

# Abraham: Faith that obeys

## Genesis 12:1-9 study questions



1. We're told that Abraham followed God's call, but we don't know exactly how the Lord spoke with him. In the sermon, we heard that there are different ways that God can communicate: an audible voice; through scriptures; through the prophetic voice of other people; through circumstances; or through our own internal senses. Have you ever felt God speak to you, and what did he say?
2. When Abram obeyed the call to go into the land of Canaan, he was already an old man. He was also living with his family in Harran. Yet, despite this, he was able to obey God's call. How do you think he would have felt about this, and what do you think drove him?
3. The promise was great but the cost was high: Abram had to leave his land, his people, his family, and his inheritance in order to follow; and he only ever owned one field in Canaan, where Sarah was buried. It would be centuries before Joshua led the people into the land and the promise was fulfilled. Sometimes God calls us into difficult things: do you have any experiences of such callings? How did you respond?
4. Sometimes God's call is into new places, sometimes it's to lay things down. Abram took Lot with him into the promised land, but we read later that they separate. Do you think it was a good decision to take Lot with him, and why / why not?
5. In the sermon, we heard that there are three possible ways to respond to difficult or uncertain situations: to retreat ("it was better before"); to entrench ("I'll fight for where I am"); or to go ("I'll follow wherever he leads"). Do you agree that these are the only three responses? How else could we respond to God's call?

### Going deeper

6. When we read the accounts of the fall in Genesis 3, we hear that people's sin led to us being exiled from Eden; forced to work the unyielding land for food; and for childbirth to be painful and difficult. Abraham is promised fertile land and descendants. Do you agree that this is a reversal of the results of the fall?
7. In Genesis 12:10-20, we read that Abraham lied to Pharaoh about Sarah's identity. In 16:1-4, Sarah and Abraham agree to start a family through the surrogacy of Hagar, Sarah's slave. Do these incidents show a lack of faith on Abraham or Sarah's part? Why / why not?
8. In the sermon, we heard that the first covenant, with Abraham, was a covenant of revelation, and the new covenant, through Christ, is one of salvation. Do you think this is true? Why / why not? (You might want to compare Genesis 15:1-21 with Matthew 26:17-30).