

SBC BULLETIN

SERMON: THE STORY OF ABRAM (6)



Pastoral goals for
ministry

PRAYER
REQUESTS

WHAT'S ON?

BIBLE READING

Welcome to Scarborough Baptist this morning! As we move into the last couple of weeks before Easter it is clear that the year is going by really quickly.

Please make a note of the Easter services:
Good Friday at 9.30am
Sunrise Service at Jackadder Lake at 6.15
Breakfast from 8.30am at church on Easter
Sunday
Easter Sunday service at 10am

Please also remember our church camp which is set for the final weekend in April. See Lyn or Linda for a camp form!

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAYS@6 - Back on again this evening

Monday morning

Bible study at 9.30 am at church

Tuesday morning

Craft Group - All welcome

Thursday morning

Mainly Music for littlies and their carers

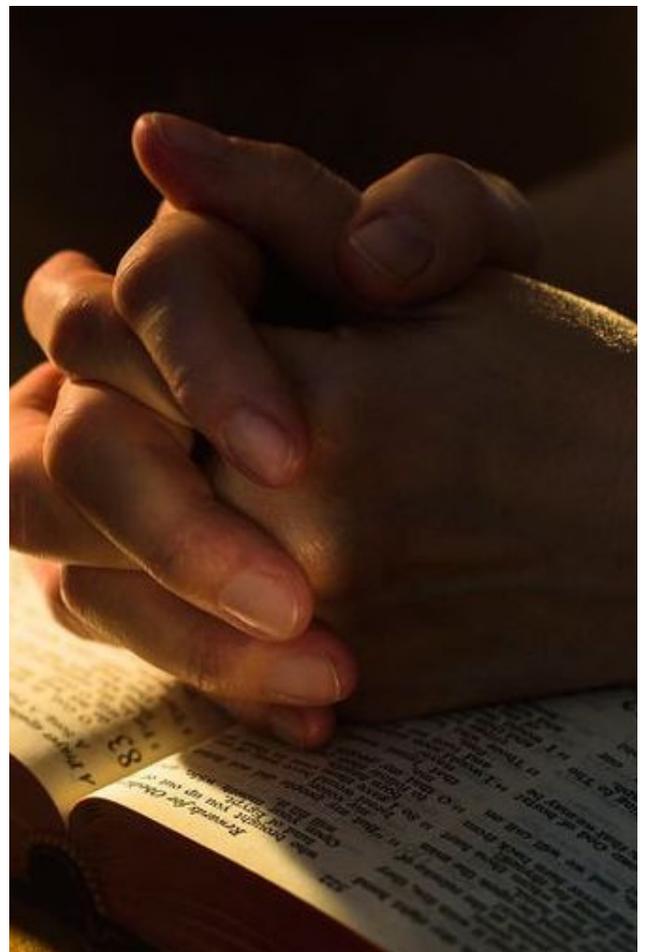
Thursday Beginners' Bible Study at 6pm at church

Bible Study at 7pm (moved from Mondays)

Mentor Programme - see Chad

A Prayer List for you

1. Praise the Lord for being here this morning to start a new week.
2. Pray for people in churches who have been disappointed by their church leaders in some or other way.
3. Pray for the leaders in our church that they will continue to live for God in all the aspects of their lives.
4. Pray for Richard Davies who is struggling with his leg.
5. Pray for the church in Moora that they find new ways to reach out to people in the area.
6. Pray for the church camp in April.
7. Pray for our children and young people being taught the gospel this morning.



I recently came across one of my first reports to the Church Council about eighteen years ago in which I set out some goals for the ministry. Most of these are still just as relevant for today with only a slight bit of tweaking.

1. Visitation programme:

- To build meaningful relationships with the congregation in a pastoral capacity through informal, formal and crisis visitation
- To offer spiritual and practical support and comfort to people in need.
- To help members deal with personal problems.
- To pray for the church

2. Small groups:

- To have five active small groups at the end of the year.
- To develop material for use in the small groups.
- To integrate the small groups with the church services.
- To have the small groups take responsibility for a number of outreach/ community service projects.

3. Preaching and teaching

- To develop a balanced preaching programme which includes material from Old and New Testaments.
- To preach across all the different styles of texts in the Bible
- To engage in critical theological and culturally relevant issues
- To balance theology and expository preaching
- To use teaching, existential and practical material in sermons.

4. Worship service

- To help members of the congregation develop meaningful services.
- To develop a “family atmosphere” in the morning service
- To develop an atmosphere of encouragement and acceptance, even of mistakes in the church.
- To cater for various music styles and tastes in the services

5. Values

- To build a strong community of faith who loves God and his Word
- To foster church unity
- To develop and maintain a set of values which are inwards, outwards and upwards focused
- To never make our church, but the Kingdom of God, the point for SBC's existence

Abram's wife Sarai had not been able to have any children. But she owned a young Egyptian slave woman named Hagar, 2 and Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has not given me any children. Sleep with my slave, and if she has a child, it will be mine." Abram agreed, 3 and Sarai gave him Hagar to be his wife. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan for ten years. 4 Later, when Hagar knew she was going to have a baby, she became proud and was hateful to Sarai.

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "It's all your fault! I gave you my slave woman, but she has been hateful to me ever since she found out she was pregnant. You have done me wrong, and you will have to answer to the Lord for this." 6 Abram said, "All right! She's your slave, and you can do whatever you want with her." But Sarai began treating Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away. 7 Hagar stopped to rest at a spring in the desert on the road to Shur. While she was there, the angel of the Lord came to her 8 and asked, "Hagar, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

She answered, "I'm running away from Sarai, my owner."

9 The angel said, "Go back to Sarai and be her slave. 10-11 I will give you a son, who will be called Ishmael,[c] because I have heard your cry for help. And later I will give you so many descendants that no one will be able to count them all. 12 But your son will live far from his relatives; he will be like a wild donkey, fighting everyone, and everyone fighting him."

13 Hagar thought, "Have I really seen God and lived to tell about it? So from then on she called him, "The God Who Sees Me." 14 That's why people call the well between Kadesh and Bered, "The Well of the Living One Who Sees Me."

15-16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar gave birth to their son, and he named him Ishmael.