



SESSION 3: The Promise

Abraham

Session 3

Key takeaways for Pre-Disciples:

- God has a plan to defeat evil and death, and restore humanity back to a life-giving relationship with himself.
- The way God will do this is through a promise to one old couple that they will have many descendants and through them God will bless all the peoples on the earth.
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Part 1

identity

worship

mission

Part 1: catch up

- Icebreaker question – Get everyone to share about how their week has gone, what has been happening in their life in the past 7 days. Listen out for things you could pray for.
- Ask everyone how they got on sharing the story
 - (this is not to keep tabs on people, but is a helpful reminder that part of them learning the story well is you asking them every week if they managed to share it.)
- Ask someone to re-tell last week's story

Part 2 (story)

identity

community

mission

Abraham (Genesis 12-15)

Story-Audio-Link: <https://christ-central.org.uk/pre-disciple/>

*So the man and the women left the garden. And they had children, and their children had children and their children had children until the earth was full of people. **But Just like the first man and women instead of trusting God they turned away from him, to decide good and evil for themselves. And their relationship with God, with each other and with the earth was all deeply broken and distorted.***

But God had a plan.

One day God spoke to a man called Abraham,

*God said 'Abraham, I want you to leave your home country, leave your father's family, and travel to the land that I will show you. **And I will bless you and make you a great nation, and through your descendants every family on the earth, all peoples, will be blessed.***' Now Abraham was 75 years old and his wife Sarah wasn't much younger, still they trusted God and taking all their possessions and their nephew and his family, they left for the land that God had promised them.

When Abraham arrived, he set up camp beside a huge tree. Then God appeared to Abraham and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abraham worshipped and thanked God there.

Now life in the land was tough for Abraham and his family, once he had to go to Egypt because of a famine, and once he even had to rescue his nephew who had been kidnapped! But God kept His promise, and Abraham grew in wealth and fame. But... it had been many years and Abraham and Sarah still had no son, no descendants. Then one night God spoke again to Abraham, saying 'Abraham do not be afraid, I will protect you and I give you a great reward.'

*Abraham responded 'O God, what good are all your blessings, if we remain without a son. If , how will your promise be fulfilled?' God took Abraham outside his tent and said 'look up at the stars...can you count them?...I promise you, that is how many your descendants will be'. **And Abraham believed God's promise and trusted Him, and because of that, God considered Abraham as having a good and right relationship with himself, therefore Abraham and God were friends.***

This is the story from God's word.

Re-tell the story as group: allow everyone to share a section of the story. If there is more than 6 people consider breaking up into pairs to retell the story.

Questions for discussion

1. What do you like about this story/What stood out to you?
2. What bothered you about this story?
3. What does this story show you about God?
4. What does this story show you about people?



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Part 3 (practice / takeaways)

identity

worship

mission

Ask the remaining questions:

5. What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
6. How will you remember this story? (tell it!)
7. Who are you able to tell this story to?

Encourage everyone in the group to think of people in their life whom they could retell the story to; mention that at the next session we will recap the story and ask who remembered to tell the story. Again it is helpful to emphasise the reason for going and telling the story ourselves is that it is the best way for us to remember the story.

Other useful media resources

- 1.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ferLIsvlmI> this is a good video explaining the ideas of how the themes of trust and partnership with God, converge in the Abraham story.



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Notes for leaders - questions / topics that may arise

Why does God wait so long between Adam and Eve and Abraham to begin His plan?

- We don't fully understand God's timing, but we see again and again in the Bible that God does not always act as quickly as we would expect or want. What we do know is that God has been very intentional in each step of His redemption plan. He chose just the right man – the one that He knew would believe in Him. However, even Abraham had to wait 25 years before the promise of a son was fulfilled! During those 25 years, God refined and molded Abraham's life in many ways.

Why has God confined it to only Abraham's descendants? What about the rest of the nations? What happens to them?

- Again, we don't fully understand God's ways. What we do know about God's plan for His kingdom is this: Abraham's descendants became a picture of what the future, perfect kingdom would look like and what God's relationship with His people would look like. This kingdom of Abraham's descendants wasn't as exclusive as might be thought at first. Throughout biblical history, those who turned from false gods and believed in the true God and chose to follow Him were accepted into the kingdom, sometimes even becoming part of the genealogy of Jesus! (e.g. Rahab, Ruth....) Moreover, the purpose of God's calling upon Abraham and his descendants was to be a blessing to all the families the earth! Therefore, God's people were called to be mediating rivers of God's blessing and not merely stagnant reservoirs of exclusion.

Feedback from Group Leader



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In our vision for discipleship, we have identified 4 key ingredients to healthy and growing disciples. As you are leading you group, for each session, make some notes under each heading for how the group is faring in each of these areas

identity

worship

community

mission