guidelines for talking with children about God, some excellent books on the subject include Rabbi David Wolpe’s *Teaching Your Children about God* and Rabbi Harold Kushner’s *When Children Ask about God*. For adults interested in exploring their own feelings on the subject, Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer’s book, *Spiritual Journey* is an insightful resource. Older children will also gain a great deal from reading *Let’s Talk About God* by Dorothy Kripke.

Regardless of your own beliefs about God and the Bible, *Abraham’s Search for God* refers to some of the many wonders that surround us. To be reminded of these glorious aspects of our world is a blessing, and *Abraham’s Search for God* serves as a way to remind both our children and ourselves of these many marvels.

As a follow-up activity to reading this book, your children might enjoy drawing or painting images of wonders

in the world, either those that Abraham witnessed or ones that they notice and appreciate one their own.

MIDRASH & ABRAHAM

This story is a *midrash*—a story not directly from the Bible, but built around a Biblical story as a means of explaining certain events or more fully exploring certain biblical characters.

As the author points out in the endnote, we meet Abraham in the Bible when he is already grown; *Abraham’s Search for God* gives us a taste of what Abraham’s childhood might have been like. Certainly one of Jacqueline Jules’ objectives is to understand a distant character—in this case, Abraham, who was raised in a nation of idol worshipers and who comes to believe fervently in one God.

Explain to your children that there are many stories in the Bible, and there are also many books written that will help explain the stories in the Bible. *Abraham’s Search for God* is an example of one such story.

To teach your children more about the Biblical character of Abraham, read the story together in a children’s Bible. As a further activity, your children may take pleasure in creating a story that explains something in the world about which they are curious. Pj