

FAITHFUL ONE

ABRAHAM'S COVENANT OF FRAGILE FAITH

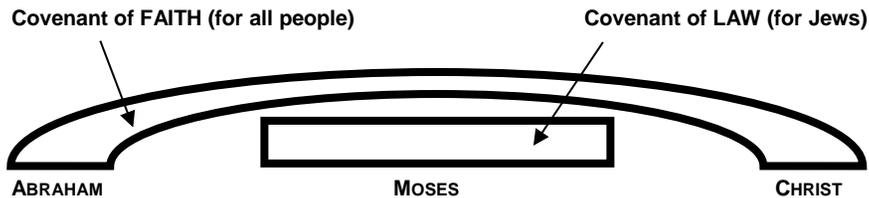
Part 1: *Who's Your Daddy?*

Abraham is "the father of us all."
~ The Apostle Paul (Romans 4:16)

APPETIZER: Back To The Future

Abraham in the New Testament... **Matthew 3:9; 8:11; Romans 4; 9:6-8; Galatians 3; Hebrews 11:8-19; James 2:21-23**

Getting back to the "New" Covenant...



DINE IN: Faith, Fear, Fragility, Failure, & Faithfulness

Genesis 12

Hebrews 11:8; Luke 14:26-27; Matthew 10:37; Mark 10:29-30

1. Every Abraham has a weakness.
 2. Every compromise can hurt a Sarah.
 3. Every act of selfishness can distract from the truth of the gospel.
- What is yours?
 - Who have you hurt, and/or are hurting now?
 - How are you replacing altars of worship with lies of self-preservation?

REFLECTION...

Abraham's story is "the Exodus" in seed form.

- The journey into Egypt due to famine.
- God's intervention with a plague.
- Freedom to leave.
- Taking spoils with them.

Jesus' story is "the Exodus" in fulfilled form.

- Begins with a baptism (1 Corinthians 10:2)
- 40 days in the wilderness
- Tempted with hunger, testing God, and worshipping a false god
- Last supper is a new Passover meal
- Jesus becomes the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7)

TAKE OUT: God's Will For Us

1. _____ in Jesus.
2. _____ more like Jesus.
3. _____ to others what you have received.
4. _____ share the love of Jesus with others.
5. Do all of this _____ with spiritual family.

I WOULD OBEY LIKE ABRAHAM IF:

- a) **God spoke to me.**
(Matthew 19:5; Luke 24:27; Romans 3:2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- b) **God appeared to me.**
(John 1:18; 14:9; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3)
- c) **God made clear what I am supposed to do.**
(Matthew 7:12; 11:28-30; 28:18-20; Luke 6:37-38; John 13:34; Acts 16:31; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Galatians 5:13-26; 6:2; Ephesians 4:22-32; 6:10-18; Philippians 2:1-18; Colossians 3:8-17; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 2:5, 9; 2 Peter 1:5-9)

The next step I have to take on my journey of discipleship is...

Dear God, you have called me to follow Jesus, be like Jesus, and share his love with others. Please give me the courage to take the next step in my journey. Amen.

NEXT WEEK: We continue our series on Abraham

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. As we start this new series about the life and faith of Abraham, what are you most looking forward to?
2. Review this week's sermon. Talk about what most encouraged or perplexed you, what new things you learned or old things that were confirmed.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Genesis 12**.
 - a. What verse or idea that stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b. What are some similarities to Abraham's story and our Christian call to discipleship? Discuss the parallels.
 - c. What have you left to follow Jesus?
 - d. Are there New Covenant equivalents to building an altar today?
 - e. God told Abraham he would give his descendants a specific piece of land. Throughout Church history, Christians have forcefully colonized foreign lands for themselves using this same logic (e.g., "Manifest Destiny"). How would you argue against this mentality using principles from the New Covenant? Use Scripture to support your answer.
 - f. What form of self-preservation tempts you to lie like Abraham?
 - g. What do you think about Pharaoh? He was more ethical than Abraham within this passage. How have you been challenged to live better by people of different faiths and backgrounds?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. What is the next step you must take on your spiritual journey? How has God been making this clear to you? Pray for each other about this.

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Quotes

Welcome to the start of our new series about the faith of Abraham and the faithfulness of God.

In Genesis chapter 12 we read about when God first called Abraham (then called Abram) and about Abraham's faith as well as his fear and his failure...

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him. He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot.

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!"

Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.