

ABRAHAM: FAITH, PROMISE  
AND THE GOOD NEWS  
FULFILLED IN JESUS



# Abraham: Faith, Promise, and the Good News Fulfilled in Jesus

## A 7-Session Christ-Centered Bible Study Guide

“He believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6)

### Introduction

Welcome to this seven-session Bible study on the life of Abraham—one of the most pivotal figures in God’s story of redemption. As we journey through Genesis and connect Abraham’s story to the fulfillment found in Jesus, we’ll discover how faith, promises, and the Good News intersect in powerful ways. Abraham’s journey is not just ancient history; it’s an invitation for us to trust, worship, and walk with God today. Each session offers rich insights, relevant New Testament connections, and practical steps for living out faith in Christ. Let’s embark together, expecting God to deepen our faith and reveal Jesus more clearly.

### Session 1: The Call of Abraham — Leaving the Old Life

#### Scripture Focus: Genesis 12:1–9

**Background:** God calls Abram (later Abraham) to leave his country, family, and familiar life for an unknown land—promising to make him a great nation and a blessing to all peoples.

- Abraham was originally living in Ur of the Chaldeans, immersed in a culture that did not worship the one true God. At this point in history, he was not a Hebrew or Jew—he was a gentile whom God sovereignly chose, calling him out of his pagan background to become the father of a new nation that would later be known as Israel (Genesis 11:27-32).

**New Testament Connection:** Hebrews 11:8–10 highlights Abraham’s obedience and faith, leaving behind security for God’s promise. Jesus echoes this call in Luke 9:23, inviting us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him.

**Jesus as the Ultimate Call:** Abraham’s journey foreshadows Jesus’ call to new life—a radical departure from the old, trusting God’s promises above all else. Christ is the greater Abraham, who left heaven to fulfill God’s rescue plan for the world.

- **Principle:** Faith means responding to God’s voice, even when the path is uncertain.
- **Reflection:** What might God be inviting you to leave behind in order to follow Him more fully?
- What is one “old” comfort, habit, or identity that Jesus is inviting you to surrender for the sake of His call?
- How does Abraham’s obedience encourage you to step out in faith, even when God’s directions are not fully clear?

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# Supplement to Lesson 1: “Faith in the Fog—When You Know and Don’t Know”

## Key Texts

- Genesis 11:27–32
  - Genesis 12:1–5
  - Hebrews 11:8
  - Acts 7:2–4
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## I. The Journey Begins Before the Call (Genesis 11:31)

### Observation:

- Terah sets out from Ur intending to go to Canaan.
- They stop in Haran and settle there.

### Insight:

- Sometimes God’s purposes begin in the hearts of others before they are fully revealed to us.
- Terah’s unfinished journey becomes Abram’s launching point.

### Illustration:

- Like a relay race—Terah starts the leg, but Abram carries the baton forward.
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## II. The Call to Go (Genesis 12:1)

### Observation:

- God tells Abram to leave everything familiar and go “to the land I will show you.”
- The destination is not named here.

### Insight:

- God often calls us to obedience before He gives us all the details.
- Faith doesn’t require full information—just full trust.

### Illustration:

- A GPS gives you one turn at a time. You don’t need the whole map to start the journey.
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## III. Did Abram Know Where He Was Going? (Tension in the Text)

### Observation:

- Hebrews 11:8 says Abram “did not know where he was going.”
- But Genesis 11:31 suggests Canaan was already in view.

### Insight:

- Faith is not always about total ignorance—it’s about walking in obedience even when the picture is incomplete.
- Abram may have known the *direction*, but not the *details*.

### Application:

- What has God shown you? What hasn’t He?
  - Are you willing to walk with partial clarity?
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## IV. Faith Is Forward Motion (Genesis 12:4–5)

### Observation:

- Abram obeys and sets out, taking his family and possessions.
- He doesn’t delay or demand more information.

### Insight:

- Faith is not passive—it moves.
- Obedience is the evidence of trust.

### Illustration:

- Like stepping onto a bridge in the fog—you trust the structure even when you can’t see the other side.
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## V. Takeaway: Trusting the God Who Knows

- You may not know the full plan, but you know the One who does.
- God’s call often begins with a whisper, not a roadmap.
- Faith walks forward with what God has shown, trusting Him for what He hasn’t.

## Session 2: Worship and Pilgrimage — Living as Strangers

**Scripture Focus: Genesis 12:7–8; 13:3–4, 18**

**Context:** Wherever Abraham journeyed, he built altars and worshiped God, marking his life as a pilgrim and worshiper in a foreign land.

- **Shechem** (Genesis 12:7): Abraham built an altar after God promised the land to his descendants—expressing gratitude and faith in God’s promise.
  - **Takeaway:** Begin every new chapter with gratitude and trust in God’s promises, even before you see them fulfilled.
- **Bethel** (Genesis 12:8; 13:3–4): Built and returned to an altar, demonstrating ongoing dependence and public worship as he traveled.
  - **Takeaway:** Make worship and prayer regular practices, returning to God continually for guidance and strength throughout your journey.
- **Hebron** (Genesis 13:18): Built an altar after settling there, signifying lasting trust in God’s presence and covenant.
  - **Takeaway:** Settle your heart in God’s faithfulness, trusting His presence and promises wherever life leads, and allow your worship to be a lasting testimony.

Each altar in Abraham’s journey invites us to anchor our walk of faith in gratitude, continual worship, and steadfast trust as pilgrims following God’s call.

**New Testament Connection: 1 Peter 2:11** calls believers “sojourners and exiles.” Jesus Himself lived as a stranger, having “nowhere to lay His head” (Matthew 8:20).

**Jesus as the True Pilgrim:** Jesus exemplifies the true pilgrim’s journey, living with continuous trust in God throughout His time on earth. He demonstrated faithful dependence and worship, even when faced with uncertainty and rejection. As **Hebrews 13:14** reminds us, “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.” Jesus’ life reveals that our true home is not in the comforts of this world, but in the presence and promises of God. Grounding ourselves in faith, we follow His lead—embracing worship and trust on our own pilgrim path, regardless of life’s challenges. By remembering Christ’s example, and drawing encouragement from scriptures such as **Philippians 3:20** (“our citizenship is in heaven”), we can journey through this world with steadfast hope and assurance in God’s faithfulness.

- **Principle:** Our true home is with God; worship sustains us on the journey.
- **Reflection:** How do worship and trust anchor your heart as you navigate unfamiliar or uncomfortable places?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to deeper worship in the midst of your daily “pilgrimage”?
- How can remembering Jesus’ example as a pilgrim encourage you when you feel out of place in this world?

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## Supplement to Lesson 2: Key Place Names and Their Meanings

- **Shechem (שֵׁכֶם)**
  - Meaning: **“Shoulder” or “support.”**
  - Significance: Symbolizes strength, bearing burdens, and carrying responsibility. Abraham’s altar here marked the “shouldering” of God’s promise—a place where faith begins by carrying God’s word before seeing fulfillment.
  - Spiritual Insight: Beginning a new chapter with gratitude means taking God’s promises on your shoulders, trusting Him to carry the weight.
- **Bethel (בֵּית־אֵל)**
  - Meaning: **“House of God.”**
  - Significance: A place of worship and encounter. Abraham pitched his tent between **Bethel (House of God)** and **Ai (Heap of ruins)**—a vivid picture of choosing between God’s presence and worldly ruin.
  - Spiritual Insight: Worship anchors us in God’s “house,” even when surrounded by brokenness. Returning to Bethel shows dependence on God’s presence as the true home.
- **Hebron (חֶבְרוֹן)**
  - Meaning: **“Association,” “fellowship,” or “union.”**
  - Significance: Abraham settled here and built an altar, marking covenant fellowship with God. Hebron later became a central city of David’s reign, reinforcing its meaning as a place of lasting relationship.
  - Spiritual Insight: True settlement in life comes when we live in fellowship with God—His covenant presence is our foundation.

### Wells and Place Names in Abraham’s Story

Abraham is also associated with **Beersheba (בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע)**, where he dug wells and made covenants:

- **Beersheba**
- Meaning: **“Well of the oath” or “Well of seven.”**
- Significance: Abraham and Abimelech swore an oath here (Genesis 21:31), and Abraham planted a tamarisk tree, calling on the name of the Lord. The name ties water (life) with covenant (promise).
- Spiritual Insight: Wells represent sustenance and survival, but at Beersheba they also symbolize covenant faithfulness. God provides not just water for life, but promises that sustain generations.

## Session 3: Righteousness by Faith

### Scripture Focus: Genesis 15:1–6

**Context:** God reassures Abraham, promising descendants as numerous as the stars. Abraham believes, and his faith is credited as righteousness.

- The New Testament defines faith as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). When God gave Abraham His promise, Abraham could not see its fulfillment with his natural eyes—he had to trust God and “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). In the same way, God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20), inviting us to believe Him for more than we can imagine, even when we can’t see the outcome.

**New Testament Connection:** Romans 4:1–5 and Galatians 3:6–9 declare that righteousness comes by faith, not works—fulfilled in Jesus who justifies all who believe.

**Christ as Our Righteousness:** Jesus alone lived a life of perfect trust and obedience to God, fulfilling every requirement of righteousness that we could never achieve on our own (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22). His flawless faithfulness sets the standard and makes Him the ultimate example for us (Philippians 2:8). When we place our faith in Jesus, we do not rely on our own efforts or merit; instead, we receive the gift of righteousness that He has secured through His life, death, and resurrection (Romans 3:21–22; 2 Corinthians 5:21). This righteousness is not something we earn or deserve, but is graciously credited to us by God (Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8–9). In Christ, we are accepted and justified, free from the pressure to prove ourselves, and able to rest in the assurance that our standing before God is secure because of what Jesus has done (Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16).

- **Principle:** True righteousness is a gift from God, received by faith alone.
- **Reflection:** In what ways are you tempted to earn God’s approval rather than trust Christ’s finished work?
- How does Abraham’s example free you from striving for acceptance with God?
- What step can you take this week to rest in Jesus’ righteousness, rather than your own efforts?

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## Session 4: Covenant and Promise

### Scripture Focus: Genesis 17:1–14

**Context:** God establishes His covenant with Abraham, promising to be his God and the God of his descendants, marked by circumcision as a sign.

- Circumcision—the removal of the foreskin from the male body—was the physical sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, marking Abraham and his descendants as God’s chosen people.
- It represented a setting apart—an outward expression of belonging to God and a commitment to live according to His promises and commands. In its natural form, circumcision also served to prevent future impurities, symbolizing the ongoing process of sanctification in the Christian experience—a call to purity and continual spiritual growth.
- Biblically, circumcision pointed to an inner reality: the need for a “circumcised heart,” or spiritual transformation and devotion to God (see Deuteronomy 10:16 and Romans 2:28–29).
- The ritual underscored God’s initiative in making and keeping His promises, reminding Israel that their relationship with Him was based on His grace, not human effort.

**New Testament Connection:** Luke 22:20 and 2 Corinthians 3:6 reveal Jesus as the mediator of a new covenant, sealed not by outward signs but by the Spirit in our hearts.

**Jesus and the New Covenant:** Christ fulfills and extends God’s promise, inviting all nations into relationship with God through His blood. In the New Testament, Jesus declares at the Last Supper, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:20), signifying that His sacrificial death would inaugurate a new relationship between God and humanity. This covenant is not limited by ethnicity or ancestry but opens the way for people from every nation to become sons and daughters of God (Galatians 3:28–29). The apostle Paul explains that believers are now ministers of a new covenant, “not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6), highlighting the inner transformation that comes through faith in Christ. Through Jesus’ atoning work, all who trust in Him experience forgiveness and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling God’s promise to Abraham and extending it to all who believe (Romans 4:16–17; Ephesians 2:13–14). Thus, Christ is both the fulfillment and the mediator of a covenant that brings people everywhere into intimate fellowship with God.

- Principle: God’s promises are reliable, secured by His faithfulness—not ours.
- Reflection: How does being part of God’s covenant shape your identity and daily choices?
- What promises from God do you need to reclaim and trust today?
- How does Jesus’ new covenant invite you into deeper intimacy with God?

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## Supplement to Session 4: How the New Covenant Follows the Same Biblical Covenant Pattern

A **biblical covenant** is a sacred, binding relationship initiated by God, built on His promises, sealed with a sign or sacrifice, and calling His people into faithful obedience.

The New Covenant is not a departure from this pattern—it is the **culmination** of it.

Below are the **key elements** found in every major covenant in Scripture and how the New Covenant fulfills each one.

### 1 God Initiates the Covenant

#### Biblical Pattern

In every covenant, **God takes the first step**:

- **Noah** – God establishes His covenant (Genesis 9:9).
- **Abraham** – God calls and promises (Genesis 12:1–3; 15:1).
- **Israel at Sinai** – God delivers them first, then covenants (Exodus 19:4–5).

God always moves toward humanity in grace.

#### New Covenant Fulfillment

Jesus declares that **God is again the initiator**:

- “This is **My blood of the new covenant**” (Matthew 26:28).
- “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

The New Covenant begins with God’s action—Christ’s sacrifice—not human effort.

### 2 The Covenant Is Established Through a Sacrifice

#### Biblical Pattern

Covenants in Scripture are sealed with **blood**:

- **Abraham** – animals cut in covenant ceremony (Genesis 15:9–10).
- **Moses/Sinai** – “the blood of the covenant” sprinkled on the people (Exodus 24:8).
- **Priestly covenant** – sacrifices maintain covenant relationship (Leviticus 1–7).

Blood symbolized the seriousness and binding nature of the covenant.

#### New Covenant Fulfillment

Jesus uses the same language:

- “This cup is the **new covenant in My blood**” (Luke 22:20).
- “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22).

- Christ is the once-for-all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10–14).

The New Covenant is established by a **perfect and final sacrifice**.

### 3 The Covenant Includes Promises from God

#### Biblical Pattern

Every covenant carries divine promises:

- **Noah** – preservation of creation (Genesis 9:11).
- **Abraham** – land, descendants, blessing to all nations (Genesis 12:2–3).
- **David** – an everlasting throne (2 Samuel 7:12–16).
- **Mosaic** – God’s presence and blessing for obedience (Exodus 19:5–6).

#### New Covenant Fulfillment

The New Covenant contains **greater promises**:

- Forgiveness of sins (Jeremiah 31:34).
- God’s law written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:33).
- The indwelling Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26–27).
- Eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15).

The promises expand from physical blessings to **spiritual transformation and eternal life**.

### 4 The Covenant Calls for a Faithful Response

#### Biblical Pattern

Covenants always include a human response:

- **Abraham** – faith and obedience (Genesis 17:1).
- **Israel** – “All that the LORD has spoken we will do” (Exodus 19:8).
- **David** – faithfulness to God’s commands (1 Kings 2:3–4).

#### New Covenant Fulfillment

The New Covenant also calls for a response:

- Faith in Christ (John 3:16; Romans 3:26).
- Obedience empowered by the Spirit (Romans 8:4).
- A transformed life (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The difference:

The New Covenant **provides the power** to obey through the Spirit.

## 5 The Covenant Has a Sign

### Biblical Pattern

God gives visible signs:

- **Noah** – rainbow (Genesis 9:13).
- **Abraham** – circumcision (Genesis 17:11).
- **Mosaic** – Sabbath (Exodus 31:16–17).

### New Covenant Fulfillment

The New Covenant sign is **internal and spiritual**:

- The seal of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
- The fruit of a transformed life (John 13:35; Galatians 5:22–23).
- Baptism and communion serve as outward expressions (Romans 6:3–4; 1 Corinthians 11:25).

The sign moves from **external ritual** to **internal reality**.

## 6 The Covenant Creates a People

### Biblical Pattern

Covenants form a covenant community:

- **Abraham** – a chosen family (Genesis 17:7).
- **Mosaic** – a holy nation (Exodus 19:6).
- **Davidic** – a royal lineage (2 Samuel 7:16).

### New Covenant Fulfillment

The New Covenant forms a **new people of God**:

- Jew and Gentile united in Christ (Ephesians 2:13–19).
- A royal priesthood and holy nation (1 Peter 2:9).
- Members of one body (1 Corinthians 12:12–13).

The covenant community becomes **global and Spirit-born**.

### Summary Statement

**The New Covenant follows the same divine pattern seen throughout Scripture—initiated by God, established through sacrifice, filled with promises, calling for a faithful response, marked by a covenant sign, and forming a covenant people. What God began with Abraham finds its fulfillment and perfection in Jesus Christ.**

## Session 5: Tested Faith — God Provides

### Scripture Focus: Genesis 22:1–18

**Context:** God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son. Abraham’s obedience is met by God’s provision—a ram in Isaac’s place.

- In Genesis 22, God was asking Abraham to trust Him with the very thing that seemed essential for the fulfillment of all His promises—his son Isaac. Isaac was not only Abraham's beloved son, but also the one through whom God had said His covenant and blessings would continue. Yet, **the true source of fulfillment was God Himself.** This test revealed whether Abraham was placing his trust in the promise or in the God who had given it. It prompts each of us to honestly consider: **“In what or in whom am I placing my trust?”**

**New Testament Connection:** Hebrews 11:17–19 sees Abraham’s willingness as a foreshadowing of God’s own sacrifice. John 1:29 identifies Jesus as the “Lamb of God” who takes away the sin of the world.

**Christ as the Ultimate Sacrifice: Foreshadowing in Genesis 22:** This story of Abraham and Isaac offers rich, prophetic parallels that point forward to Christ as the Ultimate Sacrifice:

- **Only Son Given:** God calls Abraham to offer his “only son, whom you love, Isaac” (Genesis 22:2), prefiguring God’s giving of His own beloved, only Son, Jesus, for the world (John 3:16; Romans 8:32).
- **Willing Submission:** Isaac submits to his father’s will, trusting Abraham even as he is bound and placed on the altar (Genesis 22:9). In the same way, Jesus willingly submits to His Father’s plan, praying, “Not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42; John 10:17–18).
- **Carrying the Wood:** Isaac carries the wood for his own sacrifice up the hill (Genesis 22:6), foreshadowing Jesus carrying His cross to Golgotha (John 19:17).
- **The Place of Sacrifice:** The sacrifice occurs on Mount Moriah (Genesis 22:2), which later becomes the site of Jerusalem, the city where Jesus would be crucified.
- **God Provides a Substitute:** Just as God provides a ram to take Isaac’s place (Genesis 22:13), Jesus becomes our substitute—“the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18–19).
- **Resurrection Hoped For:** Hebrews 11:17–19 explains that Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead, symbolizing resurrection hope. Christ’s sacrifice is fulfilled in His resurrection, confirming God’s power and provision.
- **The Promised Seed:** Galatians 3:16 identifies Jesus as the true “seed” through whom all God’s promises are realized, and Galatians 4:21–31 reminds us that our acceptance by God is based on His promise, not our works.

In these ways, the events of Genesis 22 profoundly foreshadow Christ’s sacrificial work—showcasing God’s love, provision, and faithfulness. Jesus, the ultimate Son, willingly carried the cross, became our substitute, and fulfilled God’s promise so that we might respond in faith and surrender, trusting that God’s provision is always enough.

- **Principle:** Faith is tested, but God’s provision is always enough.
- **Reflection:** Where is God inviting you to trust Him with what’s most precious to you?
- What “Isaac” in your life do you need to place on the altar, trusting God’s goodness?
- How does Jesus’ sacrifice empower you to surrender and trust God more deeply?

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## Session 6: Children of Promise

### Scripture Focus: Genesis 16; 21:8–21

**Context:** Abraham and Sarah’s struggle to trust God’s timing leads to Ishmael’s birth through Hagar, but God’s promise is fulfilled in Isaac—the child of promise.

- Abraham and Sarah faced daunting circumstances that tested their faith on multiple levels. Despite God's clear promise of a son, years passed without any sign of fulfillment, and both grew older—well beyond the age when having children seemed possible by human standards. The disappointment, social pressure, and personal longing for an heir weighed heavily on them, and Sarah's barrenness was a source of deep pain and shame in their culture. Their decision to have Abraham father a child with Hagar was born out of desperation and a struggle to reconcile God's promise with their present reality. This experience highlights how easy it is to doubt and try to take control when God's timing and methods don't align with our expectations. The challenge they faced—believing that God could do what seemed utterly impossible—mirrors our own moments of uncertainty. It calls us to ask ourselves: Are we willing to trust God's promises, even when circumstances make them appear impossible?

**New Testament Connection:** Galatians 4:21–31 (As we studied last week) contrasts living by human effort (Ishmael) with living by God’s promise (Isaac). Jesus is the true “seed” through whom all promises are fulfilled (Galatians 3:16).

**Jesus as the Promised Seed:** Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise—our hope and inheritance are secure in Him. Throughout Scripture, Jesus is identified as the “seed” through whom all the promises made to Abraham come to fruition (Galatians 3:16). The lineage of promise, which began with Isaac, finds its completion in Christ, who brings salvation to all who believe (Romans 4:13–16). In 2 Corinthians 1:20, Paul affirms that “all the promises of God find their ‘Yes’ in Him,” underscoring that Jesus is the guarantee of God’s covenant faithfulness. Furthermore, Ephesians 1:11–14 describes believers’ inheritance in Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit, assuring us that our hope is anchored in what God has accomplished through His Son. Thus, Jesus is not only the fulfillment of ancient prophecy but also the source of our present and eternal security as children of promise.

- **Principle:** God’s promises are realized by faith, not by our striving.
- **Reflection:** In what areas are you tempted to “help God out” instead of waiting on His promise?
  - **Isaiah 46:8-10 declares that God alone determines the future, fulfills His own purposes, and needs no human help to bring His plans to pass.**
  - **Job reminds us that God’s purposes need no human help—His power alone accomplishes all things (Job 9:4–12; Job 42:2).**
- How do you respond when God’s timing is different from your expectations?
- What does it mean for you to live as a “child of promise” in Christ?

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## Session 7: Blessing to the Nations — The Gospel Commission

### Scripture Focus: Genesis 12:3; 22:18

From the very beginning, God’s plan has always been bigger than one family or one nation—it reaches out to every person, everywhere. This invites us to ask: Why did God call Abraham out from among the nations? It wasn’t to create an exclusive group, set apart for their own sake. Instead, God chose Abraham so that through him, the blessing of salvation could reach all people. The story of Abraham isn’t just ancient history; it’s the starting point of a promise that includes you and me. God’s desire is to save, restore, and bless people everywhere, and He welcomes each of us into this unfolding story. As we look closer, we’ll discover how our lives are woven into God’s mission and how His love has always been meant for the whole world.

In this lesson, we’ll dig into the Scriptures to see how God’s promise to Abraham comes alive in the life of Jesus and continues through us today. Together, we’ll explore what it means to be a “child of promise” and how faith in Jesus calls us to share His blessing with others. Get ready to see how the Bible’s story is not only about what happened in the past, but about what God is doing now—through you, and through everyone who follows Him.

**As a “child of promise,” you’re blessed to be a blessing and to share it with the world.**

**This is the message we want to grasp in the study.**

**JESUS AND THE GREAT COMMISSION:** Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham, bringing salvation and blessing to all nations—and He calls His followers to share this good news with everyone.

- **God’s original promise was global:** Long ago, God told Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his descendants. (See Genesis 12:3; 22:18)
- **Jesus connects directly to Abraham’s promise:** The New Testament traces Jesus’ family line back to Abraham, showing that He is the one who brings God’s blessing to the world. (See Matthew 1:1)
- **The gospel was announced ahead of time:** Paul explains that God’s plan to bless all nations through Abraham was actually the gospel in advance. (See Galatians 3:7-9, Romans 4:11,12)
- **Jesus gives the Great Commission:** Before leaving earth, Jesus told His followers to go and make disciples of all nations. This is God’s invitation for everyone to join His family. (See Matthew 28:18–20)
- **The blessing is for every people group:** Peter reminds us that the promise to Abraham reaches all families of the earth. (See Acts 3:25)
- **The picture is fulfilled in heaven:** The Bible ends with a vision of people from every nation, tribe, and language worshipping God together. (See Revelation 5:9,10; 7:9,10)
- **Our response:** If you follow Jesus, you are part of this story—invited to share God’s love and blessing with everyone, everywhere.

## LET'S APPLY THIS TO US TODAY:

**Principle:** Faith in Jesus moves us outward—to be a blessing to others.

- **Thought:** The biblical **“church”** is the Greek **ekklesia**, meaning **“called-out assembly.”** It’s not a building but a group of believers chosen by God, called to live for Him. The church’s mission is to reflect God’s light, declare His praises, and share the gospel with the world. In short, the church is God’s people, set apart to show Christ’s love and purpose.
- **Prompt:** Look up **1 Peter 2:9** to discover more insight into the calling and purpose of the church. After reading, what stands out to you about what it means to be called “out of darkness into His marvelous light”? How might you declare His praises and reflect His love in your life?
- **Reflection:** How is God calling you to participate in His mission of blessing the nations?
- Who in your life or community needs to experience God’s blessing through you this week?
- How does knowing God’s global purpose in Christ inspire you to live and share the Good News?

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## Summary Chart

| Session | Theme                   | Genesis Passage               | NT Connection                          | Christ Connection            |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1       | The Call of Abraham     | Genesis 12:1–9                | Hebrews 11:8–10;<br>Luke 9:23          | Jesus calls us to new life   |
| 2       | Worship & Pilgrimage    | Genesis 12:7–8;<br>13:3–4, 18 | 1 Peter 2:11;<br>Matthew 8:20          | Jesus—the true pilgrim       |
| 3       | Righteousness by Faith  | Genesis 15:1–6                | Romans 4:1–5;<br>Galatians 3:6–9       | Jesus—our righteousness      |
| 4       | Covenant & Promise      | Genesis 17:1–14               | Luke 22:20; 2<br>Corinthians 3:6       | Jesus—the new covenant       |
| 5       | Tested Faith            | Genesis 22:1–18               | Hebrews 11:17–<br>19; John 1:29        | Jesus—the ultimate sacrifice |
| 6       | Children of Promise     | Genesis 16; 21:8–<br>21       | Galatians 4:21–<br>31; 3:16            | Jesus—the promised seed      |
| 7       | Blessing to the Nations | Genesis 12:3;<br>22:18        | Galatians 3:8;<br>Matthew 28:18–<br>20 | Jesus—the blessing for all   |

## Conclusion

Abraham's faith journey is a living invitation to trust God's promises, worship as pilgrims, and walk in the righteousness that comes by faith in Jesus. Through his story, we see that every step of obedience and every act of faith points us to Christ—the fulfillment of all God's Word and the true source of blessing to the nations. By following Abraham's example, we are encouraged not only to deepen our love for God and strengthen our faith, but also to live boldly for Jesus, carrying His Good News into our world and shining His light wherever we go. As we reflect on this study, may we be inspired to embrace God's calling, rely on His provision, and confidently share the hope we have in Christ with others.

### Further Study Suggestions:

- Read Romans 4 and Galatians 3–4 for more on Abraham and the gospel.
- Explore Hebrews 11 for a broader look at faith's legacy.
- Pray through the Psalms (e.g., Psalm 84) as a pilgrim seeking God's presence.

Go in faith, trusting the God who calls, provides, and fulfills every promise in Jesus Christ!