

4. Faith and God's promises: Abraham

1. *Ways in which Abraham demonstrated his faith in God.*
 - *Accepted to move from Haran to Canaan.*
 - *Accepted to be circumcised in old age.*
 - *He believed to God's promises.*
 - *He accepted to sacrifice his only son to God.*
 - *He entered into a covenant with God.*
 - *He changed his name from Abram to Abraham.*
 - *He built altars for God.*
 - *He worshipped God alone.*
 - *He made sacrifices to God*

2. *Elements of covenant.*
 - *A Covenant involves two or more parties.*
 - *It should have a physical reminder.*
 - *A covenant involves an oath or a promise to fulfill an obligation.*
 - *A covenant should be sealed by shedding blood, taking an oath or signing a pact.*
 - *It should involve a witness or witnesses.*
 - *A covenant speaks out serious consequences for those who break it.*
 - *It should have a solemn ceremony.*

3. *Importance of the circumcision to Abraham and his descent ants.*
 - *It was a sign of the covenant God has with Abraham.*
 - *It was a sign of the Israelite's unity.*
 - *It was an outward sign of inner faith.*
 - *It showed the Israelites' acceptance of God as the true God and their willingness to obey Him.*
 - *It had a spiritual significance and set apart the people of God.*
 - *It was a reminder of the promises God gave to Abraham and his descendants.*
 - *It gave them a sense of belonging and identity as the chosen nation and separated them from the Gentiles.*
 - *It became a constant reminder that the Israelites needed to remain committed to the covenant.*
 - *Through the circumcision, Abraham and his descendants were expected to obey God and do what is right and pleasing to Him.*

4. *The covenant between God and Abraham*
 - i. *Abraham was told by God to bring sacrificial animals, a heifer 3 years old, a she goat 3 yrs old, a ram 3 yrs old, a turtle dove and a young pigeon*
 - ii. *God told Abraham to cut the animals into halves and arrange them opposite each other*
 - iii. *Abraham drove away the birds of prey that came onto the carcasses*
 - iv. *At sunset, Abraham fell into deep sleep and thick darkness came over him*
 - v. *Abraham was given other promises by God*
 - vi. *Smoking fire pot with flaming torch appeared and passed between the pieces of meat*

5. *Ways in which Abraham demonstrated his faith in God.*

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6. *Reasons why Abraham is referred to as father of faith*
- i. *Left his land and wealth to go to a foreign land*
 - ii. *He was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac*
 - iii. *He built an altar for God at Bethel and Shechem*
 - iv. *He accepted to make a covenant with God by offering him sacrifices of animals and birds*
 - v. *He accepted to change his name from Abram to Abraham*
 - vi. *He accepted God's command of circumcision at old age*
- He abandoned the worship of idols and worshipped Yahweh as true God*