



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Abraham – A Life and Legacy

SPEAKER Elder Leon Oei

THEME Life Lessons from Character Studies

DATE 28 & 29 August 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In this segment of the five-part series on bible characters, Elder Leon summarises the life of Abraham and tells us what it means to be a part of the Abrahamic family and future.

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

Who is Abraham?

- Mentioned 280 times in the Bible across the Pentateuch, the first four books of the New Testament, Psalms etc.
- Born in Ur, buried in Hebron
- Abram means “Exalted Father”, Abraham means “Father of a Multitude”

1) Abrahamic Faith: Flawed but Faithful

Abraham was a faithful man, yet he also had his flaws. In Genesis 12-15, we see examples of how he displayed both faith (obedience to God’s commands) and his flaws (when he decided to take matters into his own hands).

Abraham was flawed...	but faithful
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- However, despite his spiritual highs, when a famine broke out in Canaan (Gen 12:10), Abraham left for Egypt (where God did not call him to go) instead of seeking the Lord.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In Genesis 12:4, God told Abraham to leave for Canaan. Abraham listened to God and left for Canaan despite him being 75 years old and well settled in life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Abraham lied about Sarai being his sister in Gen 12:13 so that he will be treated well and his life spared by the Egyptians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Abraham was childless and was prepared for Eliezer of Damascus to inherit his estate. However, God made a covenant with Abraham and revealed to him that he will have his own flesh and blood. In Genesis 15:6, it was noted that Abraham

	believed the Lord, and it was credited to him as righteousness.
- Years have passed but Sarai was still without child. They decided to take matters into their own hands and Sarai told Abraham to lay with Hagar (Genesis 16:4).	- In Genesis 22:10, Abraham loved God more than his son, Isaac. When God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering, Abraham listened to God's commands and did not withhold his favoured son.

How can we exercise the same kind of faith like Abraham? We are reminded in 1 John 1:9 that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness = this is how we exercise this faith.

2) Abrahamic Future: "A Great Gulf Fixed"

Despite us not having Abrahamic ancestry, we are all able to look forward to an Abrahamic future with the God of Abraham. An Abrahamic future is one where we are together with God, Abraham, Isaac, and the Saints etc.

In Luke 16:19-21, Jesus told the story about the rich man and Lazarus to the Pharisees to warn them about the afterlife. He reminded them that they can only cross this "gulf" by faith in God, and it is independent of social standing or depth of Bible knowledge etc.

Despite the Pharisees knowing about the Abrahamic future, they did not view it seriously as they were more concerned with the here and now rather than the future.

The Abrahamic future, one where we can look forward to if we have faith in God is important and we need to take it seriously to ensure that our loved ones get to know God and do not end up on the other side of the gulf.

3) Abrahamic Family: Abraham our Father?

The true mark of the Abrahamic sonship is faith and not works (Galatians 3:1-2, 6-7). We are all part of the Abrahamic family, and we must act as what our Father did by honouring God and having faith.

And as Abraham's children, we ought to reflect his faith and works in our lives. How are we honouring the Abraham heritage and are we using it to bless others?

CONCLUSION

Abraham was a man of influence. The choices made by him many years ago still impact his descendants today. We, like him, also stand atop a mountain of influence and our decisions will impact those downstream. Abraham's legacy was that he believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). What kind of legacy would you like to leave behind? We must remember that our words and actions have repercussions and may affect or influence our future generations/friends/people we are mentoring.

QUESTIONS

1. Abraham was a man who loved God and followed his commands. Are we like Abraham in this aspect or do we place more importance on the things of the world (i.e. money, status etc.)? What are the things that are preventing you from following or listening to God today?

2. In Luke 16:19-21, our faith in God has allowed us to share in the Abrahamic future. What does the “Abrahamic future” mean to you and what are we doing to let our prebelieving oikos get to know Christ and to share in this future?

3. As spiritual descendants of Abraham, we are heirs of God's promised blessings to him. How does knowing this truth humble your attitude towards your own achievements? What choices (in terms of health, family, career, relationship, education) are you willing to make knowing that your descendants will reap the consequences of your actions today?