**GOD’S STORY – YOUR STORY**

**SESSION 3**

**The God who Promises**

Readings

Genesis 12 Genesis 17:1-8 Genesis 21:1-14

Genesis 13:14-18 Genesis 18:1-15 Genesis 22:1-14

Genesis 15:1-6

God Chooses Abraham and Makes the 3-Fold Promise

God promises to make from Abraham a great nation

God promises to bless Abraham and his descendants.

God promises that all of the world will be blessed through Abraham and his descendants.

Promise (Covenant)

The promise comes first

The promise is unconditional

God remains faithful

Abraham’s faith in God is reckoned to him as righteousness

Abraham believes God’s promise and acts on this promise even when it seems impossible that the promise can come true ……. TRUST

Obstacles to the Promise

Family

Abram/Abraham and Abraham’s wife Sarai/Sarah

Abraham and Hagar

Isaac and Ishmael

Abraham asked to Sacrifice Isaac

God provides an animal instead.

Why does God ask this of Abraham and Isaac?

Belief – it was a message that God does not approve of human sacrifice.

Abraham trusted God.

Foreshadows what God himself did about 2000 years later.

Abraham’s relationship with God is very much like ours

God promises to be with us and guide us.

God says that we are his people, and he is our God.

He asks us to believe him.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

Matthew 1:1-17; Romans 4