

Blandford and Langton Home Groups  
Meeting for Week Beginning 23 September 2007  
Focus At Home “The Bible - The Big Picture”

## “Abraham - The Father of the Nation”

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### The Overall Aim of this Study:

To see through the life of Abraham ...

- ❖ That God wants a relationship with his world.
  - ❖ That faith and trust are key parts to that relationship.
  - ❖ That this relationship involves long-term learning.
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- Welcome

How far back in your family tree can you go? Any skeletons?  
(Don't waste too much time here - this is not “Who do you think you are?”!!!)

- Worship

Read Genesis 17:1-8 and thank God that he keeps his promises, and for the promise he made to Abraham, fulfilled in Jesus.

- Word

See “*The One Stop Bible Guide*” (TOSBG ) Pages 18 to 21.

It may also help to read the sheet “The Story So Far” and the Sermon on this Topic.

Ask one or two people to share their journey of faith (it is probably advisable to warn them in advance!). Ask them to particularly talk about ...

- Times when they doubted God - and what helped to alleviate the doubts.
- Times when they saw the fulfilling of God's promises in their lives.
- How their understanding of God has changed through the journey.

The Story of Abraham is long - and the story of a rollercoaster relationship between him and God. It is suggested that the leader of this study familiarises themselves with the story and paraphrases the following incidents - telling the story to the group:

Genesis 12:1-8	God's first call.
Genesis 12:10-20	Abraham lies about Sarah to Pharaoh.
Genesis 15:1-6	God's promise.
Genesis 16:1-16	Abraham has a child with Hagar.
Genesis 17:1-11	God repeats the promise and introduces the response of Circumcision.
Genesis 18:1-14	God promises Abraham and Sarah a child.
Genesis 20:1-3	Abraham lies about Sarah to Abimelech.
Genesis 21:1-3	Isaac is born.
Genesis 22:1-18	Abraham is tested by God.

It is impossible to study the whole of this story in detail - and the point of this study is not to look at the detail, but the bigger picture of Abraham's life.

- What do the above incidents tell us about Abraham, as a person?
- What do they tell us about his relationship with God?
- What changes through the story?
- What remains the same?

In the same way that the story of Noah introduced ideas and themes relating to Salvation (see "The Story So far"), so the story of Abraham introduces new ideas:

- ❖ That God wants a relationship with his world.
  - ❖ That faith and trust are key parts to that relationship.
  - ❖ That this relationship involves long-term learning.
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- Where do you see these themes emerging in the story of Abraham?
  - Why is "the journey" as important as "the destination"?
  - How does the journey of the Old Testament help in our understanding of Jesus?
  - Why didn't God send Jesus in Genesis 4, to sort out the problem of a fallen world straight away?
  - Why does God often answer our prayers with the answer "wait"?

- **Works**

In each group, there will be people with long term issues and questions which have yet to be resolved. If the group is already aware of these, ask each member to give an update on the situation - if the group is unaware of the situation, then ask them to tell the group about it. It is suggested that each person is given a strict time limit of, say, 2 or 3 minutes to tell the group about their situation. The particular question which should be asked is "What is God teaching you at the moment?" The aim of this is not to provide a clinic where the issue is debated, but to see what God is saying about it: the suggestion is that the group then wait on God and ask him for words of encouragement for the individual - and pray for them.

It is important that the leader of this session leads this with an awareness of getting round all those who wish to share and not let the group get caught up with one particular issue.

- **Next Meeting**

## **Focus at Home next Week**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - "Joseph"