



Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### 3. ABRAHAM [Don't try to cover all the questions!]

The 'Risk Takers' series is about the pioneer spirit that needs to be the heartbeat of normal Christian living.

Abraham is a towering man of faith from whom we can learn some powerful lessons on being a risk taker. He refused to quit and walk away from the promises of God.

The Sunday morning message focused on the **initial call of Abraham in Genesis 12.**

- **The place of encounter, 12.1** There is risk involved in encountering God because you don't know what he is going to say or do! Acts 7.2 *the Lord of glory appeared to our father Abraham*. He had a radical life changing encounter with God. Try to imagine what it would have been like.
- **The place of openness, 12.2-3.** This is where God says to him to *leave your country...and go to the land I will show you*. Abraham was told by God to leave everything behind. He was to leave his country, his family, and his material wealth behind him. Abraham was to take a risk at exercising faith, which the writer of Hebrews makes special note of in Heb. 11:8-19. The promise that Abraham would be blessed and in turn be a blessing. How do you see evidence of such blessing?
- **The place of obedience, 12.4.** *So Abraham left as the Lord told him*. In what ways have you experienced the disruption of God in your life?
- **The place of continuing trust, 12.6-9.** Abraham builds an altar that means he continues to connect with God. Gen 15 there were times when he messed up big time...fears over being in Egypt (12.14-20) and having a child by Hagar (16). The sense of trust is expressed in Rom 4.18.

Within your group consider these main principles of a risk taker and the way God instructs **Abraham to sacrifice his son on Mount Moriah** which is found in Gen 22.1-19

- **The place of encounter, 22.1.** The general consensus is that Isaac is not a young boy but a man in his early 20's. Think through what can help us hear from God in a specific way? God tested Abraham. Why does God test the authenticity of Abraham's faith?
- **The place of openness, 22.2.** God tested Abraham. *Take your son, your only son...whom you love...sacrifice him*. Is this not something that Abraham would have struggled with – sacrificing God's miraculous provision? Take your most treasured possession and give it up! Has there been an experience where God has spoken to you about letting go? Letting go can be of possessions, plans, people, projects. What was God seeking to accomplish through this test of all tests?
- **The place of obedience 22.3** *Early the next morning*. Where is the wavering and arguing with God? A two day journey would have not been an easy journey as he constantly views Mount Moriah on the horizon.

- **The place of continuing trust 22.5** *we will worship and then we will come back.*  
How can Abraham be so confident that they would return?  
Heb 11.17-19 expresses this trust.  
There is no indication that Abraham is bitter towards God. Every step he took with Isaac was a step of trust.  
Take time to reflect on all that happened with God continuing to speak and miraculously providing the offering.

**FOR YOUR OWN NOTES:**