



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Chapter 2: Abraham

Listen to *The Story*

*Read **Chapter 2** of *The Story* this week.*

Read the “God’s Promise For You.” Now read **Romans 4:13-16**.

- What is the connection between faith and God’s promises?
- Why can Paul say that God’s promises, given to us in faith, are an act of God’s grace?
- How does a Romans understanding of faith change the way you think about Abraham?

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God’s story and your story connect this week.

It must have been shocking for Abram to hear God clearly call him to pack up his tents and head into the unknown.

- Can you think of something that would be as shocking in our culture today?
- God may not be asking you to move to a foreign country; but still, what might God be asking you to do that requires a response of faith?
- Why do Abraham and Sarah say, “Yes?” How do you?

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

Come up with three things you think God might be calling you to do that are outside your comfort zone. Do one of them.

Then debrief with other followers of Jesus:

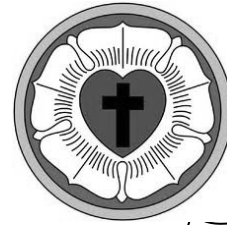
- How did it make you feel before you did it? How did it go?
- How did you feel after? Would you do it again?
- What’s your take away?

Luther's Explanation

"Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and ***I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.***' (Genesis 12:1-3, bold italics added)

Blessed to be a blessing! This theme from Genesis 12 will echo throughout God's Story in the Bible. Martin Luther said this about Genesis 12:1-3: "Indeed, the whole Bible depends on this oath of God...Whatever will be achieved in the church until the end of time, and whatever has been achieved in it until now, has been achieved and will be achieved by virtue of this promise, which endures and is in force to this day."

Israel is never permitted to live in a vacuum—it was always meant to live *with* others, *for* others, and *among* others. The same is true for the followers of Jesus Christ!



PROMISE

The whole Story points us to God's love for us in Christ. This week, cling to God's promise for you:

***"Trust Me. I won't let you down.
I'll give you faith to believe me."***

The EXTRA Mile

Visit the following site to listen to the song, "Canaan Bound" by Andrew Peterson: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aQq5wOrKk4>.

At the dinner table this week...talk about the importance of promises together

- *Do people take promises seriously?*
- *Has this changed in our society? Explain.*
- *What promises are important in your family?*
- *Which of God's promises mean the most to you and why?*

