What have you learnt about God and people from this study?

Do you have any questions about the OT story so far?

How to remember the story so far

Try to recount what happened in today's study in your own words.

Preparation for the next study

If you have time, you can prepare for the study by reading Exodus 11 & 12 (and if you have even more time read Exodus 7-10). It is very interesting reading which will give you a better idea of next week's discussion. Unfortunately we won't have time to read these next week.

Talk Notes

Introduction

1. The Significance of the Promises

   a) Land

   b) Descendants

   c) Blessing

2. God has a Plan

3. Faith in Hard Times

Bible Study
Study 3 — Abraham and the Promise

The story so far

Try retelling the story from studies 1 and 2. This will help you remember the story as well help you learn to share with someone else.

What we missed along the way

Today's study is on the man called Abram and the promise God made to Abram. But there are many things which happened just before this. Here is a brief summary.

After the flood subsided, Noah and his family once again repopulated the world but because they carried the same sinful gene from Adam and Eve, Noah's children and children's children continued the pattern of sin. Some tried to build a tower to make a name for themselves but God stopped that plan by confusing their languages. Sometime after the incident of the Tower of Babel, God chose a man called Abram and gave him a promise that will one day solve the problem of sin.

Read Genesis 12:1-9.

What did God promise Abram?

verse 1b

verse 2a

verse 2b-3

What did Abram do in response to the promise?

Read Genesis 15:1-18; Genesis 21:1-7.

Why was God's promise a problem for Abram and what was his solution?

How did God seal his promise to Abram? (15:9-17)

What does the NT say about this story?

Read Acts 7:1-8.

According to this summary by the New Testament, why did God do what he did?

What (if anything) does it tell us about God's character?

Application

In your opinion, do you think God really fulfilled all his promises to Abram? Explain your answer.

Why do you think God took such a long time to fulfil his promises?

a) God is not serious about keeping his promises.
b) God is just forgetful.
c) God is very slow to do things.
d) The problem of sin was not so simple to solve.
e) God couldn't do a thing until Abram believed in God.
f) We don't really know why.
g) Other … please explain.

What is this story about?

a) God doesn't have a plan to solve the problem of sin so he is just trying different things and see which one works.
b) God is still committed to the world and its people. God doesn't want to destroy it completely, so he keeps choosing someone to be the person who will help solve the problem of sin.
c) God has lost interest in the world so he is just trying to do something for it but is not trying hard enough to solve the problem.
d) God still loves people even though they always sin but God is doing his best to solve this problem. God keeps choosing people whom he thinks are good enough to help him solve the problem.
e) Other … please explain.

Why did Abraham so obediently trust in God's promise?

a) Abraham easily trusts in people who offer him good things.
b) Abraham trusted in God because he was simple-minded.
c) Abraham trusted in God because God is powerful.
d) Abraham trusted in God because he had nothing to lose.