

9/13/09

"Abraham and Sarah"

Main texts: Genesis 11:27-12:5; Romans 4:1-3, 16-22

Discussion Questions:

I. Abraham and Sarah's Pilgrimage of Faith

1. What was the basis upon which God called Abraham to become "The father of faith"?
2. Discuss the hardships and difficulties of this family as God calls them from their home (Ur) to a place they had never been (Canaan). What did it elicit from them?
3. Discuss the lapses in Abraham and Sarah's faith. Might they have been growth times for them? Wavering faith is definitely not unbelief but is it sinful?
4. Why did God not consider the birth of Ishmael as confirming evidence that Abraham and Sarah were unbelievers who did not and would not trust Him? Why did He persist with them and go on to give them the promised son? What do we learn about God from this?
5. Read Hebrews 11:17-19 and discuss Abraham taking Isaac to Mt. Moriah to offer him as a sacrifice. What kind of a life does God call us to live? Do you struggle with this?
6. Discuss the truths taught in Romans 4:11. What does this say about our salvation?
7. Pastor Tom talked about the "Ordo Salutis" or the order of salvation. This is a theological concept that seeks to understand how and why a person is saved. What is necessary for a person to repent and believe? If left simply to our own devices would anyone believe? Back up from Scripture.
8. Abraham and Sarah's faith was evident in a number of ways. They believed, they hoped, they persevered, they struggled, but ultimately (Romans 4:20) they gave glory to God. How can their lives be an encouragement to you?

Questions for children:

1. Why were you born into your home and not some other home? Why do you know Jesus as your Savior and are not ignorant of Him like so many other children?

**2. How do you feel when you have to go somewhere you've never been, like a new school or class, or to join a new team?**

**3. Does God love you only when you are good? Does He still love you when you disobey? How do you know? What does the Bible say about it?**

**4. Talk about the story of Abraham and especially his faith in God. What does it mean to have faith in God? Did God love Abraham more because he had stronger faith than someone else?**

**5. Although Abraham and Sarah struggled at times they never stopped believing that God was good to them and never left them. What can you do to realize that same thing?**