

Life Group Notes Week beginning 17 March 2019 Genesis 12. 1-9
Our God who blesses us so we can be a blessing

Read the story of the call of Abraham, in Genesis 12. 1-9.

- Pause on verse 1 and reflect on the enormity of the Lord's ask. Verses 4-5 give some idea of the implications. Compare verse 8 with chapter 11. 31 and note the difference in lifestyle involved.
- Reflect on verses 2-3, and discuss how the Lord's promise came to be fulfilled. If you're doing the Bible Course, you'll have new insights about this. If you aren't, ask someone who is to share what they're learning.

In what ways can we apply this iconic story, the call of the great Patriarch of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths, to ourselves and our journey with God?

- How have we heard God's call on our lives?
- Has it meant a significant change in our location or lifestyle? (A good example from C20 is the story of Jackie Pullinger, told in her book, 'Chasing the Dragon'.)
- How obedient have we been to God's call? Abraham got it badly wrong in verses 10-20, but God didn't give up on him.
- What can we learn from Abraham's ongoing relationship with God? See Gen 12. 7, 8; 15.1; 17. 1-3, 9, 15-19; 18. 17-33; 21. 1-19
- How have we experienced God's blessing in our lives?
- In what way does God/could God use us to bless others?

Our churches' mission statement is 'Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities'. Discuss and pray about ways to do this. One might be to attend the lunch at The Octagon on Saturday 23 March.

Finally: why is Genesis 15.6 such a significant verse, within the Bible narrative, and for us today? See Romans 1. 16-17; 3. 22-24; 4. 1-3. Martin Luther's lightbulb moment when he read Romans 1. 17 was the beginning of the Reformation.

Listen to Chris Tomlin, 'Take my life'.