

## **Abraham – A Character of Faith**

### ***Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19***

**Lesson Application:** Faith grows not in the absence of struggles but in the midst of it—Abraham faced setbacks and successes in his life with God

- a. Difficult to pick up and leave homeland for an unknown place
  - b. God’s promises were great but he did not always understand when, how and why
  - c. Some promises do not seem possible with the finite mind—ie. Bear a son when Sarah was 90 and Abraham was 100
  - d. Being asked to offer his only son appeared to contradict the promise of “through your seed all nations of the earth would be blessed”
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#### **Heb. 11:8-10; 11:17-19**

##### **1. Abraham’s Faith-Heb. 11:8-10**

- a. When he was called, obeyed (vs. 8)
  - i. Went out to a place that God had promised as an inheritance
  - ii. Went out not knowing where he was going
- b. Lived as an alien in the land of promise (vs. 9)
  - iii. As in a foreign land
  - iv. Dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob
  - v. Recognized that they had not yet inherited the land (would be for his descendants)
- c. Looking for a city which has foundations (vs. 10)
  - vi. Whose architect and builder is God
  - vii. Based upon above point that his descendants had not yet inherited the land, he was looking beyond earthly land for an eternal home
- d. When he was tested, offered up Isaac (vs. 17, 18)
  - viii. Received the promise of a son
  - ix. Offered up his only begotten son
  - x. Had been said, “through Isaac your descendants shall be called”

##### **2. Promise to Abraham- Gen. 12:1-3**

- a. A new land for his descendants- Canaan (vs. 1,7)
- b. A great nation- Israelites
- c. All families of earth would be blessed through his seed- Christ

##### **3. Promise of a Son- Gen.15:1-7**

- a. Abram becomes discouraged because he is childless (vs. 2,3)
- b. God reassures him, “descendants would number as the stars” (vs. 4,5)
- c. Abram believes (vs. 6)
- d. The Lord appears to Abraham as strangers telling him that Sarah will bear a son (Gen.18:10)

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#### **4. Obedient to God's Commandments Without Hesitation**

- a. "Go to a new land that I will show you" Gen. 12:1, 4; Acts 7:3,4
  - i. Abraham departs with Sarah, Lot and all their possessions- Gen. 12:5
  - ii. Going to a land that he did not know-Gen. 12:1
- b. "Offer your only son"- Gen. 22:2-10
  - i. Rose early to go to land of Moriah (offer Isaac); Gen. 22:3

#### **5. Love for God Above Love for Family**

- a. Going to a new land unknown to him would have undoubtedly been hard for Sarah and Lot but he obeyed – Gen.12:1,4-5
- b. Sacrificing his only son, Isaac, would have been very difficult given how hard it was for Sarah to conceive- Gen.22:1-2

#### **6. Unselfish to Preserve Peace in Family- Gen. 13:6-12**

- a. Land could not sustain herds and tents of Abraham and Lot (vs. 6)
- b. Abraham seeks to avoid strife (vs. 8)
- c. Gives Lot the choice of land versus him having first pick that would have been rightfully his (vs. 9)

#### **7. Reverence to God – Gen.17:3**

#### **8. Showed Hospitality to Strangers- Gen.18:1-8; Heb.13:2**

- a. Abraham hurried to make prepare for strangers
- b. Sarah makes bread
- c. Abraham has a servant prepare a choice calf

#### **9. Compassion for Sparing Righteous if Found in Sodom & Gomorrah – Gen.18:22-33**

#### **Questions:**

1. What was God doing to Abraham when He asked him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering? (Gen.22:1)
2. How did Abraham treat the members of his family:
  - a. Sarah?
  - b. Lot?
  - c. Isaac?
3. What were the promises made to Abraham in Gen.12:1-3?

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4. How long did it take for those promises to be realized?
5. Was Abraham hesitant to obey the commandments of the Lord?
6. When we don't understand why something happens in our life today, what attitude of Abraham would help us to persevere?