

# SERMON NOTES

Sunday 5 March

sunnysidechurch

## The Greatest Story Ever Told: God's restoration project

**Bible passages: Genesis 12.1-9; Hebrews 11.1-2, 8-12**

### Introduction

- Expulsion from Garden of Eden not the end of the story
- Adam – Abraham – 2,000 years where things go from bad to worse
- Bible continues with God's restoration project

### Abraham (Genesis 12-25)

- Story of how God begins to form a new community of faith through which he brings restoration for all creation
- Abraham is the founding father of God's people and example of faith

### Lessons from Abraham's story

1. God's goodness: God's love and care for Abraham and through him for all creation
2. God's faithfulness: God promises Abraham four things and we see them coming into being
3. What faith means: Abraham is man of great faith who trusts God. He has doubts but the opposite of faith is fear not doubt

### Conclusion

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."  
C S Lewis. Faith is the lens through which we make sense of our stories and where God is in our lives.

### Some questions for discussion

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life in the past week?
2. Read Genesis 12.1-9. What do you notice about God and what do you notice about Abraham's response?
3. Read Hebrews 11.1-2, 8-12. How does the story of Abraham deepen your understanding of what faith is and is not?
4. In what ways do you think God is faithful to his promises to Abraham?
5. Rebecca talked about faith being about trust in God and that the opposite of faith is fear not doubt. Does this resonate with you?
6. How might the lens of faith affect how you see your life and the world?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11.1)

Why not spend some time thanking God for what he has done for you and asking him to help you tell your story of Jesus to someone this week?

Revd Rebecca Fardell