



Origins: The Impossible Promise (Abraham)

Date: Sunday 20th January 2019

Speakers: Aaron Smith & Becky Stamps

Key Verses: Genesis 12-17

Summary

- **The Call:**

Abraham was called by God despite his flaws to become a great nation and be blessing to the world. He trusts God despite not knowing the full plan. God calls each of us, firstly to follow Jesus then to follow what he is calling us to.

- **The Promise:**

Abraham is promised (covenant) land and offspring. God's plan prevails despite Abrahams mess. God makes the covenant with himself (15:9 onwards). Abraham was credited with righteousness. He has a wobble of doubt and impatience and with Sarah's encouragement sleeps with Hagar and Ishmael is born. God's plan doesn't change. God again promises offspring (and again in 18:10). The sign of the covenant was circumcision – a sign of those who trusted in God. Jesus calls us to circumcision of the heart – showing the world the difference Jesus makes.

- **The Plan:**

God's plan was Abraham to be blessed to be a blessing through the family line (Israel). This is what we are called to, be blessed to be a blessing. God also wants to bless us individually – he saw Hagar in her wilderness and calls her, speaks promise over her and she knows God has a plan for her. Similar for us, God even if we are in the 'wilderness'.

God has promises for us throughout the Bible (e.g. Matt 11:28-29; Isa 40:29-31; Phil 4:19; Rom 6:23; Josh 1:9)

Questions for Small Groups

- If we could relate to one Mr Man/Little Miss character who would that be and why?
- Have we heard Jesus call to follow him? What may he be calling us to? Are we in a posture of openness to take a step of faith or playing it safe?
- Are we waiting for a promise to be fulfilled? What has happened when we try to take it into our own hands?
- Abraham what seemed like an impossible dream...What's yours? What if God brought about that dream –what would change?
- Do you know God has a plan for you? Do you know what it is?

Questions for Personal Reflection

- Take time to read a book of the bible...highlight the promises you read – especially the ones you need to remember and put them somewhere you can read them regularly to remind you. (For example, post them with sticky notes or write them with lipstick on your mirror.)