



What do you  
believe?

# ABRAM COVENANT

- God promises- I will look after you
- Abram questions- If you are looking after me I have no family
- God covenants- promises to abide with you
- Abram believes
- *'Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness' v6*
- He became someone who without knowing fully began to act on the promise

# BELIEF VS KNOWLEDGE

- Belief is something we hope (or fear) is true without having proof
- Knowledge indicates a level of confidence that the idea, is in fact, true

Belief is when you whole being is set to act as if something is so

# MORE THAN A FEELING

- An idea on which we are prepared to take action.
- *Beliefs motivate us, Shape our will*
- May be true or false
  - But nevertheless they motivate our will and by consequence our actions
- We can know something without taking any action
  - Climate change, Plastic pollution, smoking
- If we actually believe something one is prepared to act on that belief

# RELIABLE GUIDES

- When our beliefs match up to knowledge they become reliable guides for
- Often hard to work out our real beliefs- easiest to examine our actions
- EG 1
  - Forgiveness brings healing
  - Do I forgive?
  - What then do I believe
- EG 2
  - Nothing that I cannot do better without anger
  - How often am I angry?

# WHAT DOES ABRAM BELIEVE/ACT?

- God is interested in humanity and even **in his circumstances** (calls out to God)
- God is acting to shape **his future** (conversation)
- God is acting in a GOOD way, **with his best interests** at heart (argues for mercy)
- God is **reliable and trustworthy** (moves)
- Isaac sacrifice (normative action but still radical)
- Promise Isaac and Rebekah
- Doubts- maidservant Haggai,

# WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

- God is interested in humanity and even in **MY circumstances**
- God is acting to shape **MY future**
- God is acting in a GOOD way, with **MY best interests** at heart
- God is **reliable and trustworthy**

# WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

- God is interested in humanity and even in **OUR circumstances**
- God is acting to shape **OUR future**
- God is acting in a GOOD way, with **OUR best interests** at heart
- God is **reliable and trustworthy**



# ABRAM'S FAITH

- Result of
  - Encounter (meets God)
  - Conversation (engages God)
  - Action (acts differently)
  - Reflection (remembers)

**Does my life follow this pattern?**