



Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
4 March 2007

TRUST ME

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

1. Think of three people that you trust. What makes you decide to trust some people and not others?
(Past experience, knowledge of a person/character. Draw out that we have to make up our own minds whether we trust people)

Some Background: Abram was a direct descendant of Noah, and his family had continued to believe in God, and in God's covenant promise that never again would all living beings be destroyed by a flood. When Abram was 75, God spoke to him and told him to leave his home country and his relatives, and to set out for a land which God would show him. God promised to give him many descendants, and that they would become a great nation. So Abram set out from Haran with just his immediate family, and his slaves and possessions.

After much travel - and probably several years - Abram finally settled in Canaan, as God told him that this was the land which He was going to give to his descendants. After a while, Abram heard God say to him that he would give him a great reward, but Abram said to God that this would not be much use to him as he had no children. God then told Abram to go out and look at the sky, and try to count the stars; He said that Abram would have as many descendants as the stars.

Many years later, when Abram was 100 and his Sarai was a similar age, they eventually did have a son, Isaac.

2. Why did Abram need to be reminded about the promise?
(Leader's Notes: Logic told Abram it couldn't happen because of his and Sarai's age; there was no sign of anything happening; he was deeply frustrated with waiting for the promise to be fulfilled; he'd completed his part of the bargain by going to Canaan)
3. Why do we sometimes feel very close to God and sometimes very far away?
(Leader's Note: Draw out that when we feel far away is when we most need to be reminded of God's promises to us)
4. God has made lots of promises to us in the Bible. We have to make up our own minds whether we trust them.

Genesis 15, 6: "Abram put his trust in the Lord, and because of this the Lord was pleased with him and accepted him."

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