



ABRAHAM

the man, the myth, the mistakes

OVERVIEW: There are 2.6 billion Christians throughout the world, 1.5 billion Muslims and 16 million Jews. That is over half the population of the entire world. And while these three major religions have fought many times, what they all hold in common is a man named Abraham. Who is he, what did he do and how did he live? That is our focus as we welcome in 2025 – *Abraham: The Man, The Myth and The Mistakes.*



Week 1 • The Call to Leave

Many people talk about having a call from God to go someplace, to take a certain job, marry a particular person, go into some ministry. Abram's call was one to leave his homeland and his family without a specific destination or purpose. It was a call to leave, trusting that God will tell him eventually when to stop and what to do. All Abram had to go on was a promise. Will it be enough? The call to leave takes much more trust and faith than a call to go. --*Genesis 12:1-9; Mark 1:16-20*

Week 2 • Full of Doubt

Abram was 75 years old when he received the call to leave and the promise that he would be the father of a great nation. After a decade and no children, his faith began to waver, questions piled up and doubt set in. With brutal honesty, Abram comes before God full of doubt. But God reassures him once again that the promises are true. Even in his doubts, Abram believed God and it was counted to him as righteous. --*Genesis 15*

Week 3 • Helping Out Poor God

How long do you wait for a prayer to be answered? Better yet, how patiently do you wait for a prayer to be answered? After over a decade of waiting for a child, Abram and Sara decide to help out poor God by using a surrogate wife to bear him a child. Their hearts were in the right place, but their plan got in the way of God's plan as they took matters into their own hands. --*Genesis 16*

Week 4 • The Sign of the Covenant

When Abram was 99 years old, almost 25 years after the promise was given to him of many descendants, doubt crept in again. While he had a son Ishmael through Hagar, it wasn't the child God promised. Once again God steps in to reassure Abram that the promises are true. God changes his name from Abram to Abraham (Father to Father of a Great Nation) & institutes the sacred sign of the covenant found in circumcision. --*Genesis 17*

Week 5 • Laughter

The book of Hebrews tells us to practice hospitality because some do so entertaining angels unaware. Sarah found herself entertaining three unusual guests that told her that she would have a child the following year. At 90 years old, Sarah burst into laughter. And because God has an amazing sense of humor, that was the name of her child: Isaac, Hebrew for laughter! --*Genesis 18:1-15; Hebrews 13:1-2; Luke 1:26-38*

Week 6 • Finally!

Finally, after 25 years of waiting, the promised son arrives, Isaac. The celebration, the praise and the joy spread throughout the family, except with Hagar and Ishmael. Tensions arise with Sarah, threats are made and in the end, a decision has to be made. --*Genesis 21:1-21*

Week 7 • The Sacrifice of Isaac

One of the most gruesome, disturbing stories in the Bible is God's command to Abraham to take his son, his only son, the one whom he loves, Isaac, and sacrifice him on an altar. After waiting decades for this promised child, why would God ask such a thing? The simple answer is to test Abraham's faith. The deeper answer is where this event took place. --*Genesis 22:1-19; John 3:16-17*



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