

Series: In the beginning
Today's message: Abraham: Bringing Hope...Changing Lives
Genesis 13-17
Questions to Consider
Weekend of February 27 & 28, 2010

1. Read Romans 4:18-21. The writer shares about Abraham's faith. How does Abraham's faith and hope encourage you in your life?
2. How is Abraham's faith different from Lot's faith in Genesis 13?
3. In Genesis 14, Abraham found someone who knew the Lord. In verse 18, who is Melchizedek? If you could go into the mind of Abraham, what would be some of the thoughts of Abraham when he met up with Melchizedek?
4. In Genesis 15, God promises Abraham a few things. What was it that he promised? How did Abraham respond to God's promises?
5. In Genesis 16, Abraham and Sarai take things in their own hands by remembering God's promise of being the "father of many nations" and Sarai offers Hagar to Abraham. This was not God's plan for them. What are some things in our lives that we have "taken in our own hands" and found ourselves out of God's will?
6. In Genesis 17, God introduces for the third time the covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12, 15 and now in 17) and in this covenant God institutes circumcision. God institutes circumcision for three reasons: (1) Sign of obedience; (2) Sign of belonging to his covenant people. There was no turning back and it marked them to make them different; and (3) A symbol of cutting off the old life of sin. Today this is not a requirement for us but the replacement has become baptism. It is a circumcision of the heart. What do you think it means to have your heart circumcised?
7. What is the difference between the three hopes that Joe spoke about (Desperation, Optimism and God's Promise-based hope)?
8. Joe shared about the "hope killers." Do you remember what they are? How have you seen these kill hope in your life? What did you have to do to overcome these hope killers?