

## Home Group Notes 1

### Abraham: the granddaddy of us all

#### Introduction

St Matthew's family tree of Jesus starts with Abraham, who lived at least 1700 years before.

1. How far back do you know in your family tree? Your earliest ancestor whose name you know? Is it remarkable that Jesus' family tree went so far back into the age before computers, books and paper?
2. Where do you look to find out about Abraham? What do you know about Abraham? True or false
  - his family were refugees from Iraq
  - he believed God's covenant promises
  - he pretended to be his wife's brother so as to minimise offence if she was sexually exploited
  - he rescued his nephew Lot from kidnap
  - when he failed to have a child with his wife, she said to sleep with her maidservant & he did
  - he pleaded for God to spare Sodom
  - he heard God saying 'sacrifice your son'
  - he always saw Isaac as his heir
3. Was Abraham a flawed character? A sinner? Would you be ashamed if he was in your family? **Read Genesis 21:8-11** Did Abraham have family problems? Is this a surprise to you? Should he have known better than to sleep with Hagar?

4. **Read Heb 11:8-19**  
Why was God not ashamed to be his God?
5. **Read Romans 4:1-5** What is it about Abraham that makes him right with God?
6. **Read Genesis 12:1-3**  
Why does God call one family to start his Old Testament people? Does family matter to God? What is impressive regarding Abraham's reaction to God's promises? Who is most impressed?
7. Are we to expect to receive these Old Covenant promises? Why or why not? In what main way are we different to Abraham in relation to God?
8. **Read John 8:31-41, 54-59**  
In which way is Jesus a descendant of Abraham? How did Jesus want others to be like Abraham's children? Are you a child of Abraham? In which way did Jesus claim to be greater than Abraham? Why did they try to stone him?

#### Prayer Points

*Thank the Lord that he understands family problems*

*Thank the Lord that he does not give up on sinful people*

*Pray for those peoples descended from Abraham who today fight over the land he was promised for his descendants*

*Pray for refugees from Syria and the efforts to relieve their grief*

*Pray for those children receiving schoolbooks in war torn South Sudan thanks to our £1,000 of Christmas giving*