

## Bible study – Blessed to be a blessing

### Think it through

1. Count your blessings! What are some good things God has given you in different areas of life?

In this study we will look at how God has chosen to bless humanity, working through his chosen people to bring good (i.e. blessings) to all peoples of the world. We look at the big picture so that we see that Christians today are part of something really big.

The words ‘blessing’ and ‘curse’ are key to understanding what God is doing. God’s creation starts off blessed (Genesis 1:22, 28; 2:3), i.e. under God’s favour. After sin enters the world is cursed (Gen 3:17). Abraham will be a key player in God’s plan to restore blessing to the world.

### Read Genesis 12:1-9

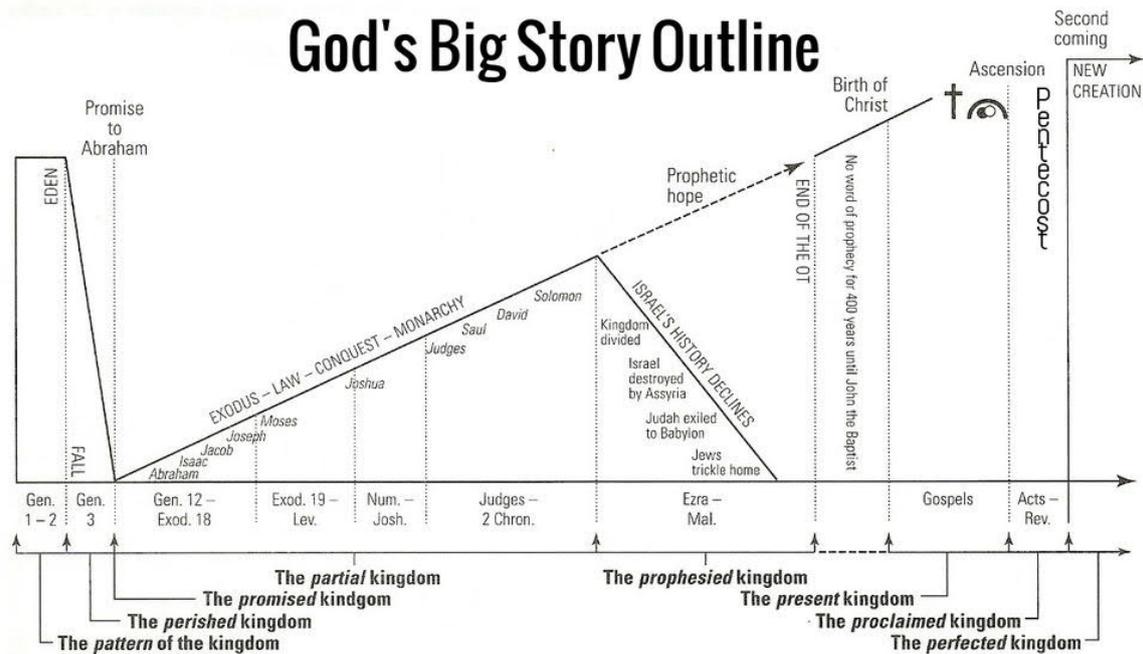
2. What does God promise to give Abraham here?
3. What does God require of Abraham (a) *before* he gives the promises, and (b) in order to receive the promises?

### Keeping the promise

4. The following are a series of passages that trace the theme of God blessing nations through Abraham and his descendants. For each one consider (a) what is God’s plan, and (b) what is required of his people for it to happen?

You may need to look at the preceding verse (or at least the headings) to get more context for these passages. You can work through these together, or split into smaller groups.

| Passage  | God’s plan | Role of God’s people | Stage in God’s plan (from diagram below) |
|--|------------|----------------------|--|
| Genesis 18:16-19<br>22:15-18                     |            |                      |  |
| Genesis 39:2-4,<br>21-23;<br>41:15-16;<br>45:1-7 |            |                      |  |
| Exodus 19:1-7<br>Deuteronomy<br>4:5-8            |            |                      |  |
| 1 Kings 3:4-15;<br>4:29-34                       |            |                      |  |
| Zechariah 8                                      |            |                      |  |



5. Summarize what you found:
  - a. What does God want for all the nations?
  - b. How will this come?

**Read Galatians 3:6-9 and 3:26-29.**

6. How do we received the blessings promised to Abraham?

**Read Titus 2:11-14**

7. How does the Gospel bless us?

**Think it through**

8. Remember the blessings you counted at the beginning. Are there any blessings you want to add to the list?
9. How can we pass on those blessings to others? Think about different 'circles' of relationships that you have (e.g. family, work, sport, neighbours).
  - a. What are you doing now?
  - b. What could you do *this week* to bless others?