



#3 "Sea of Glass"

The Story Of FAITH Has A Starting Point

Historically, Three of The World's Major Faith Traditions; Islam, Christianity & Judaism All Had The Same Starting Point.

Historically Shared Beliefs Between Islam, Christianity & Judaism

- A Single God CREATED The Heavens And The Earth
- The First Created Human Was A Man Named ADAM
- Humanity REJECTED God's Moral Authority And Creation Began To Spiral Downwards

God's Dilemma:

He Could Walk Away From This Sin Infected World Or He Could Go To Work Fixing It

"Our God is an expert in dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now- in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally"
~Desmond Tutu~

- When God Began To Correct The Ills Of This World He Started With A Single Man; ABRAHAM
The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. Genesis 12:1

Promise #1 "I Will make You A Great NATION" (Genesis 12:2)

Promise #2 "I Will make Your NAME Great " (Genesis 12:2)

Promise #3 "All People On Earth Will Be BLESSED Through You" (Genesis 12:3)

"This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Genesis 15:4-5

The Statement In Which God For The Very First Time In Recorded History States The Nature Of The Relationship Between Himself And Man:

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6

- TRUST In God Results In A Right Standing With God,

The Question To Consider:

"What If The Starting Point For A Relationship With God Is Simply Trust?"

Life Group Discussion Questions

We believe that spiritual growth happens best in circles . Life groups provide a safe and encouraging environment to experience authentic Christian community, to practically love one another, and discover the life-giving truth of God's Word. <https://waipunachapel.com/church-life/life-groups>

Three major world faith traditions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity—claim the same starting point: a man named Abraham. All three agree that sin made a mess of the world and God started his clean-up operation with Abraham. God made a series of promises and Abraham's responses to those promises didn't just have implications for his personal starting point or the starting points of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. It had implications for *your* starting point as well.

1. Which of the following reflects your view? Why?
 - God accepts me based upon my birth.
 - God accepts me based upon my behavior.
 - God accepts me based upon my belief.
 - God accepts me based upon some combination of the above.
2. Have you ever taken a first step in restoring a relationship? If so, what was it like for you?
3. Do you believe adversity is part of God's plan? Why or why not?
4. When have you seen someone demonstrate great faith despite his or her circumstances?
5. What experiences have you had that have made it difficult to trust God?
6. In what area of your life is God currently calling you to trust him? What is one thing you can do this week to trust him? What can this group do to support you?

Moving Forward

When sin stranded mankind in a sea of broken glass, God had a choice: to hang an "Out of Order" sign on our mess and move on or to get involved. Because he cared, he chose to get involved. That meant he had to start somewhere. He reached out to one man, Abraham, and asked for his trust. In return for Abraham's faith, God credited him with righteousness and cleared a path for a personal relationship. He makes the same offer to each of us.

Changing Your Mind

[Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.](#) Psalm 32:1–2

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Send Questions or Feedback to shaun@waipunachapel.com