

Welcome to the fifth week of  
*25 Weeks of Advent.*

The stories of Advent all give us some insight as to the point and value of Jesus' life for us as a human being.

Abraham—the 'father of faith'—is a figure of Jesus who had ultimate faith in the Father. God called Abraham to leave everything. God said He would supply. What does that call mean for *you*? **How does Jesus come into your answer?** - "You will have everything you need, because I am with you!!"

The notes on the next page show that God's promise to Abraham is all about Jesus bringing the blessing to human beings that God intended in the first creation. Jesus indeed makes a **new** creation of our hearts



**Readings for your Week**

*God effectively said to Abram, 'Leave everything. I love you.' We are affluent like Abram. How hard is it to use everything for God?*

**Read Mark 10:17-25**

*Solomon desired to bring God's wisdom and blessing on his people. God blessed him with much more!*

**1 Kings 2:5-14**

## Week 5: Count the Stars (your blessings!)

**Read: Genesis 12:1-9**

Actually, it's a good practise to notice what is going on in the background of a story. Before God blesses Abram we read that his wife Sarai is barren (Genesis 11:30). God's people were not about to grow by the natural will and abilities of people. Notice also: only five chapters later (chapter 17) when Abram is 99 and God is about to do something miraculous—make him the father of nations—does Abram become Abraham. Abraham's story goes from chapter 12 to 25—why not read it all (two chapters a day)!

Remember the **seven day blessing** of God's act of creation...?

The NIV Study Bible says: God's promise to Abraham has a **seven fold structure**. 1. *I will make you a great nation* 2. *I will bless you* 3. *I will make your name great* 4. *you will be a blessing* 5. *I will bless those who bless you* 6. *whoever curses you I will curse* 7. *all peoples on earth will be blessed through you*. God's original blessing on all mankind (1:28) would be restored through the offspring of Abram. The purpose of Jesus' birth!



The seventh promise is quoted by Peter (Acts 3:25) to Jewish onlookers when he defended the healing of a crippled man. And Paul quoted the same (Galatians 3:8) to convince Gentiles (everybody else!) that they are children of Abraham, and God's children, if they simply trust, like Abraham. Have faith! Have faith! Have faith! It's a simple but powerful life!

God not only blesses us, but makes US into a blessing! He doesn't just give us His gift of love. He makes US into a gift of love for others! And remember, no matter how dark it gets, there are always millions of stars! Blessings to light our way! Jesus was born under one bright star that led people to Him—God's greatest gift, HIMSELF

