

Abraham: Becoming A Part Of God's Story

The story behind the story:

Acts 7:1-8 & Genesis 12

God loves to work in the most **HOPELESS** and **HELPLESS** situations.

How to become a part of His story?

- The plot:** To make God's name **GREAT**, not **OURS**
- The scenes:** We will be **BLESSED** to bless **OTHERS**.
- The conflict:** A daily battle of **GOOD** vs. **EVIL**
A choice between our **SCRIPT** or **HIS**
To use our blessings for **OURSELVES**, or for **HIS KINGDOM**
- The resolution:** The Gospel = Christ gave **HIS LIFE** for mine, in order to take **MY LIFE** for Him.
- The Great Ending:** **EVIL** is defeated; **HEAVEN** is forever; **REWARDS** are given.



Life Group Study Questions

For the week of May 17, 2020

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. This past weekend we heard the story of God framed into the components of a movie. When you think of your life, or a season of your life, is there a movie, show, series, book or character that best represents your story?
2. Chris described the daily battle between GOOD vs. EVIL as something we all encounter. What are a few choices we could make daily in order to help us choose God's script over our own?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we learned how the conflict in our stories will be about making the choice between our script and God's script. After God establishes a covenant with Abraham, he and Sarah come up with their own solution to fulfill God's promise of having an heir. Read Genesis 16:1-4. In your opinion, what thought process led to their decision?

Genesis 16:1-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar;² so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said.³ So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife.⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Have you ever tried to take a promise made by God into your own hands like Abraham and Sarah did when they had a child with their maidservant?

Did you learn anything from that experience?

How might someone know the difference between trusting God's promises and taking the promise into their own hands?

If you had a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbor ask you for advice on trying to discern the difference between trusting God's promise and taking it into their own hands, what advice would you give them?

2. This weekend we reflected on the life of Abraham and the covenant made between him and God (Genesis 12:1-3). Three chapters later we see Abraham, a man with no children, struggling with the idea of God fulfilling His promise of

creating a nation through him. Read Genesis 15:1-6. Make note of God’s promise and Abraham’s response. How do you think you would have responded to God’s promise if you were in Abraham and Sarah’s position?

Genesis 15:1-6 *New International Version (NIV)*

15 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,

your very great reward.”

² But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “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.”

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

What can we learn about faith, trust and/or God’s character from Abraham and from God’s response in Genesis 15:6?

What do you think it might look like to believe and trust God’s promises when your present or future situation might seem helpless or hopeless?

3. In Genesis we were able to see how God was at work by looking through the rear-view mirror into Sarah and Abraham’s seemingly helpless and hopeless situation. Similarly, when we look through the rear-view mirror in our own lives, it can help us see where and how God has been at work. Can you think of a helpless or hopeless situation you have experienced? If so, follow the steps to use the time line below.

1. Underneath **EVENT** on the timeline below, name the helpless or hopeless season you experienced. Sometimes the season is caused by choices we make (i.e. job change, big move, ending of a relationship), and sometimes we have no control over entering the season (i.e. loss of a loved one, illness/sickness, job loss, deployment of a loved one).

2. In order to help us gain perspective on a helpless or hopeless season, sometimes looking through the rear-view mirror at things that happened before and/or after an event can be helpful.

- If it was a season that took place because of your choice(s), underneath **BEFORE EVENT** list what went into making the decision (i.e. a conversation with a friend or mentor, a prompting of the Holy Spirit, sermon or devotional, a change in your job/company, emotional mindset) **If it was out of your control, list how things in your life were going prior to when the season of helplessness/hopelessness arrived, or how your life was changed by the arrival of the season.*
- Underneath **AFTER EVENT** describe a few key insights or lessons you gained after the helpless or hopeless season (i.e. receiving a positive medical diagnosis, the eulogy of a loved one, a faith conversation with a friend or co-worker, seeing God’s provision in your current situation).

|----- **BEFORE EVENT** ----- **EVENT** ----- **AFTER EVENT** -----|

Is there anything you might be able to learn from this process that might help you in future helpless or hopeless seasons?

TAKING IT HOME

Which point from this weekend's message or Life Group study is most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RESOURCES DURING QUARANTINE: Check out these links, also available on our homepage: northcoastchurch.com.

- Need some extra help or are you looking to serve in the midst of this crisis? Visit the [COVID-19 Resources](#) page for a variety of options.
- Also, check out our [Daily Doses](#) to help encourage you while dealing with the potential health, financial and relational challenges COVID-19 may cause.
- Many of the current projects and needs change rapidly. For the most up-to-date information and ways to volunteer:

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