

Week 4 - Abraham

So far this season we have talked about two of the main characters in the first book of the Bible. First, we saw how Adam rebelled against God and brought sin into the world and caused all people afterward to be born with a sinful nature. Even so, God made a promise to have an offspring of the woman to one day defeat sin. Last week we saw how God preserved that promise through the worldwide flood as He rescued Noah and his family. God was faithful all those years and the promise was talked about through the generations until God narrowed the focus and chose one man who would be an ancestor of that savior. The next big character in the first book of the Bible is who we will talk about today: his name was **Abraham**.

More than 4000 years ago, God spoke to a man named Abraham. God told Abraham to leave everything he had and trust Him to do something amazing. Abraham believed God and moved to a land where the Canaanites lived. Now, the Canaanites were wicked and did many things that displeased God. They worshiped idols and made sacrifices to false gods. They rebelled against the one true God and denied that He even existed. It didn't seem like a good place to be, but God sent Abraham there in order to change the world.

Abraham was old, and his wife was too, but they did not have any children. God knew that, and He made a magnificent promise that through Abraham would come this special person who would one day crush sin. Out of all the people in the world, God had chosen Abraham's family to be the one from whom the Savior would come. The promise made to Adam was now affirmed again to Abraham. God also promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, that he would possess the land of the Canaanites, and that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's children.

Although Abraham was almost 100 years old when God made the promise, he believed God and God made it happen! Abraham became a father to a boy named Isaac and God kept showing His faithfulness.

The Bible talks about how Abraham showed great faith in God. Even when things seemed impossible, Abraham believed that God would make His promises come true. Abraham trusted that God was powerful enough to come through in the end and show His great power. He believed that God had a plan and would continue to work on it until it was accomplished fully.

Abraham knew that he wasn't the reason that parts of God's promises started to come true. He knew that God was in the process of working miracles and he relied on God to continue His work.

God gave Abraham a son and Abraham owned some land in the midst of the Canaanites. God also blessed those who treated Abraham well, but He didn't stop there, because that wasn't the end of the promise. God told Abraham that his descendants would one day own all of this land He had promised, but they would first be the servants of a foreign nation for 400 years. **Abraham** died before he could see God fulfill everything, but he trusted that God would do it. Next week we'll see how God continued to be faithful to Abraham's descendants and to His own promises.

Discussion Questions:

- How did God's promise to Abraham relate to the promise He made to Adam?
- In what did Abraham have faith?
- How did God show His faithfulness to Abraham?