

Improved  
Uniform  
International  
SCHOOL  
LESSON

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## Lesson for April 15

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## PIONEERS OF FAITH

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 12:1, 2; Acts 7:47, 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 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 (Psalms 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 (Exodus 34:7).

One may not be able to boast of the greatness and fineness 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 v. 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 loving obedience to Him.

## RURAL CHURCHES

Note: Evangelistic services will continue up to and including Wednesday evening, April 18th.

You are cordially invited to these services.

Louis F. Miller  
Dies in Michigan

Funeral Rites Here  
Sunday Afternoon

Louis Franklin Miller, 81, died Wednesday night at 11:15 o'clock in the Sturgis memorial hospital in Sturgis, Mich., after being seriously ill for the past 11 days.

Born in Fremont, Ohio, February 6, 1864, the son of William and Minnie Guepper Miller, he lived in Decatur a number of years before going to Sturgis about 18 years ago.

In 1892 he was married to Florence A. Parrish, who survives. Two sons, Herman T. of Muskegon, Mich., and Clarence W. Chicago, one daughter, Mrs. E. P. Winans of Fort Wayne, one brother, Fred T. Miller, Chicago, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild also survive. One son Harry died two years ago and one sister also preceded him in death.

He was a member of the Zion Evangelical and Reformed church of this city. Funeral services will be conducted at the Black funeral home at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, with the Rev. W.C. Feller officiating. Burial will be in the Decatur cemetery.

## Decatur Circuit

Homer Studebaker, pastor

## Mt. Pleasant

Morning worship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Mt. Tabor

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.

Our attendance is increasing. Will you not join this Sunday morning class? Worship with us.

## Monroe Friends

Byron Leaser, pastor

## 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sunday School.

Wm. Zurcher, superintendent.

## 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Morning worship.

Sunday evening, Monroe high school baccalaureate service, at the Methodist church.

Wednesday evening, Monroe high school commencement services.

Friday, April 13, 8 p.m.—Victory prayer band at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Winteregg.

## Monroe Methodist Church

E. O. Kegerreis, minister

Morning worship, 9:30 a.m.

Sermon, "Running Away From God."

Church School, 10:30 a.m. Lesson, "Adventuring With God."

Evening—High school baccalaureate service.

Tuesday evening—4-H club meeting in the annex.

Wednesday evening—High school commencement.

Union Chapel Church

United Brethren in Christ

D. H. and Celia Peletti, pastors

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Thursday

L. Drew, superintendent.

Morning worship, 10:15 a.m. Sermon, subject, "Proof."

Christian Endeavor for Young People and adults, 7:00 p.m.

Evening worship, 7:30 p.m. subject, "My First Sermon."

Prayer service Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Every one invited.

St. Luke's Ev. & Reformed Church

Honduras, Ind.

Rev. H. H. Meckstroth, pastor

9:00 a.m.

Divine worship.

10:00 a.m.

Sunday school.

2:00 p.m.

Instruction of youth.

Thursday—An all-day meeting of the Women's Guild in the basement of the church.

Pleasant Valley

Wesleyan Methodist Church

Noel H. Winterholter, pastor

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

10:30 a.m.

Preaching

7:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting Wednesday

7:45 p.m.

There will be no service Sunday evening at Pleasant Valley. Service laid down in favor of the Monroe H. S. Baccalaureate.

Go To Church Sunday.

Willshire Circuit

U. B. Church

L. A. Midgaur, Pastor

Willshire

9:30 a.m. Sunday school.

10:30 a.m. Class meeting.

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

St. Paul

9:15 a.m. Sunday school.

10:15 a.m. Preaching service by Rev. Paul Parker, followed by communion service.

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, prayer meeting and Bible study.

Quarterly meeting Saturday evening April 14th, Rev. Paul Parker in charge.

Winchester

9:30 a.m. Sunday school.

10:30 a.m. Class meeting.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, prayer meeting.

Riviere Circuit

Gilbert A. Eddy, pastor

Mt. Victory

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Clove Crozier, superintendent.

Class meeting, 10:30 a.m. Gregg Knittle leader.

Prayer meeting Wednesday evening.

Pleasant Grove

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Warren Harden, superintendent.

Worship service, 10:30 a.m. Sermon by Rev. K. Roy Johnson, evangelist.

Prayer meeting Wednesday evening. Fred Bittner, leader.

Mt. Zion

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Jim Beabout, superintendent.

Worship service 10:30 a.m. Sermon by Rev. K. Roy Johnson, evangelist.

Prayer meeting Wednesday evening.

Evangelistic services

7:30 p.m.

Evangelistic services, 7:30 p.m.

Japanese Lose  
118 Planes In  
Okinawa Raids

Suicidal Attacks  
Made On American  
Forces In Area

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Tokyo reported the strike while it was in progress at 12:17 a.m. Saturday (Tokyo time). The broadcast was recorded by United Press in San Francisco.

"Formations of B-29 aircraft are now hovering over the Tokyo area in a night raid attempt," the unconfirmed enemy announcement said.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed that one U. S. destroyer was sunk in the action and several other ships damaged, although the latter continued in operation.

(A Tokyo broadcast, recorded by the FCC, admitted the loss of only two Japanese planes and claimed that the suicide forces had sunk or damaged 11 American vessels in the raids yesterday.

Tokyo said the attacks were directed against eight separate groups of U. S. warships stretching 100 miles off the eastern coast of Okinawa. The enemy report claimed the entire American naval force included at least eight aircraft carriers and seven battleships.

Mihaitz' report of the raids was the first official U. S. mention of Japanese suicide attacks, although Tokyo long has spoken of its "Kamikaze" special attack corps.

The Japanese made the first assault early yesterday morning when seven of the enemy planes were brought down off the western coast of Okinawa.

In the afternoon, several hundred of the suicide planes, most of them of obsolete types and heavily armored, renewed the attack. Carrier planes, and a curtain of anti-aircraft fire from warships and ground batteries met the enemy force. A total of 111 Japanese planes were shot down or self-destructed in the second attack.

On Okinawa, the stalemated ground campaign north of the capital of Naha went into its fifth day today. Nimitz disclosed that the 27th and 96th army divisions and the 1st and 6th marine divisions were fighting on Okinawa.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Pleasant Dale Methodist church, with the Rev. Homer Studebaker officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. The body will be removed from the John funeral home to the residence of the niece Saturday morning.

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