

Chapter 3

Stories for the Journey: Creation and the Founding of a People

Called to Prayer

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said: I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless.

Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly.

Abram fell face down and God said to him: For my part, here is my covenant with you: you are to become the father of a multitude of nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings will stem from you. I will maintain my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting covenant, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now residing as aliens, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God. God said to Abraham: For your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages.

—Genesis 17:1-9

- *Reflection:* How are you a part of the covenant that God made with Abraham? Reflect on your place in the story of salvation and the promises of God and Abraham.
- *Meditation:* What must it have been like to walk with God? Place yourself in this passage, and imagine God giving you the promise he gave to Abraham.

Resolution: Find time to read Genesis 12 and 15 to find out more about Abraham and his calling.