

# **Advent: Love**

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# Advent: Love



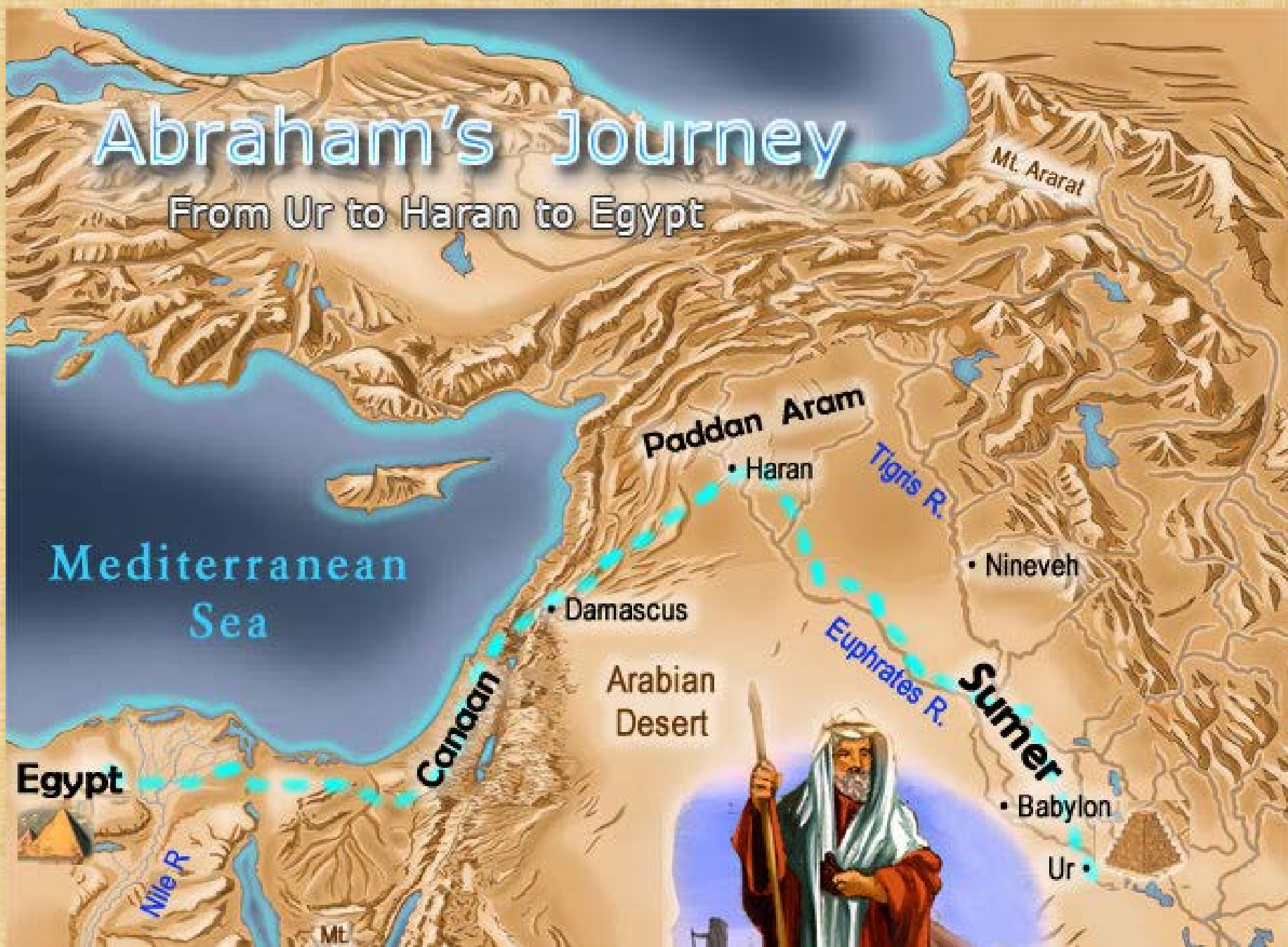
# **Advent: Love**

**John 3:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.**

# Abraham's Journey

From Ur to Haran to Egypt





# **Advent: Love**

**Genesis 28:1-3 (NIV)**

**So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: “Do not marry a Canaanite woman. <sup>2</sup> Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother’s father Bethuel.**

# **Advent: Love**

**Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. <sup>3</sup> May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples.**

# **Advent: Love**

## **Genesis 29**

**Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. <sup>2</sup> There he saw a well in the open country, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large.**

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**<sup>3</sup> When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well.**



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**<sup>4</sup> Jacob asked the shepherds, “My brothers, where are you from?”**

**“We’re from Harran,” they replied.**

**<sup>5</sup> He said to them, “Do you know Laban, Nahor’s grandson?”**

**“Yes, we know him,” they answered.**

**<sup>6</sup> Then Jacob asked them, “Is he well?”**

**“Yes, he is,” they said, “and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep.”**

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**7 “Look,” he said, “the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture.”**

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**<sup>8</sup> “We can’t,” they replied, “until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep.”**

**<sup>9</sup> While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was a shepherd. <sup>10</sup> When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of his uncle Laban, and Laban’s sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle’s sheep.**

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**<sup>11</sup> Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. <sup>12</sup> He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father.**

**<sup>13</sup> As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things. <sup>14</sup> Then Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood."**



# **Advent: Love**

**After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, <sup>15</sup> Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”**

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**<sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.**

**<sup>17</sup> Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful.**

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**<sup>18</sup> Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”**

**<sup>19</sup> Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.”**

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**<sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.**



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**<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.” <sup>22</sup> So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. <sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.**

**<sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah!**

# **Advent: Love**

**So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”**

**<sup>26</sup> Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.**

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**27 Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."**

# **Advent: Love**

**<sup>28</sup> And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. <sup>29</sup> Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. <sup>30</sup> Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.**



# **Advent: Love**

## **1. Love Works**

# **Advent: Love**

**Action step:**

**Identify what are you not doing that you used to do?**

**Begin doing it again**

# **Advent: Love**

**1. Love Works**

**2. Love Endures**

# **Advent: Love**

**Action step:**

**Identify the real goal and work toward it**

**What do you need to overcome to get there?**



# **Advent: Love**

- 1. Love Works**
- 2. Love Endures**
- 3. Love Waits**

# **Advent: Love**

**Action step:**

**Be Patient and trust God**

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**John 3:16-17**

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# **Advent: Love**

➤ **God's Love is Unconditional**



# **Advent: Love**

- **God's Love is Unconditional**
- **God's Grace is Universal**

# **Advent: Love**

- **God's Love is Unconditional**
- **God's Grace is Universal**
- **God's Salvation is Optional**

**Advent: Love**

**Will you accept His love?**

# **Advent: Love**

**Challenge:**

**Invite five people to church this  
Christmas season**