

Prayer

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practicing the virtues of family life
and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Our Catholic faith and the teaching of the Church enable us to affirm the truth about marriage and family:

We believe that marriage is a sacred and beautiful vocation.

We believe in God our Father, who creates every person, male and female, in His image and likeness.



THE CALL, THE JOURNEY AND THE MISSION

An Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales to Reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life

The faith of Abraham and Sarah



Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

Please note: This is only part of the story. You will find further parts in the first verses of Chapters 18 and 21 of Genesis, where God promises Abraham a son and many descendants, even though he and Sarah are very old, and the promise is fulfilled.

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Questions to ponder

- What does it mean for Abram to have faith? How does Abram listen to God? How does God challenge? What does God promise? How do the family respond? What are their hopes?
- What hopes do you have for your family?
- What are the ways in which your family listen to God?
- What impossible things happen in families? In our families, how do we show our trust in God and in one another in tough times?
- What does having children, or not having children, bring to a family?
- Through this story, what can we know and believe about the promises God makes to us in our own family lives, whatever our circumstances?

Bishops’ Question

What are your joys and hopes of marriage and family life today?

Record your responses.