THE ADVENTURES OF ABRAHAM (sermon series)

Abraham is known in the Bible as the father of the nation of Israel. He is also described in the New Testament as the spiritual father of all who have faith in God and in Jesus Christ. His example of faith shown in obedience to God and trust in his promises is offered as an example of how we should put our trust in God and obey him. His importance is shown by the fact that the stories of incidents in his life take up nearly half of the book of Genesis.

But Abraham is far from perfect. He succumbs to fear which leads him to use deception and giving up his wife to save his skin, and he shows a lack of confidence and good judgement in family affairs.

The five incidents in our series (taken from the Lectionary, *Propers 5-9*) illustrate a man facing the challenges of life and the call of God. Abraham's story has many connections with our own.

Sunday	Bible reference	Title	Story
7 June	*Genesis 12:1-9*	The call of Abraham	God calls Abraham to go to the land of Canaan, and promises to bless him and all the earth through him.
14 June	*Gen 18:1-15; 21:1-7*	The promise of a child	God visits Abraham and promises that Sarah, who is barren, will have a child.
21 June	*Gen 21:8-21*	A troubled family	Conflict between Sarah and Hagar over their sons comes to a head.
28 June	*Gen 22:1-14*	The ultimate sacrifice	God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac, but an angel intervenes and a substitute animal is found.
5 July	*Gen 24:34-67 (abridged)*	A wife for Isaac	Abraham sends his servant back to Haran to find a wife for Isaac. God guides him to Rebekah.