

Introduction: How central is the nations to God's plans?

1. The epic failure of God's chosen one (16:1-6)

Listen to the voice of... (16:2 cf 3:17)

Took... and gave... (16:3 cf 3:6)

2. God's extraordinary care for the nations (16:7-16)

Ishmael = "God hears"

C16 is the turning point in the Abraham narrative

11:27-32 Prologue: Genealogy of Terah

12:1-9 God's promise of blessing and calls for Abram's obedience

12:10-20 Abraham lies to Pharaoh

13:1-14:24 Abram, Lot and Sodom

15:1-21 God's covenant with Abram (Land)

16:1-15 Abraham's fall & God's care for the nations

17:1-27 God's covenant with Abraham (Offspring)


18:1- 19:38 Abraham, Lot and Sodom

20:1-21:34 Abraham lies to Abimelech, Isaac born

22:1-22:19 Abraham's passes God's test and God reiterates his promise

22:20-24 Epilogue: Genealogy of Nahor

International
focus



Application

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we find it hard to share God's heart for the nations?
2. What might it look like if we did share God's heart?
3. Spend time giving thanks to God for this truth and praying for one another