Small Group Discussion Questions – Sermon June 6
Written with the help of Claude

Opening Prayer

Genesis 12:1-9 - 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. 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. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Romans 4 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"). Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

How do you understand Abraham as a Patriarch?

And how do you understand him as a prototype?

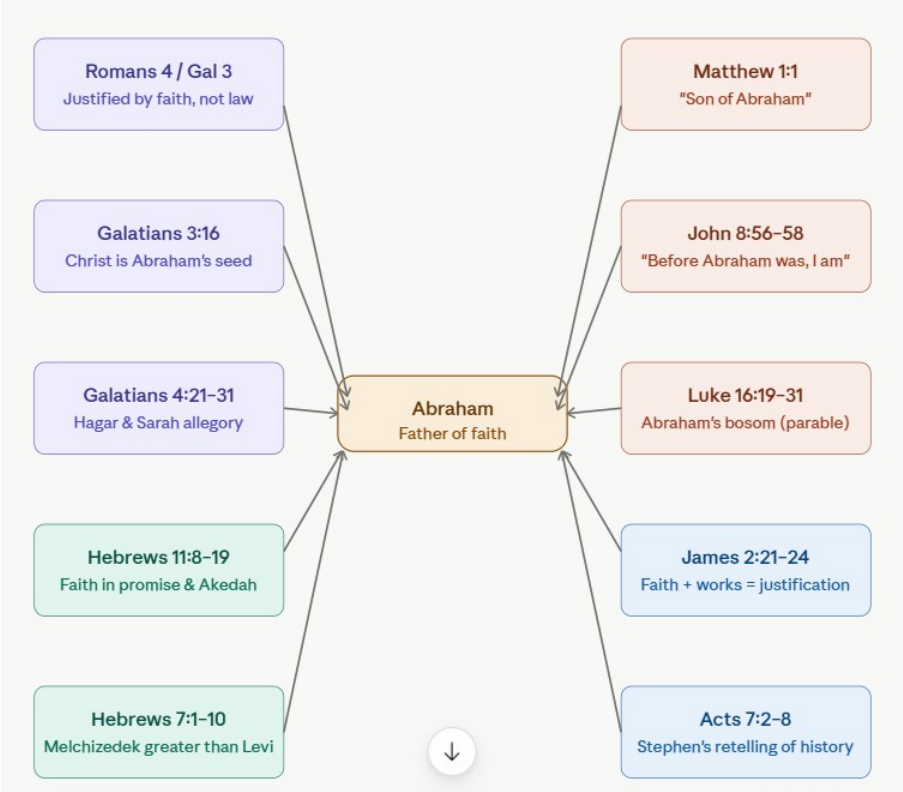
What story of Abraham is foundational to you?

In the context of the covenant and the many nations that will be blessed, do you believe that there is room for Judaiam, Christianity, and Islam? Do you believe that this is this important to God?

You can read Abraham's whole story in twelve chapters. It might be fruitful to each take a chapter for a review of key events:

Origins and the Call (Genesis 11–12)
Sojourn in Canaan and Egypt (Genesis 12–13)
The Battle of the Kings and Melchizedek (Genesis 14)
The Covenant Ceremony (Genesis 15)
Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 16)
The Three Visitors and Sodom (Genesis 18–19)
The Binding of Isaac — *Akedah* (Genesis 22)
Sarah's Death and the Cave of Machpelah (Genesis 23)

Likewise, it might be of interest to each take one New Testament passage, for a review of how the story is used an interpreted.



Closing Prayer.