

# TRUST

CHAPTER THREE | *STARTING POINT*

# EVERYTHING HAS A STARTING POINT

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- Faith has a starting point – it began when we were kids
- For many, this faith got damaged along the way. The “reality of life” set in and we tried to reconcile our childhood faith with grown up realities
- What would it look like to have a restart to our faith? The big question in this series is, “Who is Jesus”?
- The story of faith has a starting point as well

# THREE FAITHS: A SINGLE STARTING POINT

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- Islam, Judaism, and Christianity share a common starting point
- All 3 agree that sin entered the world through the behavior of people: Adam and Eve
- All 3 recognize that the clean up operation began with a man: Abraham

# GOD HAD A DECISION

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Bail on our mess and move on

OR

Wade into our mess and get involved

# THREE PROMISES

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- “The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you.’” - Genesis 12:1

## PROMISE 1

*“I will make you into a great nation...”* - 12:2a

## PROMISE 2

*“...I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.”* - 12:2b

- 4,000 years later, we’ve all heard of this obscure, idol-worshiping, nomad named Abraham

# THREE PROMISES

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## PROMISE 3

*“I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.” - Genesis 12:3*

- Everyone who lives? Every people group will be better off? Muslims, Jews, and Christians would say, “YES!”
- When it comes to your personal faith journey—your starting point—something else happens with Abraham that is even more important

# ABRAHAM & YOU

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- One night Abraham prays like any of us would – “Lord, you said I’d become a great nation. Only problem is I don’t have kids...not even one and the clock is ticking! As of now, my servant Eliezer will inherit everything...so....”

*“Then the Lord said to him, ‘No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.’ 5 Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, ‘Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!’”*

**- GENESIS 15:4-5**

# ABRAHAM & YOU

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- How can we, as limited creatures, have a relationship with Almighty God? The terms of the relationship between God and man are given in this 4,000 year old text.

*“And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.” - GENESIS 15:6*

# GAME CHANGER

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- Abraham was given a right standing with God because he trusted Him
- “Righteousness” comes by faith
- Before there were Ten Commandments or any other divine law, Abraham was given the label “righteous”, because he believed

# WHAT IF TRUST IS ENOUGH?

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- As we start, restart, or return to our faith, we must wrestle with this question:

ON WHAT GROUNDS, IF ANY WILL  
GOD FIND ME ACCEPTABLE?

- Birth, Behavior, or Belief?
- What if the starting point for a relationship with God is simply trust?