

**Lessons from Torah – 37 - Genesis 25:1-18**  
**“A man not unlike us”**

1. Abraham is the center of Genesis 12-50
  - a. Father of Isaac
  - b. Grandfather of Jacob (Israel)
  - c. Model of faith for the nation of Israel
2. Genesis describes both his successes . . .
  - a. Genesis 12:1, 4 - Put God ahead of home
  - b. Genesis 12:1, 13:8-9 - Put God ahead of family
  - c. Genesis 12:6-8 - Put God ahead of other gods
  - d. Genesis 22 – Put God ahead of his own son, the embodiment of God’s promises
  - e. Genesis 17:9-11, 23-24; Romans 12:1 - Put God ahead of physical comfort
  - f. Genesis 12:8-9, 15:13-14; Hebrews 11:8-10 - Never thought of himself as a citizen of Canaan, but only as a sojourner there
  - g. Genesis 13 - Valued peace with Lot above his own economic success
  - h. Genesis 14, 18 - Rescued Lot twice
  - i. Hebrews 11:8-10 - Trusted in promises that he would never see the fulfillment of in this life
    - i. Future generations
    - ii. Nations
    - iii. The Land
3. . . . and his failures
  - a. Genesis 12:10-20; Chapter 20
    - i. Trusted in deceit to save him in Egypt and Gerar
    - ii. Put his wife at risk to save himself
  - b. Genesis 16 - Tried to “help” God keep His promises by having a son through Hagar
    - c. Genesis 17:15-18 – He disbelieved God’s promise
4. So what makes Abraham so special?
  - a. Galatians 3:6
  - b. Galatians 3:9
  - c. John 8:39
  - d. John 8:56
5. 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17, 4:9; Hebrews 12:1-3, 13:7 - Abraham is not held up as a perfect example but as one who put his faith – not in himself and his goodness but rather – in God and His Promise
  - a. James 3:2, 5:17 (“Elijah was . . . just like us”!) –
    - i. He is not a perfect model we can’t possibly live up to
    - ii. As he was able, despite his humanness and failings, to trust God – so perhaps there is hope for me, that I can trust God too
  - b. 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 - In this way, we can even become examples for others
6. Mark 10:18 - We tend to make heroes that we put on pedestals
  - a. We worship them
  - b. We follow their opinions
  - c. We even let them pull us from God and His Truth
7. Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Isaiah 8:19-22 - “No one is good but God alone” – even if a person performs miracles, but teaches contrary to God’s Word, we must not let ourselves be deceived
8. Ephesians 5:2, 1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6 - Only Jesus deserves our full allegiance and trust – and by his Spirit alive in us we CAN become more like him!