

Sunday January 7, 2024 - "Genesis - Abraham Week 1 - Forged Faith" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Genesis 12:1-20, Genesis 6:5, Acts 7:2b-4, Philippians 1:6, 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Genesis 1-11: origin of cosmos and humankind, Chapter 12: One branch of human family tree → Abram → Jesus
- Most heroes of our faith are broken people
 - The patriarchs had issues
 - Our heroes were a mess
- Abraham → obedience AND dis-obedience
 - He leaves his family and security which demonstrates his trust in God
 - But he doesn't fully trust that God would protect him
- Abraham's is a story of forged faith
 - He is not the same person in chapter 12 and when he is willing to sacrifice his son Isaac later on
 - He grew and changed
- Abram's deception - he took matters into his own hands and didn't trust God..father of our faith made huge errors
- His lack of obedience goes all the way back to his original call
 - Acts 7:2b-4
 - He didn't go all the way the first time...it sometimes seems like "he just did what God asked"
 - God chose Abram and he was on a journey of faith, forged over time
- We are broken and sinful people in desperate need of Jesus Christ
- God is faithful to Abram even when he is faithless
 - He is the same way to us...Philippians 1:6
 - He chose us and will bring the good work to completion...forging our faith
- When we encounter Jesus, we are called to surrender everything to him
- Fully surrendered = Determination (or will) + the forging fires of life
- God takes us through trials and fires to show where we aren't surrendered to him, where we don't trust him
- 2 Corinthians 1:8-9
- If we pray and ask God to show us where we aren't fully surrendered, he will show us...but don't be dismayed because he chose us and is with us and is forging out faith

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How does it make you feel that many of the "heroes" of our faith were broken people?
2. When was a time that you saw God be faithful even when you were faithless?
3. In what ways has God forged your faith?
4. How has God used trials and fires to show you where you weren't trusting him?
5. Where is God calling you to fully surrender to him?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[This Is Amazing Grace - Phil Wickham] - [Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts) - Shane and Shane] - [Surrounded (Fight My Battles) - Upperroom] - [Holy Forever - Bethel Music]