

He was called  
the Friend  
of God.

*James 2:23*

# Abraham

Men's Camp 2012

Studying the Life Principles of

## Abraham

*Learning to Trust God*

*This Book belongs to*

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**Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig**

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## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Schedule of Events .....                                 | 3  |
| Thoughts on Faith.....                                   | 4  |
| Retreat Room Layout Map.....                             | 6  |
| Special Songs .....                                      | 7  |
| The Abraham Song.....                                    | 8  |
| Scriptures to Memorize .....                             | 9  |
| If You Believe the Bible... then, You're Not Alone ..... | 10 |
| Introducing Abraham .....                                | 11 |
| Session One – Introducing Abraham .....                  | 15 |
| Session Two – Believing God.....                         | 17 |
| A Man's Quiet Time .....                                 | 18 |
| Personal Devotion – Thursday Morning.....                | 19 |
| Session Three – How to Live by Faith.....                | 20 |
| Session Four – A Son's Great Faith.....                  | 21 |
| Session Five – How Men get Right With God .....          | 22 |
| Personal Devotion – Friday Morning.....                  | 23 |
| Session Six – Encourage Your Sarah.....                  | 24 |
| Session Seven – Handling “Hagars” .....                  | 25 |
| Session Eight – Becoming a Friend of God.....            | 27 |
| Pop-Corn Preaching .....                                 | 28 |
| A Final Summary of this One Life.....                    | 29 |
| Final Review .....                                       | 30 |
| A Time to Evaluate Your Heart .....                      | 30 |
| Prayer List .....  | 31 |

### FAITH FARM

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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## Men's Training Camp 2012

# Schedule of Events

| Time                                   | Duration | Main Function   | Support Function         |
|--|----------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b> |          |   |                          |
| 2:00pm                                 |          | Arrive at Camp - Unpack and Start Dinner                        |                          |
| 3:00pm                                 | 3 hrs    | <b>Sports Time</b>  | <i>Clean-up</i>          |
| 6:00pm                                 | 1:30 hr  | Dinner ( <i>Burgers &amp; Chips</i> )                           |                          |
| 7:30pm                                 | 1:30 hr  | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Session – Introducing Abraham</b>             | – Craig Ledbetter        |
| 9:00pm                                 | 1 hr     | Snack ( <i>Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches</i> )                        |                          |
| 10:00pm                                | 1:30 hr  | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Session – Believing God</b>                   | – Dan Pero               |
| 11:30pm                                |          | <b>Fellowship Time</b>  |                          |
| 12:30am                                | 7:00hrs  | Sleep   |                          |
| <b>THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b>  |          |   |                          |
| 7:30am                                 | 1 hr     | Wake-Up and Shower  | <i>Prepare Breakfast</i> |
| 8:30am                                 | 45min    | Quiet Time Devotions – <u>Believing God!</u>                    |                          |
| 9:15am                                 | 1:45min  | <b>Prayer Breakfast</b> ( <i>Cereal</i> ) - Men's Prayer Groups |                          |
| 11:00am                                | 30 min   | Break   |                          |
| 11:30am                                | 1:15 hr  | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Session Against Hope: To live by Faith</b>    | – Dan Eberly             |
| 12:45pm                                | 45 min   | Lunch   |                          |
| 1:30pm                                 | 4 hrs    | <b>Hiking and Hill Walking and Sports</b>                       | <i>Prepare Dinner</i>    |
| 5:30pm                                 | 1:15 hr  | Dinner ( <i>Spaghetti, Garlic Bread</i> )                       |                          |
| 6:45pm                                 | 1:15 hr  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Session – Isaac – A Son's Great Faith</b>     | – Jerome Pittman         |
| 8:15pm                                 | 1 hr     | Dessert, Tea and Coffee - <b>Sports Time</b> (Outdoor)          |                          |
| 9:15pm                                 | 1:30 hr  | <b>5<sup>th</sup> Session – How Men Get Right With God!</b>     | – Travis Snode           |
| 10:45pm                                |          | <b>Bonfire and Group Prayer Time</b>                            |                          |
| 11:30am                                | 7:30hrs  | Sleep   |                          |
| <b>FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b>    |          |   |                          |
| 7:30am                                 | 1 hr     | Wake-Up and Shower  | <i>Prepare Breakfast</i> |
| 8:30am                                 | 45min    | Quiet Time Devotions – <u>Friendship with the World!</u>        |                          |
| 9:15am                                 | 45min    | Breakfast ( <i>Eggs, Sausage, and Cereal</i> )                  |                          |
| 10:00am                                | 1:15 hr  | <b>6<sup>th</sup> Session – Encourage Your Sarah</b>            | – Les Hill               |
| 11:15am                                | 30 min   | Break   | <i>Prepare Lunch</i>     |
| 11:45am                                | 45 min   | Lunch   |                          |
| 12:30pm                                | 2 hrs    | <b>European Church Planting Discussion Group</b>                |                          |
| 12:30pm                                | 5:30 hrs | <b>Hiking and Hill Walking &amp; Sports for Children</b>        | <i>Prepare Dinner</i>    |
| 6:00pm                                 | 1:00 hr  | Dinner ( <i>BBQ Chicken</i> )                                   |                          |
| 7:00pm                                 | 1:15 hr  | <b>7<sup>th</sup> Session – Handling “Hagars” in Life</b>       | – Craig Ledbetter        |
| 8:15pm                                 | 45min    | Dessert, Tea and Coffee - <b>Sports Time</b> (Outdoor)          |                          |
| 9:00pm                                 | 1:30 hr  | <b>8<sup>th</sup> Session – Becoming a Friend of God</b>        | – Dan Canavan            |
| 10:30pm                                |          | <b>Free Time</b>  |                          |
| 12:00am                                | 7:30hrs  | Sleep   |                          |
| <b>SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b>  |          |   |                          |
| 8:30am                                 | 45min    | Breakfast ( <i>Eggs, Porridge and Cereal</i> )                  |                          |
| 9:15am                                 | 1:30 hrs | <b>Testimony Time and Final Pop-Corn Preaching</b>              |                          |
| 10:45am                                | 1 hr     | Pack-up and clean-up  |                          |
| 11:45pm                                | 30min    | Lunch ( <i>Sandwiches</i> )                                     |                          |
| 12:30pm                                |          | <b>Final Clean-up, Leave for Home</b>                           |                          |

## Thoughts on Faith

“...Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” Mark 9:24

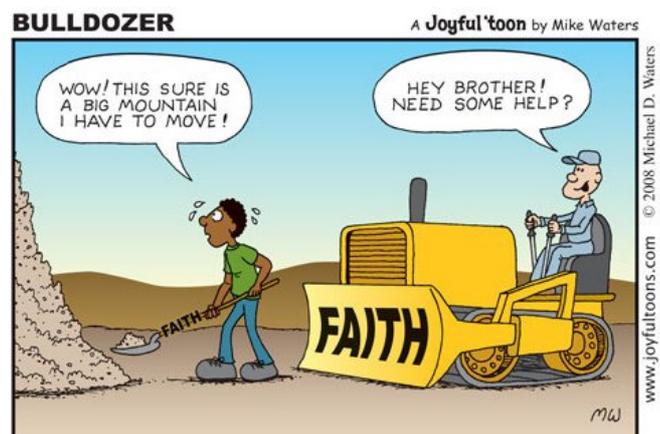
We all can say that we believe God. Even the devils believe in God (James 2:19). Our problem is not that we don't have faith, it is that we have way more unbelief than we should. Everyone struggles with unbelief – even Abraham. But at some point, we like Abraham have to stop staggering (wavering, doubting) at the promises of God, and become confident enough to just trust God, no matter what He has promised, and no matter how long it may take to receive the promise!

### What Faith Means

- Faith is believing what is impossible to believe.
- Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time. --*Oswald Chambers*
- Faith is trust without reservation.
- Faith hopes, even when the case seems hopeless.
- Faith declares what the senses cannot speak, sees what eyes cannot see, hears what no one else can hear, and leans on what seems so foolish. Faith just believes God!
- Remember, faith itself cannot accomplish anything... **only GOD does!** Faith is simply trusting that GOD will accomplish what He has already promised!
- Faith means not worrying - *David Martyn Lloyd-Jones*
- God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him -- *Hudson Taylor*
- Sometimes God doesn't tell us His plan because we wouldn't believe it anyway. -- *Carlton Pearson*
- It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand. --*Madeleine L'Engle*

### What Faith Does

- Faith in God's promises, moves mountains (Mark 11:23)!
- Faith is the ability to see the unseen!
- A man of courage is also full of faith. *Marcus Tullius Cicero*
- Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith. *Henry Ward Beecher*
- To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible. *Thomas Aquinas*
- Don't tell God how Big your storm is, tell the Storm how Big your God is.
- No one can comprehend the infinite ability of our almighty God except by faith!
- We cannot exercise our faith beyond what we believe to be possible. --*John G. Lake*



### Strong Scriptures on Faith

- But without **faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must **believe** that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6
- Beloved, **believe** not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1John 4:1
- Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. James 2:19
- For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God. 1Tim 4:10
- In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2Corinthians 4:4
- Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for **I believe God**, that it shall be even as it was told me. Acts 27:25
- But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, **believing** all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: Acts 24:14
- But these are written, that ye might **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** ye might have life through his name. John 20:31
- Let not your heart be troubled: ye **believe** in God, **believe** also in me. John 14:1
- Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye **believe** on him whom he hath sent. John 6:29
- He that **believeth** on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that **believeth** not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36
- For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our **faith**. 1John 5:4
- Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in **faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? James 2:5
- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our **faith**. Hebrews 12:2
- And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the **faith** of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by **faith**: Php 3:9
- But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by **faith**. Galatians 3:11
- That your **faith** should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 1Co 2:5
- So then **faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17
- Therefore being justified by **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by **faith** into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1,2
- But to him that worketh not, but **believeth** on him that justifieth the ungodly, his **faith** is counted for righteousness. Romans 4:5
- Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and **faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:21
- And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have **faith** in God. Mark 11:22
- For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall **believe** that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Mark 11:23

# Retreat Room Layout Map



## Special Songs

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### Faithful Men

I am looking to Jesus, giving all in the race,  
pressing upward to gain the heavenly prize!  
Faithful men are my witness,  
who have struggled for Christ,  
and they watch from the grandstands in the sky!

*Chorus*

**Faithful men... have gone before us!**  
**Faithful men... who fight and stand!**  
**I want to fol-low in their footsteps!**  
**Make me Lord... a faithful man!**



Jacob joined with the faithful; Joseph followed behind;  
Moses ran with the mighty men of old!  
There was David and Daniel; Then came Peter and Paul.  
Now they shout as they run on streets of gold!  
(*To Chorus*)

*End of the last Chorus*

Make me Lord... a faithful man.  
Make me Lord, a *faith-ful* man!

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### A Few Good Men

What this dying world could use, Is a willing man of God  
Who dares to go against the grain, And work without applause  
A man who'll raise the shield of faith, Protecting what is pure  
Whose love is tough and gentle, A man whose word is sure

God doesn't need an orator, Who knows just what to say  
He doesn't need authorities, To reason Him away  
He doesn't need an army, To guarantee a win  
He just needs a few good men!

*Chorus*

**Men full of love compassion, Who'll laugh and love and cry**  
**Men who'll face eternity and aren't afraid to die**  
**Men who'll fight for freedom and honour once again**  
**He just needs a few good men**

He calls the broken derelict whose life has been renewed  
He calls the ones who know his Son to stand up for the truth  
Enlistment lines are open and he wants you come in  
He just needs a few good men

*To Chorus*

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**This Year's Theme Song**

**The Abraham Song**



By faith a man named Abraham left all he had behind  
He walked with God, obeyed His call, for a Land, of Promise to find  
But along his way, he found faith hard-- to trust, with never a doubt  
So by God's grace, he would try again..., and discover what faith is all about

The land of Canaan was not the end, for God had promised much more!  
A child would come, and not just one, but as many, as sand on a shore  
It seemed so simple, and easy to believe, even though the promise was great  
Yet twenty five years would pass him by..., and Oh! he found it hard to wait

As time went on and faith grew thin, Sarah trusted her own way  
So without God's help, a son was born, such-sin, has a price to pay  
When their faith finally rested in the power of God, and no longer, in just anyone  
Sarah judged Him faithful who had given His word...,  
and they held, their promised son.

**Chorus**

*Real faith, strong faith, is trusting every promise God has made  
Expecting God to do, what He says He will do,  
even when the answer seems de-layed  
Without faith, strong faith, we'll never know the joy that Abram found  
So take a step by faith, keep your eyes on the Lord..., one day...,  
our faith, will be crowned!*

Through-out his life Abram learned that faith is more than just belief!  
It's fully trusting in the power of God, for with God, the barren can conceive  
So upon Mount Moriah, at his final test, Abraham, obeyed God's plan  
And freely gave his promised son...,  
trusting God would Himself become the Lamb!

**To Chorus**

***He staggered not at the promise of God  
through unbelief; but was strong in faith,  
giving glory to God. Romans 4:20***

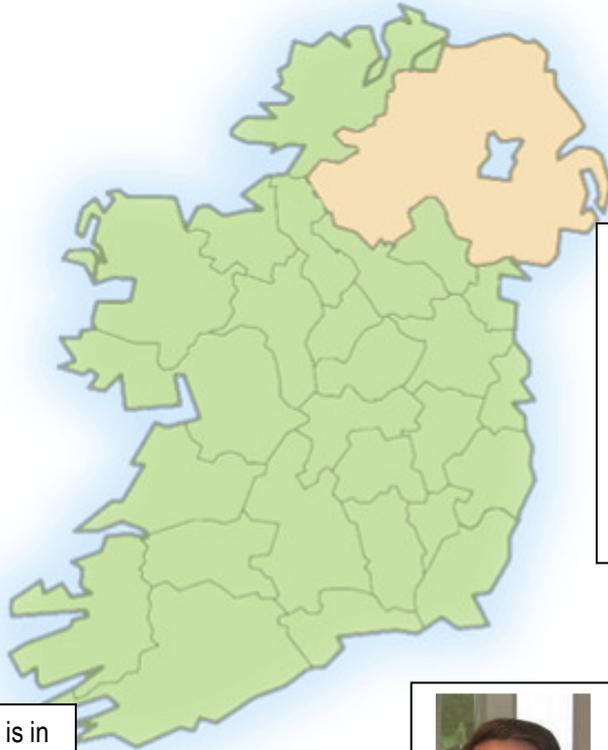
## Scriptures to Memorize

*Meditate on these throughout the Retreat for best effect on your mind and heart!*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>James 2:23</b></p> <p><b>And the scripture was fulfilled which saith,<br/>Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for<br/>righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Romans 4:3</b><br/>For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.</p>   | <p><b>Genesis 19:27</b><br/>And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD.</p>  |
| <p><b>Romans 4:18</b><br/>Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.</p>   | <p><b>Genesis 15:1</b><br/>Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.</p>  |
| <p><b>Hebrews 11:8</b><br/>By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.</p>  | <p><b>Genesis 18:14</b><br/>Is any thing too hard for the LORD?</p>   |
| <p><b>Hebrews 11:13</b><br/>These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.</p>  | <p><b>Hebrews 11:11</b><br/>Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.</p> |
| <p><b>Galatians 3:11</b><br/>But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.</p>   | <p><b>James 4:4</b><br/>Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.</p>       |
| <p><b>Genesis 18:19</b><br/>For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.</p>                        | <p><b>Galatians 6:9</b><br/>And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.</p>  |
| <p><b>Romans 4:20-22</b><br/>He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.</p> |   |

# If You Believe the Bible... then, You're Not Alone

These are many of the Bible believing Pastors and Churches here in Ireland  
Thank God for these truly Faithful Men – God's Men!



- No one is in Tralee
- No one is in Tipperary
- No one is in Youghal
- No one is in Clonmel
- No one is in Wexford
- No one is in Port Laoise
- No one is in Sligo
- No one is in Ennis
- No one is in Castlebar
- No one is in Ballina

**Who will join us to reach this island with the Gospel?**



Pastor Ledbetter  
Bible Baptist  
Ballincollig, Cork



Pastor Finley  
Redemption Baptist  
Athlone



Pastor Hutton  
Mallow Baptist Church,  
Mallow



Pastor O'Sullivan  
Blanchardstown Baptist



Pastor McKinley  
Good News Baptist  
Mullingar



Pastor Parrow  
Naas Baptist,  
Naas



Pastor Hamilton  
Limerick



Pastor Travis  
Snode, Northwest Baptist,  
Derry, NI



Pastor Canavan  
Faith Baptist  
Dundrum



Pastor Zemeski  
Riverview Baptist,  
Leixslip



Pastor Pero  
Calvary Baptist  
Bray



Pastor Smith  
Calvary Baptist  
Bishopstown,  
Cork



Pastor Pittman  
Lighthouse Baptist,  
Swords



Pastor O'Gorman  
Lifegate Baptist  
Tallaght



Pastor Hill  
Gospel Light Baptist,  
Lucan



Pastor Oriel  
O'Gorman  
Arklow



Pastor Thatcher  
Anchor Baptist  
Waterford

## Introducing Abraham

### *Genesis 12-25*

#### **The World After the Flood**

Within 100 years after the flood, Noah's descendents were defiant towards God and His commandments, and they built the Tower of Babel as a sign of rebellion! These were the years of Nimrod and his wicked mother Semiramis. Nimrod was the antichrist of his day: a popular world hero who lived his own way, and built the world's first empire – the Babylonian Empire. He hated God, and even married his mother in order to upset God. But that was just the beginning! Sodom and Gomorrah were popping up everywhere as people lived according to their own conscience. Few were seeking God. God Needed a Man – *an Example*, who He could use to show what a life of faith looked like, and through whom God could bring a Saviour!

#### **The Birth of Abram**

4,168 years ago (2166 BC) a baby boy named Abram (*exalted father*) was born in a large city called Ur of the Chaldeas near Babylon. For the next 75 years of his life he lived and worked in a large, growing metropolitan area near Babylon. Somewhere along the line, he married a beautiful woman named Sarai (*noble woman*). During all of those years neither he nor his wife knew God, but instead worshipped the gods of the Chaldeans.



#### **The Pagan Culture of Ur of the Chaldeas**

Abram's ancestors were idolaters and polytheists (worshippers of many gods). Joshua reminded the people, "*Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods*" (Joshua 24:2). Archaeology shows that both Ur in Lower Mesopotamia and Haran in Upper Mesopotamia area were centres of MOON WORSHIP (that's funny because 'Allah' is the name of the Moon god). Worship in Ur involved temples as well as ziggurats with small temples on the top. These temples were staffed by priests (who offered sacrifices), singers and musicians, as well as male and female prostitutes. Even way after Abraham's death, the Israelites were warned against the worship of the moon, sun, and stars (Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:2-5), yet this kind of worship continued for hundreds of years more under idolatrous kings in Israel and Judah (2 Kings 23:5-12).

#### **God Calls to Abram to Follow Him**

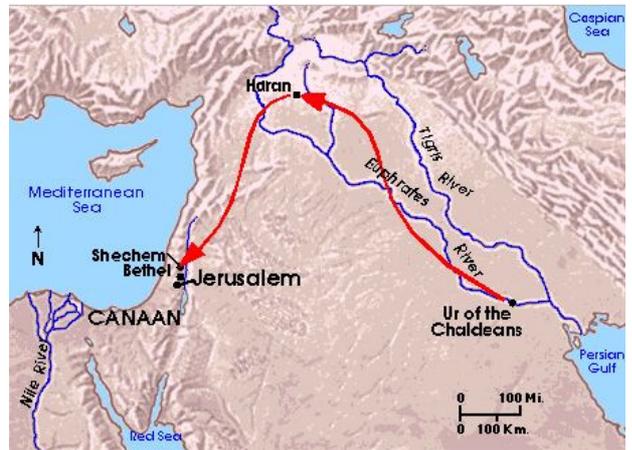
At seventy five years of age, God called to Abram to follow Him, leaving his family and home behind him, and trust God's plan for his life, no matter where it led him... and Abram obeyed. What if he had responded like most people do today? "I am fine with MY religion" "I'm too busy to worry about religion or God or the will of God" Yet Abram was different The difference with Abram was, he obeyed God. Didn't try and figure God out, and make sure God knew what he was doing but just believed God was right. It was so unusual, because NO ONE believed there was only ONE God. But to Abram, it made perfect sense!

So, by faith, Abram left Ur and travelled 500 miles northwest to a city called **Haran**. He doesn't know where he is going, but knows that when he gets there, God will tell him. Unfortunately, Abram did NOT fully obey God and leave his family behind him, but took along with him his father Terah, and his cousin, Lot and all his family. While in Haran, Terah dies (Gen. 11) and Abram will attempt to get back to finding God's will and direction again.

Back when Abram left Ur, he left all the prospects for wealth and success in his own culture and became a semi-nomadic shepherd, living in tents without any home or nationality. But it was during this desert time that God regularly revealed Himself, made promises to him, and entered into several amazing covenants concerning Abram's future children and the land that they would inherit in the future.

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It was at this time that Abram converted from all his pagan beliefs that he grew up with to a steadfast belief in the one true God of heaven and earth! His monotheism contrasts sharply with the polytheism of his forbearers (Joshua 24:2). He believed God to be the Lord of the universe (14:22; 24:3). The supreme judge of mankind (15:14;18:25). The controller of nature (18:14; 19:24; 20:17). The One who is highly exalted (14:22). And the eternal God (21:33). What was so unusual about Abram was that whenever God spoke to him, he obeyed immediately in faith just believing whatever God said!



In Genesis 15:18, God promised to Abram a plot of land that extend from the Nile River to the Euphrates! Abram believed that God would give it to him. God then also promised that Abram would have children in number greater than all the sand at the sea shore and more than all the stars of the heavens! And Abram just believed that God could and would do that as well! Abram's child-like belief in God's promises was counted by God as righteousness, and his faith shaped the rest of his life. Ultimately these promises found their fulfilment not in Abram's son Isaac and the nation of Israel, but in Jesus the Messiah and in all those who are Abram's spiritual children because they too trust in Jehovah, the true God.

### **Abram's departure from Haran and Arrival in Canaan when he was 75 years old**

The Lord commands Abram to leave Haran and travel to Canaan. On arriving there he travels as far as Shechem in the centre of the land and is promised that the whole of the land will be his. From there he went to a small village named Bethel (*the House of God*) where he build an altar.



### **Abram Backslides - Famine in the Promised Land**

When a famine struck the Promised Land, Abram quickly forgets God's care and promises and instead takes his family out of Canaan and down into Egypt. He forgot to pray and God what he should do. So, there, out of the will of God, Abram lies to the Pharaoh about his wife being his sister in order to protect his own life, and as a result Pharaoh makes Abram very wealthy. When the lie is discovered, Pharaoh is furious and sends them away (Gen. 12). When Abram leaves Egypt, he is very wealthy, and he has gained many slaves and servants, one of which is a woman servant named **Hagar**, who will; end up hurting Abram for the next 4,500 years! When Abram leaves Egypt, he is very wealthy, and he has gained The only place for Abram to return to is Canaan, travelling north from the Negev desert in the south to as far as Bethel (where he worshipped God). There, Abram and Lot finally separate, Lot moved his flocks into the fertile valley of the Jordan River, while Abram remained in the hill country. After Lot's departure, the Lord renews his promise of the land, and Abram moves his to Hebron where he builds another altar to worship God (Gen. 13).

### **The Captivity of Lot**

Lot, who has now moved into the wicked city of Sodom, is captured by the forces of four invading kings and carried off. Abram organises his household and some local allies into an army, and pursues and defeats the invading kings and rescues Lot. On returning back to the area of Jerusalem he is met by a unique man named Melchizedek, who was the King of Salem. Melchizedek blessed Abram "in the name of the Most High God." That was unusual. Abram accepted the blessing and gave Melchizedek a tenth (*a tithe*) of the plunder. Shortly afterwards, the king of Sodom greets Abram, but Abram refuses to keep any of his property as a reward because of all the wickedness of that area (Gen. 14). The Lord reassures Abram through a special covenant ceremony in genesis 15, that all the promises He has made will be fulfilled.

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### **Impatience Breeds "Ishmaels"**

Both Sarai and Abram got impatient waiting for this promised son that was supposed to be born to them. It had been ten years since God had made the promise to Abram, and Sarah "wasn't getting any younger!" So Sarai suggests that Abram take her maidservant **Hagar** and go ahead and have children *by her*. Abram easily agrees and Hagar conceives! Sarai becomes jealous of Hagar and starts threatening her. Fleeing from Sarai's mistreatment Hagar meets the angel of the Lord at a spring in the desert and he persuades her to return, promising that she would have a son named **Ishmael** (*God hears*) who like his father would become the father of a whole nation (Gen. 16).

Abram, is 86 years old when Ishmael is born. Interestingly, Scripture is silent about the events of Abram's life for 13 years after the birth of Ishmael.

It will not be until Abram is 99 years old before the Lord speaks again to him. Because it was THEN that God was going to actually give Abram and Sarai their promised son! So the Lord appears to Abram and gave Abram the covenant of circumcision, and changed his name from **Abram** (*exalted father*) to **Abraham** (*father of many nations*). Sarai was now to be known as Sarah (*princess*) and would still bear Abraham a son and heir (Gen. 17), even though she was approaching 90 years of age!

### **The Coming Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah**

At 99 yrs old, the Lord and two angels (they all looked just like normal men) visit Abraham and tell him that Sarah would have a child within the next year. He also informed Abraham that Sodom and the other cities of the plain were about to be destroyed for their wickedness. Abraham pleaded for Lot's sake and the Lord promised to spare Sodom if there were at least ten righteous men in the city (Gen. 18). The two angels go down to Sodom and are invited by Lot to sleep in his house. During the night the men of Sodom demand that Lot turn the angels over to them. The angels blind the attackers and take Lot, his wife and their two daughters out of the city just before the Lord destroyed it by fire from heaven. Lot evidently was the only righteous man in the city (Gen. 19). To this very day, the land of Sodom and Gomorrah are still uninhabitable!

Abraham briefly moved his family into the territory of Abimelech king of Gerar near the Philistines, again pretending Sarah was his sister. Abimelech takes Sarah as his wife but is prevented from committing adultery by a dream from God. He summons Abraham and after receiving an explanation from him for his conduct he gives him gifts of money, sheep and cattle and returns Sarah to him (Gen 20). Abraham still hasn't learned to completely trust the Lord!

### **God has the Last Laugh with the Birth of Isaac**

In Genesis 21:1-3 the Lord visited Sarah just as He had said he would, and Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age (100 years old). And Abraham called the name of his son, Isaac (it means *Laughter*). It's quite funny knowing that the name Isaac came from God because GOD said that He would have the last laugh by giving them their promised son. So from that day on, Abraham and Sarah were constantly reminded that God always keeps His promises!

After the birth of Isaac, Sarah sent both Hagar and Ishmael away. It was the right thing to do, but it was a hard thing for Abraham to do, because he loved Ishmael. But the Lord promised Abraham that He would take care of them and make Ishmael into a great nation.

### **Abraham, the Friend of God**

Abraham was never perfect, but was learning how to walk perfectly with God. Abraham failed, but would always try to obey God again. Abraham taught Sarah how to just believe God and both of them were greatly rewarded for their faith. Through this whole journey of twenty five years, Abraham became a friend of God! It was not something that just instantly happened, but it was a relationship that grew and deepened with every struggle. In the end, Abraham would never again doubt God's will or His word, no matter what it might cost him!



## Men's Training Camp 2012

### God Tests Abraham

Tests naturally come, and a very big one came to Abraham one day from God! God tested Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice his young son on Mount Moriah, right next to Jerusalem. Abraham obeys. Without telling Sarah, Abraham gathered wood, a fire, his son Isaac, and some servants for a 3 day journey where he announces that he will be worshipping God! There, on the top of that small hill, Abraham built a sacrificial altar, and laid wood on top, and then placed his son, his only son Isaac on top of the wood, tying his hands and his feet. Abraham was probably a bit slow, but never hesitant through this effort. Amazingly, Isaac never flinches either except for the obvious question about where the lamb was that should be offered? Abraham's response is very prophetic "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering" (Gen 22:8). At the last minute, when Abraham was about to kill Isaac, the Lord intervened and stopped Abraham, and then provided his own sacrifice instead of Isaac. In response to Abraham's obedience and faith the Lord repeats his promise concerning the great number of Abraham's descendants (Gen. 22).



**Death of Sarah when Abraham was 137 years old (he will live to be 175)** Sarah dies at the age of 127 years and Abraham buys a burial site for her in Canaan from Ephron the Hittite (Gen. 24).

**Seeking a Wife for Isaac.** Unwilling to allow his son to marry any Canaanite woman, Abraham sends one of his servants (Eliezar) back to his relatives in Northwest Mesopotamia. The Lord guided the servant to meet Rebecca, the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor (Gen. 24).

**Abraham Remarries.** Abraham takes another wife: **Keturah**, who bears him six more sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Dedan (Gen. 25). These children, except for the Midianites intermarry with the Ishmaelites and become enemies of Abraham's promised son, Isaac.

**Isaac Marries Rebekah when Abraham is 140 years old**

**Birth of Jacob & Esau – Abraham is 160 years old.** Abraham gets to see his two grandchildren Jacob and Esau born, and is alive for the first 15 years of their lives!

**Death of Abraham at 175 years!** Abraham died at the age of 175 years and is buried in the cave of Machpelah (Gen. 25).

### Final Summary of this One Life

Abraham is regarded as one of the most influential people in all of history! The world's three largest monotheistic religions found their beginnings with him, resulting in over 3 billion people in the modern world who refer to Abraham as the "father" of their religion. The three main monotheistic religions are: Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Of the three, two branches of his family, the Jews and the Muslims, still battle for Abraham's birthright.

**Abraham is The Father of Israel.** In Scripture Abraham is referred to consistently as the father of the people of Israel and they as inheritors of the promises made to him. If ever there were a people proud of their ancestry, it was the Jews. They took pride in being descendants of Abraham, believing that this physical descent made them better than others. They even believed their ancestry assured them of the kingdom of God.

**Abraham is also The Father of Faith.** Both Jesus and Paul were clear that mere physical descent from Abraham would never make anyone acceptable to God (John 8:39). The New Testament shows Abraham as an outstanding example of a man of faith (Heb. 11:8-11, 17; James 2:21-23). So, to be acceptable to God a person must simply live by the faith of Abraham (Rom. 4:1-17; Gal. 3:7-9), and they will be the children of faithful Abraham!

## Session One – Introducing Abraham

*Pastor Craig Ledbetter – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig*

*“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went..”Hebrews 11:8*

**Welcome to our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Camp!**

**I. What is the Goal of this Retreat? (Romans 15:4)**

**II. Introducing a Man Called Abraham – Read Hebrews 11:8**

**A. The World After the Flood. *God Needed a Man* – \_\_\_\_\_**

**B. The Birth of Abram** Just \_\_\_\_\_ years after the flood

**C. The Pagan Culture of Ur of the Chaldeas – The World Abram Lived in**

**D. God Calls to Abram to Follow Him – God is STILL CALLING!**

1. At \_\_\_\_\_ years of age,
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ his family and home behind him, and trust God's plan for his life, no matter where it led him...
3. And Abram \_\_\_\_\_. He doesn't know where he is going, but knows that when he gets there, God will tell him.
4. In Genesis 15:18, God promised to Abram two big things!
  - a. A plot of \_\_\_\_\_ that extend from the Nile River to the Euphrates!
  - b. God also promised that Abram would have \_\_\_\_\_ in number greater than all the sand at the sea shore and more than all the stars of the heavens!
  - c. And Abram just believed that God could and would do that as well! Abram's child-like belief in God's promises was counted by God as righteousness, and his faith shaped the rest of his life.
5. Ultimately these promises found their fulfilment NOT in Abram's son Isaac and the nation of Israel, but in \_\_\_\_\_ and in all those who are Abram's spiritual children because they too trust in Jehovah, the true God.

**E. Abram Backslides - Famine in the Promised Land**

1. Runs to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Returns with \_\_\_\_\_
3. Back to \_\_\_\_\_ (*where he had LAST worshipped God*).

**F. Impatience Breeds “Ishmaels”**

1. Sarai suggests that Abram have children by **Hagar**
2. Sarai becomes jealous of Hagar and starts threatening her.
3. **Ishmael** (*God hears*) is born.
4. God goes \_\_\_\_\_ for 13 years after the birth of Ishmael.
5. At 99 years old, God changes his name from **Abram** (*exalted father*) to \_\_\_\_\_ (*father of many nations*). Sarai was now to be known as \_\_\_\_\_

## Men's Training Camp 2012

Sarah (*princess*) and would still bear Abraham a son and heir, even though she was approaching 90 years of age!

### G. The Coming Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

1. Thank God He \_\_\_\_\_ sin! I'm glad for his mercy and forgiveness, but God has to judge sin, and if He didn't, think how wicked this world would be today!
2. Two angels take Lot, his wife and their two daughters out of the city just before the Lord destroyed it by fire from heaven.
3. It was at this time that God reminded Abraham of His promise to give him a son, and that it would be within a year! It was all too impossible now, Abraham thought, but not with God!

### H. God has the Last \_\_\_\_\_ with the Birth of Isaac (Genesis 23)

1. Sarah finally conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age (100 years old).
2. And Abraham called the name of his son, Isaac (it means *Laughter*)
3. After the birth of Isaac, Sarah sent both Hagar and Ishmael away.

### I. Abraham, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

1. Abraham was never perfect, but was learning how to walk perfectly with God.
2. Abraham failed, but would always try to obey God again.
3. Through this whole journey of twenty five years, Abraham became a friend of God! It was not something that just instantly happened, but it was a relationship that grew and deepened with every struggle. In the end, Abraham would never again doubt God's will or His word, no matter what it might cost him!

### J. God \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham

1. Tests naturally come, and a very big one came to Abraham one day from God!
2. God tested Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice his young son on Mount Moriah, right next to Jerusalem.
3. Abraham obeys.
4. Amazingly, Isaac never flinches either except for the obvious question about where the lamb was that should be offered?
5. Abraham's response is very prophetic "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering" (Gen 22:8).
6. At the last minute, when Abraham was about to kill Isaac, the Lord intervened and stopped Abraham, and then provided his own sacrifice instead of Isaac.

### K. Abraham's Last Years

1. He lives to see his son Isaac marry Rebekah
2. He Himself Remarries – to a woman named Keturah and has six more sons
3. He lives to hold his two grandsons \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at 160 years old
4. Abraham dies at \_\_\_\_\_ years! What a life! It evidently PAYS to live in obedience to God

### L. Let's Learn so much from Abraham this weekend!

## Session Two – Believing God

*Pastor Dan Pero – Calvary Baptist Church, Bray, Co. Wicklow*

***“Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” Genesis 15:1***

### Sermon Notes - Believing God Gen 15: 1-6

**“Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.”**  
William Carey

**I. Fundamentally it is \_\_\_\_\_ His Word.**

**II. Faith will increase in proportion to our ----- ----- The World.**

**III. Focus on the solution. The solution is ----- ----- on His Word.**

No one has ever come to the end of their days and made the lament " I wish I had  
\_\_\_\_\_ trusted God More"

"I wish I had stepped out by faith more frequently, taken God's Word more seriously, for  
He has never failed me all these years."  
David Cummins 1929- 2009.

"The future is as bright as the promises of God." William Carey



## A Man's Quiet Time

### How Does a Real Man Walk with His God

Please read this simple explanation of how to prepare your heart for a daily serious time with God through His word. It will make all the difference in the world to come humbly before the throne of grace. **Heb 4:16**. We need God's help!

**Start with Prayer!** Find yourself a place every day to get alone with God. Remember **Matthew 6:6** "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet..." It is when we are *by ourselves* seeking the Lord that we hear His still, small voice. Start with opening your heart to God. Allow Him to do an inspection of what is in your thoughts and feelings. **Psalm 139:23** says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts." Be honest with yourself, and honest with God. Ask God to search your for any sins you have buried in your heart. **Psalm 139:24** says, "And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." David, realizing he had sinned against God, asked for a cleansing. God wants us all very clean in our hearts! **Psalm 51:2** says, "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." Let God cleanse your life as you do the following three things: **1. Acknowledge** - admit the sins He reveals are there in your heart. **2. Confess** - admit that you have sinned before an all holy God. **3. Forsake** - leave each sin, abandoning everything that has separated you from God. Decide by God's power to quit doing the same sins that God reveals to you in your quiet time, and has already forgiven, and cleansed you from. Remember the Lord's promise - **1John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**Humble yourself.** The Bible says in **Isaiah 57:15a**, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit..." We have a great need every day to humble ourselves as we prepare to walk with God. This means, there must be a **personal brokenness** to cause us to always depend upon the Lord. God wants to fully "dwell" in our hearts, but He will not force His way in, nor will He honour a sinful, wicked heart. Once your heart is clean, tell God you are coming under His perfect authority, and that you want to obey Him all day long. God desires to fellowship with you, but only with the right attitude!

**Tell God what you need!** Just plainly cast all your worries, and cares and every need upon Almighty God, who loves to answer our prayers! He delights to have our strength renewed in our daily walk with Him. Believe that God wants to give you a peace and strength far beyond what we are used to. So, pray about everything! Real men don't fight, get angry, frustrated, and defeated when things don't work out, because real men, pray and trust God to do what he has promised he will do!

Read at least two chapters every day from start to finish in your Bible!

**Finally, Thank Him for His Blessings** - Read and meditate on these verses. **Philp 4:6** "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." **Col 4:2** "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." We have got a lot to be thankful for. Write some blessings on your heart and mind right now. Praise Him for His goodness to you!

***Go now and have a great walk with the Lord... Every day***

# Personal Devotion – Thursday Morning

## Believing God

James 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

Take a moment and let the words in the Scripture above sink way down into your heart. How powerful and life changing is just believing what God says! The verse says Abraham's belief resulted in God giving him a life changing, soul-saving righteousness. This morning, let's explore what it means to believe God.

What do we find easy to believe? That there is a God? That's easy to believe. That God really cares about what we are going through? Well, that is not so easy to believe – at least not always, The question for every man is, "Do we really believe God? Are we willing to completely trust in what He has promised, even when it goes completely against everything we feel?" well, Abraham did! And he didn't just believe God

So, how can a man in the Twenty First Century believe God like Abraham did?

First, by understanding that belief means trusting God enough to obey whatever He tells you to do. What did God tell Abraham to DO from the very first (Gen 12:1)? \_\_\_\_\_

Did Abram know exactly where the land was that God would take him? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God ask Abraham to believe (Gen 15:5)? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was that impossible? \_\_\_\_\_

When God asked Abraham to give Isaac back to God in genesis 22:2,3, how did Abraham react? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was he able to obey God, when it went against every fibre in his body (Gen 22:17-19)? \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord wants us to do what? (Prov 3:5) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the hardest part of that command? \_\_\_\_\_

What does God say we must NOT trust in? \_\_\_\_\_

According to 3:6 what should we do? \_\_\_\_\_

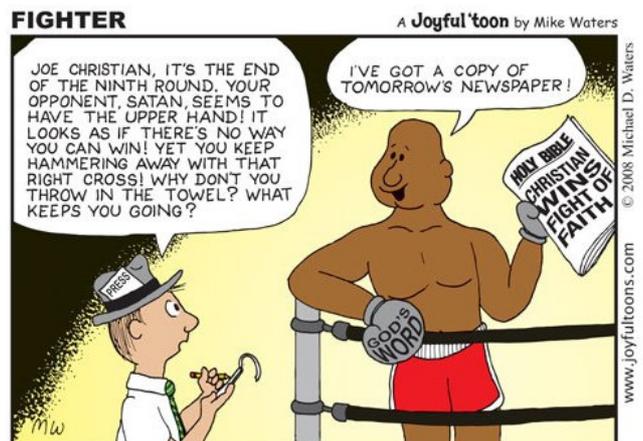
What will God do if we acknowledge Him? \_\_\_\_\_ vs.6

Where did God direct Abraham as he trusted Him? \_\_\_\_\_

God has a "Promised Land" for every believer. It is called what (Eph 6:6; 1Jn 2:17)? \_\_\_\_\_

But like Abraham, what is it that we all need to arrive at the perfect will of God for our lives (Heb 10:36)! \_\_\_\_\_

An amazing thing will take place as we follow and trust and obey... our faith will only grow more confident, and our confidence in the Lord will ONLY grow stronger (Rom 10:17)! Decide today that THAT is what you want in your life!



## Session Three – How to Live by Faith

*Dan Eberly – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig, Cork*

**“Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.” Romans 4:18**

### Sermon Notes (Romans 4:18-22)

#### I. Intro: The Question for us is in ... vs.21, 22

- A. Are you fully persuaded that what God promises, He is fully able to perform?  
Y/N?
- B. How you answer that question will determine your future walk with God!
- C. We must put even our little (mustard seed) faith in our Big God!

#### II. Message

##### A. Prepare for the Promise to be \_\_\_\_\_! – Rom.4:18

1. What is Hope?
2. Against Hope?
3. What did Abraham do with these promises of God to show he trusted in God!

A Promised Country – Gen.12:1

a. A Promised Nation – Gen.12:2

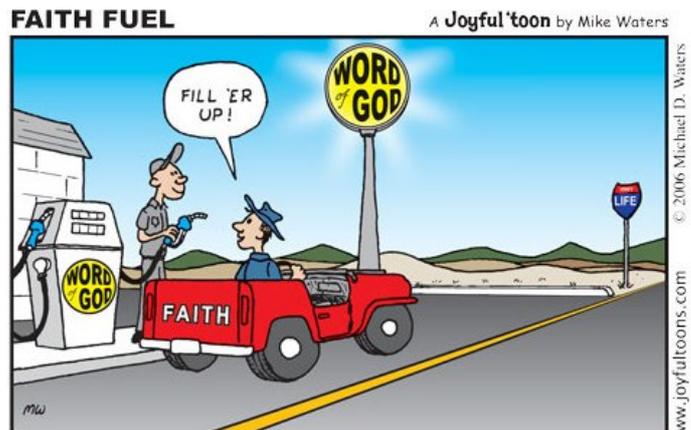
b. A Promised Son – Gen.15:1-4; 17:15,16

##### B. Don't let \_\_\_\_\_ weaken your Faith! - Rom. 4:19

1. “Considered Not” -
2. Abraham's faith was what was strong! Not special abilities.
3. For Abraham all physical help was gone. Gen. 17:17
4. Exercise your faith! Not your flesh!

##### C. Don't \_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_ God! – Rom.4:20

1. Staggered Not? –
2. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ God
3. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ God
4. Abraham learned to \_\_\_\_\_  
on God



## **Session Four – A Son's Great Faith**

*Pastor Jerome Pittman – Lighthouse Baptist Church, Swords*

*“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”*  
*Genesis 18:19*

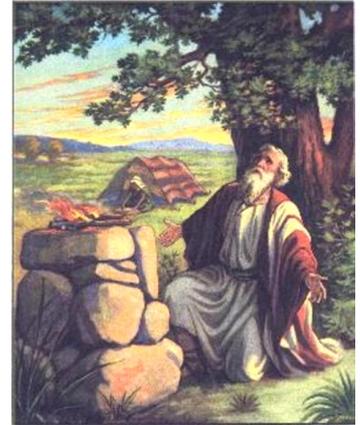
### **Sermon Notes**



## Session Five – How Men Get Right With God

Pastor Travis Snode – Northwest Baptist Church, Derry, NI

*“And Abram went up out of Egypt, unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.” Genesis 13:1,4*



### Sermon Notes (Genesis 12:10-13:4)

#### I. What led to Abram getting away from God?

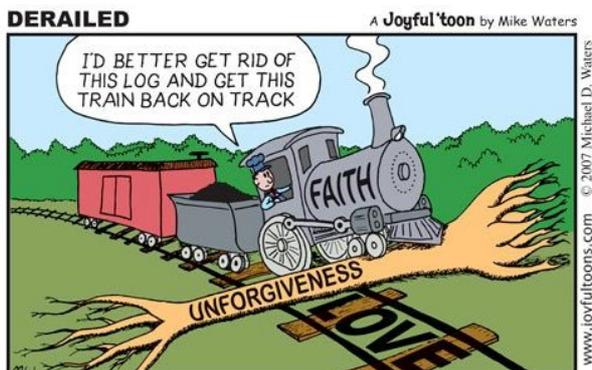
- A. The natural ebb and flow of \_\_\_\_\_ (12:9).
- B. A \_\_\_\_\_ in the land (12:10)
- C. One act of \_\_\_\_\_ led to another act of \_\_\_\_\_ (12:11-13).

#### II. The damage that this sin caused.

- A. Cost him his closeness to \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Cost him the respect of his \_\_\_\_\_ (12:11-15).
- C. Cost him his \_\_\_\_\_ (12:13).
- D. Cost him his \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of unbelievers (12:17-20).

#### III. How did Abram get right with God?

- A. He listened to the \_\_\_\_\_ (13:1).
  - 1. Good Example: 2 Samuel 12:7-14
  - 2. Bad Example: 2 Chronicles 16:7-10
- B. He left the \_\_\_\_\_ (13:1)
- C. He went back to \_\_\_\_\_ (13:3).
- D. He \_\_\_\_\_ on the name of the Lord (13:4)



## Personal Devotion – Friday Morning

### Friendship with the World

#### James 4:4

*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

It is amazing how little we men understand what the friendship with the world is! We really don't think it matters who our friends are, and we think that God doesn't care! But oh, He does! God says that when we are buddies with this world, we are at "enmity" (in conflict, at war) with God!!! God actually calls a Christian man who loves this world and the things in it *an adulterer* (Jam 4:4; 1John 4:4; 2:15). That's serious!

We are supposed to love our wives, our children, and our life, but there is something very wrong with loving this world! You ask, "What is the world?" Well, it is the exact opposite of what God is, and when we try and love both God and the things of this world, we are only fooling ourselves!

The "things" of this world are the sins of this world, the attitudes of this world, the ambitions of this world, the "toys" and pleasures of this world. None of that came from God, and none of it pleases God (1John 2:16)

To be a friend of God means to break away from (dethrone) our friendship with this world, no matter the cost! Let's see how to do it, and discover the benefits!

Abraham grew up in a very worldly culture in Ur of the Chaldees – big city, night life, sin, wealth and easy money. There is no way that Abraham could become a friend of God by still living that way, so God called him OUT of Ur. That is the cost of friendship, and it is a proper price to pay for a good Friend!

The world, and God pull in two opposite directions:

- Both the world, and God \_\_\_\_\_ us (Jn 15:14). Which one will you obey?
- Both the world and God have a \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives (1John 2:17).
- Part of you is attracted to the world. Which part (1John 2:16)? \_\_\_\_\_.
- Which part of you is attracted to God (Gal 5:17)? \_\_\_\_\_.
- How does a Christian man ignore the flesh and its desires (Gal 5:16)? \_\_\_\_\_

**This morning, decide to do ALL the following so you can be a True Friend of God:**

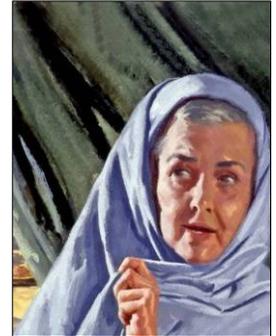
1. Get up and \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 19:27).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to God (Exod 33:11).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ with God – let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made known unto God (Philp 4:6).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Gen 18:19).
5. \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord (Psalm 27:14).
6. \_\_\_\_\_ thy way unto the Lord (Psalm 37:5).
7. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with such things as you already have (Heb 13:5).
8. Love God with what? \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 6:2)!

If you will just faithfully do all the above, there won't be any room for the world in your heart, and the Lord God of Abraham will be YOUR God, and He will be the best Friend you could ever have (Gen 15:1)!

## **Session Six – Encourage Your Sarah**

*Les Hill – Gospel Baptist Church, Lucan*

*“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.” Isaiah 40:11*



### **Sermon Notes**

## Session Seven – Handling “Hagars”

Pastor Craig Ledbetter – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig, Cork

**“Behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23**



### Sermon Notes

#### I. Background - Genesis 16:1-16

- A. Sarai was Abram's \_\_\_\_\_ wife.
- B. But Sarai had a depressing problem – no child
- C. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ God! Genesis 16:2.
- D. Sarah had Her Own Idea – use \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Hagar Takes Over. Sin always does!
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ Won't Fix Anything!
- G. The question is, what do you do with the “Hagars” in our lives that we pick up when we are away from God's will?

#### II. The Hagars in Life

- A. Anything that you invite and bring into your home or especially your bedroom (Heb 13:4) or thought life
- B. Anything that comes between you and your wife or future wife! Think about it
- C. Anything that grieves the Holy Spirit of God – Hagar silenced God for 13 years
- D. Anything that offends GOD (Mt 5:29; 18:7-9)
- E. Anything that blinds you from reality (Mt 7:4,5; Luke 6:42)
- F. Demonic spirits in your home (Mt 8:31; 9:33)
- G. Any religion and self-righteousness (Gal 4:30)
- H. Anything from your past that won't go away, and keeps hindering you from changing and being free from the failures of the past

#### III. Where Do Hagars Come From?

- A. They always return with you from \_\_\_\_\_ – you bring them with you (Prov 14:14). Hagars ONLY come from \_\_\_\_\_!
- B. They are the result of Bitterness and Frustration with \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 16:1,2)

#### IV. The Cost of Just One Hagar

- A. Dominion
- B. Division
- C. Harsh Treatment in the Home (Gen 16:6)
- D. Disconnection
- E. Guilt
- F. Distrust
- G. The Silence of God
- H. A Perpetual Enemy (Gen 16:12)

## Men's Training Camp 2012

- I. Blindness to God's Best (Gen 17:15-18)
- J. Disbelief (Gen 17:17; 18:12)
- K. Loss (Gen 21:11)

### V. How To Deal With Hagars - *What do you do after a Hagar-experience?!*

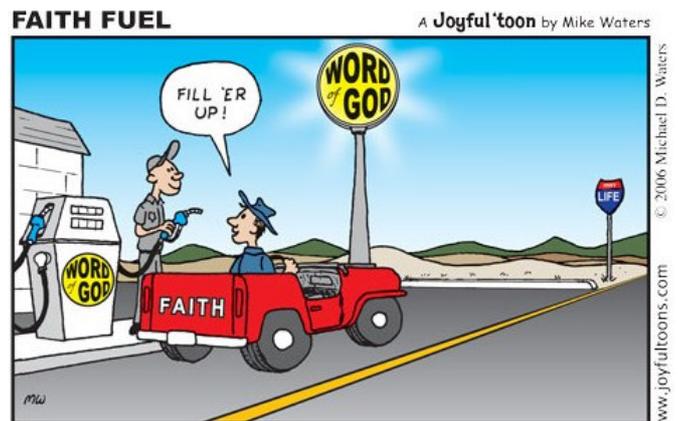
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Responsibility – no more blaming
  - 1. Take responsibility for your sin and failure to trust God
  - 2. Abraham was clearly wrong to accept Hagar as a means of obtaining an heir, an act that caused distress to everyone involved and has had repercussions throughout history, even to this day (Gen. 16:1-6; 21:9-14).
  - 3. It doesn't matter that Sarai came up with the idea
  - 4. It doesn't matter if EVERYONE thinks it is fine
  - 5. It doesn't matter even if the pastor thinks it is okay to do
  - 6. Have the integrity to **STICK TO WHAT GOD SAYS**
  - 7. And if you did wrong (Abram did), then own up to it!
- B. Get good \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov 12:15)
- C. Cast out the Hagars and the Ishmaels – no matter how much you love them
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Ponder the lessons God is teaching you – the quicker you learn them, the faster God will give you permission to be free from the Hagars of your past
  - 2. Work hard at casting them out of your life and habits. Desperately cast them out of your life like the seamen did on that sinking ship with Paul in it in Acts 27:38) – You are going to have to be **DESPERATE!**
  - 3. It won't be possible without God's help – ask God to **HELP** you do right as you try! Don't just wait on things to happen... you **HAVE** to start the process and God will help you!
  - 4. Fasting and prayer (Luke 9:40) – absolute determination and yielding to the will of God
- D. Believe God anyway
- E. Realise the Hagars are \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated
- F. Reinforce the weakness (Rev 3:2; 1Pet 5:10; Philp 4:13; Act 18:23)
- G. Give it **ALL** over to God's care – hourly, if need be!

## Session Eight – Becoming a Friend of God

*Pastor Dan Canavan – Hope Baptist Church, Dundrum*

*“Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.” James 2:23*

### Sermon Notes



## **Pop-Corn Preaching**

This is a blank page dedicated for YOU to write a quick Bible message so you can preach it when called upon during the Pop-Corn preaching session!

## **A Final Summary of this One Life**

### **A. Abraham is The Father of Israel.**

**B. Abraham is also The Father of Faith.** The New Testament shows Abraham as an outstanding example of a man of faith (Heb. 11:8-11, 17; James 2:21-23).

**C.** So, to be acceptable to God a person must simply live by the faith of Abraham (Rom. 4:1-17; Gal. 3:7-9), and they will be the children of faithful Abraham!

### **D. Abraham is a Great Type or Example of the Bible Believer**

1. Called of God (Heb 11:8; 1Peter 2:9; 1Cor 1:9,26)
2. Commanded to Separate (Gen 12:1; 2Cor 6:17)
3. Challenged to Just Believe God (Gen 15:6; Rom 4:20-25)
4. Obeys when he doesn't understand or control everything (Rom 6:17)
5. Was made righteous – simply by faith (Gen 15:6; Rom 10:10)
6. Had to wait on God's timing (Heb 11:13; Heb 10:36)
7. No permanent home here – but looked for a city (Heb 11:10,13,16; 1Pet 2:11)
8. Surrounded by enemies ever since he decided to live by faith
9. His name was changed at salvation (Rev 3:12)
10. He believed in the resurrection (Heb 11:17-19)
11. He tithed (Gen 14:20)
12. He walked with God (James 2:23; John 15:14)
13. He backslid – but he always got right
14. Will be blessed for living by faith (Mt 19:27-30; 1Peter 3:9)

### **E. Have We Learned from Abraham...**

1. How to OBEY God – that is what FAITH is
2. How to Walk with God
3. How to recover from Sinning and backsliding
4. How to Find God's perfect Will for our lives
5. About Abraham's family
6. His Successes and His Failures

### **F. Let's Believe God Like Abraham Did**

1. For Righteousness Sake
2. Patiently
3. Repeatedly – it is never just a once off act
4. Carefully – not acting outside of God's revealed will
5. Unreservedly – be willing to throw everything away for Christ
6. Lovingly – loving God
7. Leading as Examples to others, from our children outward
8. That's how the early Christians believed God! And it turned the world upside down!

**G. Let's Become a Friend of God this Weekend!** Learn to Please HIM like He pleases us, and enjoy His presence, and His fellowship throughout every day!

## Final Review

Questions to ponder and answer from this Camp's study of Abraham's life.

1. What was the main theme of the life of Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did Sarah find it hard to believe God would give her a son? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When did Abraham doubt God (there were several times)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Abraham's root sin that caused all his other failures? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Abraham get right with God when he did sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is currently stopping your wife from following you as you follow God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What legacy did Abraham leave behind when he died? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What legacy did Lot leave behind when he died? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. List five things that will always come between you and your friendship with God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What do you think God is asking you to trust Him for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## A Time to Evaluate Your Heart

Personal questions to answer - Let's evaluate how well you trust and love God:

- How is your relationship with your wife? **Great, Good, Needs Work, Stinks!**
  - Do you regularly help, praise and encouraged HER like she does you?
  - Is she worth you honouring and carefully leading her?
  - Are you willing to EARN your wife's respect as Abraham earned Sarah's?
  - How did Abraham earn Sarah's respect? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Is there any unrepentant, unconfessed sin in your life? **Yes No**  
List them, confess them, and then forsake them, by faith!
- What area of your life has God spoken to you about this week? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Is there a responsibility in your home you need to take control of again? \_\_\_\_\_  
How are you going to take control of it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- And, are you ready to take it on? **Yes No**
- Have you made a decision to let God change you in a certain area? **What area?**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Then right now, tell Him to go ahead and start right now!

## Prayer List

*“Men ought always to pray, and not to faint”* Luke 18:1

This list can be used every time we get together to pray, and should be added to as we learn of individual needs and requests.

**Pray For Salvation** (2 Peter 3:9) *“God is not willing that any should perish...”*

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**Pray For Christian Growth** (2 Peter 3:18) *“but grow in grace”*

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**Pray For Special Needs** (Health, and Family concerns)

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**Pray For Your Church Needs**

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**Anything Else – like your own needs**

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