

## A PEOPLE OF FAITH

Tuesday Evenings in March 2020 at 7.30 3,10,17,24 and 31 March  
A series produced by John Rackley asking what it means to have faith in Christ  
at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

HANDOUT

### What does it mean to be a person of faith?

Abraham our ancestor was a person of faith who set out on a journey in response to a call, the prompting of the voice of God.

His journey of faith in God's call as its reason and direction is a prototype/model of the journey of all of us.

#### Genesis 11: 31-12:1-4a,

*Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there. <sup>32</sup> The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran. **Now the LORD said to Abram,** 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

There are settlers and there are pioneers. Some people like to stay put and some people like to be moving on. And sometimes people who were staying put find a compelling reason to move on.

The idea of life being a journey is common place but applying the word 'journey' to our faith has gained popularity and importance in recent times.

The spirituality movement describes being Christian as **a faith-journey**.

#### My Faith Story

*Faith Story is not concerned with 'the faith' i.e. articles of belief and doctrinal content, but with the style, shape or mode of functioning of a person's faith. For example what influences have caused a person to believe in a certain way, how has that 'believing' changed and is changing? It considers process and its results. Faith is a dynamic; it is a living, declining, changing, and growing human experience.*

Note: the story only becomes a faith-journey when Abram moves on by the call of God.

#### The ways word 'faith' has been used

*Belief* – giving assent, opposite is doubt

*Trust* – opposite is anxiety

*Faithfulness* – loyalty; Paul; opposite is disloyalty/idolatry.

Question:

Which of these is most commonly used to explain 'faith'?

#### The Journey of Faith

We travel as pilgrims from the little light we have  
through the darkness

into a greater light than we can imagine.

So will begin the last and greatest adventure of all  
as we are drawn into the splendour of the full light of God.

*Eddie Askew*