

THE CALLING

CLUES OF THINGS TO COME





THE BIG THOUGHT

GOD CALLS A PEOPLE

All through history, God has been at work calling people into his friendship and making promises (covenants). He made a covenant with a man called Abram⁵ (later Abraham), then he made this man's family into a nation and helped them to understand who he is and what his plan will be by giving them his law through Moses. Then follow prophets (like Isaiah) and kings (like David) who point God's people to the future and a king like no other.



BUILD UP YOUR FAITH

ABRAHAM: He was married to Sarai⁶ (Sarah) and they couldn't have children. That was sad. But God said to Abraham, '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 make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted...' (Why not read the story in Genesis 12–13) What does this tell us about God?

ISRAEL: Later on, Abraham's descendants found themselves in Egypt. They are now called Hebrews, Israelites and later on the people of Israel. After Joseph died, the kings of Egypt treated them harshly. God heard their cries and saved them. When saving them, he told them to do a curious thing. They were to kill a lamb, and put its blood on the doorposts and lintels, God said, 'The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you' (Exodus 12:13).

⁵ Abram = Father, Abraham = Father of many.

⁶ Sarai = Princess, Sarah = Princess of many.

CRUCIAL CLARITY

- ☉ *Why do you think that blood had to be shed for God to save his people?*
- ☉ *Who might the blood be pointing to?*

THE LAW: God gave the law to teach people that he was holy and that they were not and therefore needed him – because they couldn't keep the law. How many of the ten commandments can you remember? (Check out Exodus 20 for the answers.)

PROPHETS AND KINGS: All pointed God's people forward to Jesus. Here are two of them: Isaiah was a prophet and David was a king.

- ☉ *Isaiah. Chapter 53 of Isaiah's book is amazing. Take some time and trace every clue of Jesus that you find in that chapter.*
- ☉ *David. Peter posed a puzzle at Pentecost. (Try saying that quickly!) Peter asked, 'Why did David call his son 'Lord'? (Lord = God) Do you know the answer? (Acts 2:34-35)*



BEING CONFIDENT

Someone might say, 'All religions are the same so, I won't believe in any!' But all religions aren't the same. Christians have a story that runs through all of history and points to Jesus. This should give us great confidence that this story is not made up. And – just because there are lots of religious 'options' around, it doesn't mean that all of them are equal (when they all say different things) or that one of them cannot be true. Christianity is different because the core truth of it is not about what we do but about what God has done through Jesus Christ calling us and making us his people. It's a story that makes sense. Grace is a great word. Here it means getting what we don't deserve. This is what happens when we trust in Jesus. Now that's different!⁷

⁷ And just because there are different 'kinds' of Christians; Baptists, Presbyterians etc., doesn't disprove anything. There are lots of football teams but they all play football!



WHAT WE LEARNED

- ⌚ God calls people to be his people.
- ⌚ To Abraham – God gave the promise of a people.
- ⌚ Israel – God saved his people by means of a sacrifice.
- ⌚ The law – God taught his people what he is like and their need of him.
- ⌚ Through prophets and kings (and in all of the Bible) God points his people forward to Jesus.



BIBLE CHALLENGE – MEMORISE THIS VERSE

This is God's amazing story: **'Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son'** (Hebrews 1:1-2).



PRAYER

FATHER, thank you for the story of your people in the past and that you are the God whose promises we can trust. **AMEN.**