

ABRAHAM:

Introduction:

- What inspires you the most about Abraham?
 - What kind of background did he come from?
 - Where did his depth of trust come from?
 - What motivated him the most, in your opinion?
 - What surprises you about his life? His biographical details?
1. *"But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend..." Isa.41.8*
 2. *Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend. Jas.2.24*
 3. *You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago. Micah 7.20*
 4. *A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham...*
 5. *...'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is not the God of the dead but of the living Matt.22.32*
 6. *Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." Jn. 8.56*
 7. *He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. Acts 7.5*
 8. *Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. Rom.4.16*
 9. *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Rom.4.18*
 10. *Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. Gal.3.7*
 11. *The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." Gal.3.8*
 12. *So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Gal.3.9*
 13. *He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Gal.3.14*
 14. *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. Gal.3.16*

Names and titles:

1. Abram: Exalted
2. Abraham: Father of many nations Gen 17.5
3. Prophet
4. God's friend
5. God's servant
6. Father of Jesus Christ

Personal strengths:

1. Humble
2. Courageous
3. Generous
4. Devoted
5. Obedient
6. Reverent
7. Trusting
8. Worshipful
9. Caring father, loving husband

General outline of Abraham's life:

1. **The Call of Abraham** (11:27-12:9). Abraham moves from being a moon-worshipper/idolater to following the Lord. He learns to hear, believe, and act on God's voice.
2. **Sarah's Abduction** (Genesis 12:10-20 and 20:1-18). Famine strikes and they move to Egypt, where Sarah is abducted and Abraham deceives to save his own life. But God delivers Sarah and honours Abraham.
3. **Abraham Rescues His Nephew Lot** (chapters 13-14). Abraham's promise to Abraham is renewed, even though he doesn't get choice land like Lot. Lot is enslaved but he is rescued by (uncle) Abraham's private army. Abraham tithes to Melchizedek, one of his allies in the battle? -- and a type of Christ.
4. **God's Covenant with Abraham** (chapter 15). Abraham has a vision from God in which his call is renewed and the promise spelled out more clearly. Abraham's belief in the Lord is reckoned to him as righteousness.
5. **God Speaks to Hagar, Abraham's other wife** (chapter 16). Abraham has a son by Sarah's servant Hagar. When Ishmael is born, Hagar receives promises of God's blessing on Ishmael, patriarch of the Arab tribes and Islam's tie to Ibrahim (17:19-20).
6. **The Covenant of Circumcision with Abraham** (chapter 17). Abraham's and Sarah's names are changed and God's promises to them confirmed; Abraham circumcises those in his household.
7. **Abraham Intercedes for Sodom** (chapter 18). Three visitors (one is the Lord) make promises to Abraham of a son to be born to Sarah next year about this time -- though Sarah overhears it and laughs. Abraham intercedes with one of the angels for the deliverance of Sodom and Gomorrah where his nephew Lot is living.
8. **The Destruction of Sodom** (chapter 20). Here are important lessons for disciples trying to live to close to the line between righteousness and unrighteousness.
9. **Isaac Born, Ishmael Banished** (chapter 21). Isaac is born as promised. Though Hagar and Ishmael are sent away, God provides for them and renews his promise to Ishmael. Abraham moves to Beersheba and calls on the name of the Lord.
10. **Abraham Offers Isaac on Mt. Moriah** (chapter 22). Abraham takes Isaac to sacrifice him to the Lord on Mt. Moriah. God provides a sacrifice and Abraham calls him Jehovah-Jireh, the God Who Provides. God renews his promise to Abraham once again.
11. **Death of Sarah and Abraham** (22:20-25:11). Sarah dies at the age of 127 in Hebron. Abraham purchases a burial plot from Hittites at Machpelah, the only property he owns in the land God has promised to his descendents. Abraham takes another wife, Keturah, who bears him six more sons. Abraham dies at age 175 years and is buried by Isaac and Ishmael at Machpelah.

Lessons in faith from Hebrews 11

1. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though *he did not know where he was going*.
2. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For *he was looking forward to the city with foundations*, whose architect and builder is God.
3. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father *because he considered him faithful who had made the promise*. 12And so from *this one man, and he as good as dead*, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.
4. By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. *He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son*, 18even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.
5. Abraham reasoned that *God could raise the dead*, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

Conclusion:

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 16.31-33

James 2.22-24