

ABRAHAM

Genesis 12 : 1 – 4

Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 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 bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.



In Genesis 12: 1 – 4, Abraham is called by God to leave his land, his family and his home and to go to the land where God would lead him. In his initial call to Abraham, God did not specify where Abraham was to go to. He called him to get up and go into the unknown. It appears that Abraham responded immediately and was accompanied on his journey by Lot, his nephew.

At the time of his call from God, Abraham received three promises from God: the promises of a land, a people and a blessing. Abraham would be a blessing to others and all the families in the world would be blessed through him.

Abraham's name means 'Father of a nation'. In Genesis 15: 1-4 we hear how Abraham is puzzled by God's promise of a nation. God begins the conversation by saying '*Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.....*' The phrase, 'Do not be afraid' is repeated many times in the Bible, and it is often spoken to Biblical characters who are called by God to do something extraordinary.

- Don't you identify with Abraham who was asked to leave his 'comfort zone' and set out into the unknown?
- What is a 'blessing'?
- What blessings have you received on your journey with God?
- How can you 'be a blessing' for other people.
- Do you have someone who is accompanying you on your journey?
- Reflect on your response to God's invitation, and listen to God as he says '*Do not be afraid, your reward will be very great*'