

CONNECT WITH THE MESSAGE

The Test – Genesis 22 v1-19

- 1) In the sermon Jack showed us one of his most treasured toys from his childhood.
What was your favourite toy as a child?

- 2) Read **Genesis 22 v1-19**. What is the one thing from Jack's message that you would like to talk about? Why?

- 3) Read **James 1 v2-4**
 - a) i) Abraham had his faith tested in the way which James describes. In what ways have you noticed your faith being tested recently?
How has this effected your faith?

 - ii) Why is it important for us to persist in being steadfast in our faith when facing trials?

 - iii) How can we put into practice the instruction to "*count it all joy*" (v2)?
What does James mean?

- b) Read **Hebrews 11 v8-12 & v17-19**
 - i) What five different aspects of Abraham's faith are described in verses 8-12?

 - ii) Do these examples reflect anything of your own experience of faith?
Why or why not?

 - iii) What truth about God's promises is underlined by the story of Abraham and Isaac in v17-19?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read **Galatians 3 v1-14**

- a) Why I Abraham mentioned in this passage?
- b) What is the “*blessing given to Abraham*” which the gentiles can now share in?
- c) How does having righteousness credited to us change the way we see ourselves? Our lives? Jesus Christ?
- d) What does Paul mean by the “*curse of the law*”?
- e) Have you experienced or seen others experiencing the “curse” of living by the law? What is mean by that phrase?
- f) Which truth in v13-14 excites you most today? Why?

CONNECT IN PRAYER

Please pray for the **Alpha Meal** that is fast approaching on **Sunday 12th January**. Do think about who you could personally invite and begin to pray for the opportunity to do so. The first alpha is on Thursday 16th January.

Please pray for the **Elders and Leaders**, that they would have strength, knowledge and wisdom as we begin 2014. We are starting the year with a prayer week which will be a great opportunity to join together in prayer and to hear from God.

At the end of January a team of people are going to **Lesotho** to help with the work that Rob and Hilary are involved with. We can support them by praying for their time out there. Pray for a great time as they get involved in God's work in South Africa.

CONNECT WITH CHURCH LIFE

We are having a **Prayer Week** from **Sunday 19th – Saturday 25th**. The week will start with a prayer evening on the Sunday for everyone and there will be prayer evenings for men (Wednesday) and women (Thursday). The week will finish with a prayer breakfast on the Saturday morning. More details will follow.

Catalyst Festival: Sat 24th to Wed 28th May 2014 at Stoneleigh Park with great teaching, worship, children's work and social time. It's not too early to book!

Please pick up a leaflet for details or check out the website www.catalystnetwork.org/festival