

# FAITHFUL ONE

THE PROMISE AND THE PAIN

## Part 3: Three Visitors

### APPETIZER: Clarifying Questions

1. I've heard the story about Hagar and Ishmael told in a way that suggests this is the root of the Middle East crisis today. If that's true, why would God bless Ishmael?
2. If it's true that "doubt does not discredit faith", then what about Jesus encouraging his disciples to "have faith and not doubt"?

Matthew 21:21; Matthew 5:48; James 1:6-8; Matthew 28:17

### DINE IN: Hospitality is Love

Genesis 18:1-15

Abraham is called God's "friend" in Old and New Testaments.  
2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23

John 15:15

#### HOSPITALITY

HOW? Don't feel pressure to "entertain" but invite people into your life.

WHO? Everyone, especially strangers and people with less.

WHY? i) We are being God-like, as we were created to be.

ii) We *might be* hosting angels.

iii) We *are* hosting Jesus.

Matthew 25:35; Hebrews 13:2; Luke 14:12-14

### More Abraham Hospitality Hacks...

1. Be insistent. Make it hard to say no.
2. Under-promise and Over-deliver.
3. Serve like it is YOUR privilege – because it is!

### Who are the three???

- THEORY A: God + two angels
- THEORY B: Three angels, but one is the Angel of the LORD
- THEORY C: God in three persons

On fear, lying, and love...

**There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.**

~ The Apostle John (1 John 4:18)



### TAKE OUT: What's the Worst Thing You've Ever Done?

**Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.**  
~ The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 1:4-5)

"I love you. I have always loved you."

### NEXT WEEK:

Special Guest, Sunder Krishnan!

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## Home Church Questions

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

1. Talk about what you remember being most interesting, encouraging, or perplexing in Sunday's message.

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

2. Read **Genesis 18:1-15**. Remember to use these questions more like a menu to choose from than a list to be fully completed.
  - a. Is there anything in the text that catches your attention?
  - b. The first verse says God "appeared" to Abraham. How does this reality fit with **John 1:18**. What are the implications of this for how we read our Bibles, do our theological thinking, and talk to others about who God is?
  - c. Review some Bible verses about hospitality (**Matthew 25:35; Luke 14:12-14; Hebrews 13:2**). How have you shown or been shown the kind of God-honouring hospitality that Abraham models? What is most challenging, given our culture today, about practising radical hospitality? What can we do about that?
  - d. Which is easier for you – generosity (giving money or possessions away) or hospitality (using what you have to serve others)? Why do you think that is?
  - e. When Sarah was afraid, she lied. What lies or untruths do you tell yourself or others as a result of fear? How does the perfect love that casts out fear allow us to embrace the principle in **Ephesians 4:25**?
  - f. Sarah's eventual pregnancy would be an undeniable miracle. How would you respond to someone who asked, "Why doesn't God do miracles like this today?"

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

3. Ask each other, since the last time we talked, how have you served others and loved well (or missed opportunities to do so), including serving your church, investing time in your family, helping your friends, showing kindness to strangers, and/or loving your enemies?

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