

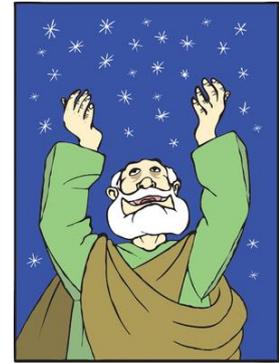
Sunday before Lent – 27th February 2022

Read Genesis 12.1-3

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Have you ever had to leave home and move somewhere different? If you had to move to a new area or a new country far away what would you take with you? What would be hardest to leave behind?

Abraham is called by God to move to a completely different area, to carve out a new future for himself and his wife Sarah in a new land. God doesn't tell him where he is going, just that he wants Abraham to come with him. Even though there is no destination for him, there is a promise of blessing. God says that Abraham, who at this time has no children, will be the father of a nation. Abraham has to leave behind all the certainties of his present life – the place he knows, his friends, his status in society – and start again in a new place. It would be hard. And Abraham was an old man!



How would you feel if that happened to you? I think that I would start asking questions and objecting – What? Just like that? Where am I going? Give me time to pack! I can't just leave my friends behind!

Abraham doesn't raise these objections. He faces the challenge. He shows great courage. He trusts God and in return is blessed and protected by God's love. Jesus challenges us too. He challenges us to leave our comfort zone and follow him. This sometimes means that we have to have courage and trust God. What plans do you think God has for you? What path will you travel? Where will God lead you?

Activities

- Look at the image of a prayer labyrinth on the next page. Many medieval churches had prayer labyrinths; they were laid out as pathways on the ground and people would pray as they walk round the paths. Unlike a maze, there are no dead ends, just one path that leads to the centre. Create a labyrinth in your room or garden. Pray at each turn in the path – where you think about the choices you have to make in your life, or where you think about the presence of God in your life. Use the prayer below as you walk around your labyrinth.
(n.b. if you have not enough space to set up your own labyrinth then just trace the path with your finger on the diagram on the next page, praying as you go.)

Prayer

Gracious God, guide me as you guided Abram,
especially when the way ahead is confusing
and I am afraid of what might lie around the corner.
Grant me perseverance and joy; courage and energy;
that I may rejoice in the knowledge that you love me,
and will never leave me to travel alone. Amen.

A Prayer Labyrinth

