

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: Abraham: A Sign of Grace

Reading: Genesis 21

Date: 12th July 2026 (AM)

What encouragements / answers to prayer / opportunities have you had this week? Spend a few minutes sharing personal prayer requests and praying for one another.

- 1) Ask for a couple of examples from the group of when someone had to wait a really long time for something. What was that experience like? Did you ever become frustrated or doubt that the thing you were waiting for actually happened?

Read Genesis 12:1-3

- 2) These promises were made to Abraham but it took over 25 years for him to see them come to pass... how do you think that felt? Would you have continued to believe the promises for all that time?
- 3) By Genesis 21 a lot has changed in Abraham's life – in pairs flick back over the chapters between 12-21 and note any details that seem important. (or type into google and see what headlines you get!)

If we tried to chart Abraham's faith in these chapters we'd see it was very up and down... lots of moments of trying to take things into his own hands etc.

Now read Romans 4:18-22

- 4) How can Paul in Romans say Abraham never wavered in faith? *(some answers below but try and discuss your thoughts first.)*
- 5) Is Genesis 12-21 a story of Abraham's faith? Or a story of God's faithfulness to him? Or a combination? – How does Abraham and Sarah's life encourage us today?
- 6) *Bonus question if time: v33 has Abraham planting a slow growing tree. How might that show how far he has come? (he's in the land, has peace with neighbours, has a good reputation and has a son... why plant this tree... what does it say in action rather than words?)*

Pray for one another

- for that that keeps moving towards God in each season of life.
- For our response to the growth questionnaire

Question 4 answers:

God's declaration in Romans 4 is an example of His grace. Despite Abraham's earlier hesitations in Genesis (like laughing at the idea or taking Hagar into his tent), God chose to credit Abraham's foundational belief in His promise as righteousness.

In Romans 4:19, Paul notes that Abraham "faced the fact" that his body and Sarah's womb were "as good as dead". His faith wasn't blind optimism. Instead, Abraham acknowledged the medical realities but trusted that God had the power to override them.

Throughout his journey, Abraham consistently returned to his belief in God. His faith journey, though marked by detours and "zigzags," ultimately moved forward in a direction of unwavering trust.