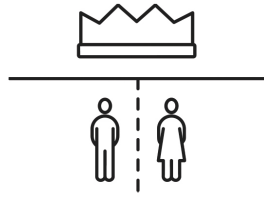
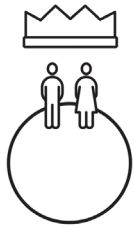


PROMISES KEPT BIBLE OVERVIEW, WEEK THREE (GENESIS 12–50)

THE STORY SO FAR...



OPENING QUESTION

What, if anything, would persuade you to move permanently away from your...

- country?
- friends?
- family?

VIDEO TALK

APPLY TIME...

1. If we have real faith, as Abraham and Sarah did, how will it show itself in our lives?

2. In Abraham and Sarah's time, land, community and family were what people looked to for security in life. What are the things people look to for security today?

SOME QUESTIONS FOR OUR HEARTS AND LIVES

What do you value most? Your possessions, family, career, comforts... or your relationship with God? If God were to call you to "leave ... and go", what would you find hardest to leave behind?

How should an attitude of promise-trusting risk-taking, joyful obedience look in your life and decisions right now?

PROMISE KEPT

Read John 8 v 31-44

1. It's 1800 years later, and Jesus is talking to members of Abraham's family. But what problem do they all have (v 34-35a)?

2. What do they need Jesus, God the Son, to do for them (v 36)?
3. What do they want to do with Jesus (v 40)? What does this show about them (v 39)?
4. How are they different to Abraham (v 40—think back to how Abraham reacted to God’s words in Genesis 12)?

The conversation continues... Read John 8 v 54-59

5. What does Jesus say Abraham did while he was still alive (v 56)?

We’ve seen that God promised that he would bring blessing to people from all over the earth through one of Abraham’s descendants (Genesis 12 v 3). This is what Abraham was rejoicing at the thought of.

6. So what claim is Jesus making for himself in John 8 v 56?
7. Who, today, are the true children of Abraham (v 39, 56)? (Galatians 3 v 29 may help you here.)
8. (If you have time...) Imagine someone said to you (or you found yourself thinking to yourself), “Of course I’m a Christian. I’ve been baptised. I was born into a Christian family. I go to church.” What does John 8 have to say to that view?

PRAY

EXTRA BIBLE TIME

We’re going to the very end of the book of Genesis. Abraham’s grandson, Jacob (also known as Israel), has just died. And he’s died in Egypt, because he and his family moved there when there was a famine. They moved there because one of his sons, Joseph, was already there, having been sold into slavery by his eleven brothers, then living as a slave and a prisoner before ending up second-in-command of the entire kingdom due to his supernatural ability to decipher dreams.

Read Genesis 50:15-25

1. What are the brothers worried about when their father dies (v 15)?
2. How does Joseph respond (v 19, 21)?
3. What is his perspective on their awful action, years before, of selling him into slavery (v 20)?
4. When it is Joseph’s turn to die, what does he make his brothers swear to do (v 25)?
5. What do verses 24-25 show us about Joseph’s attitude to the promises made to his great-grandfather Abraham?