

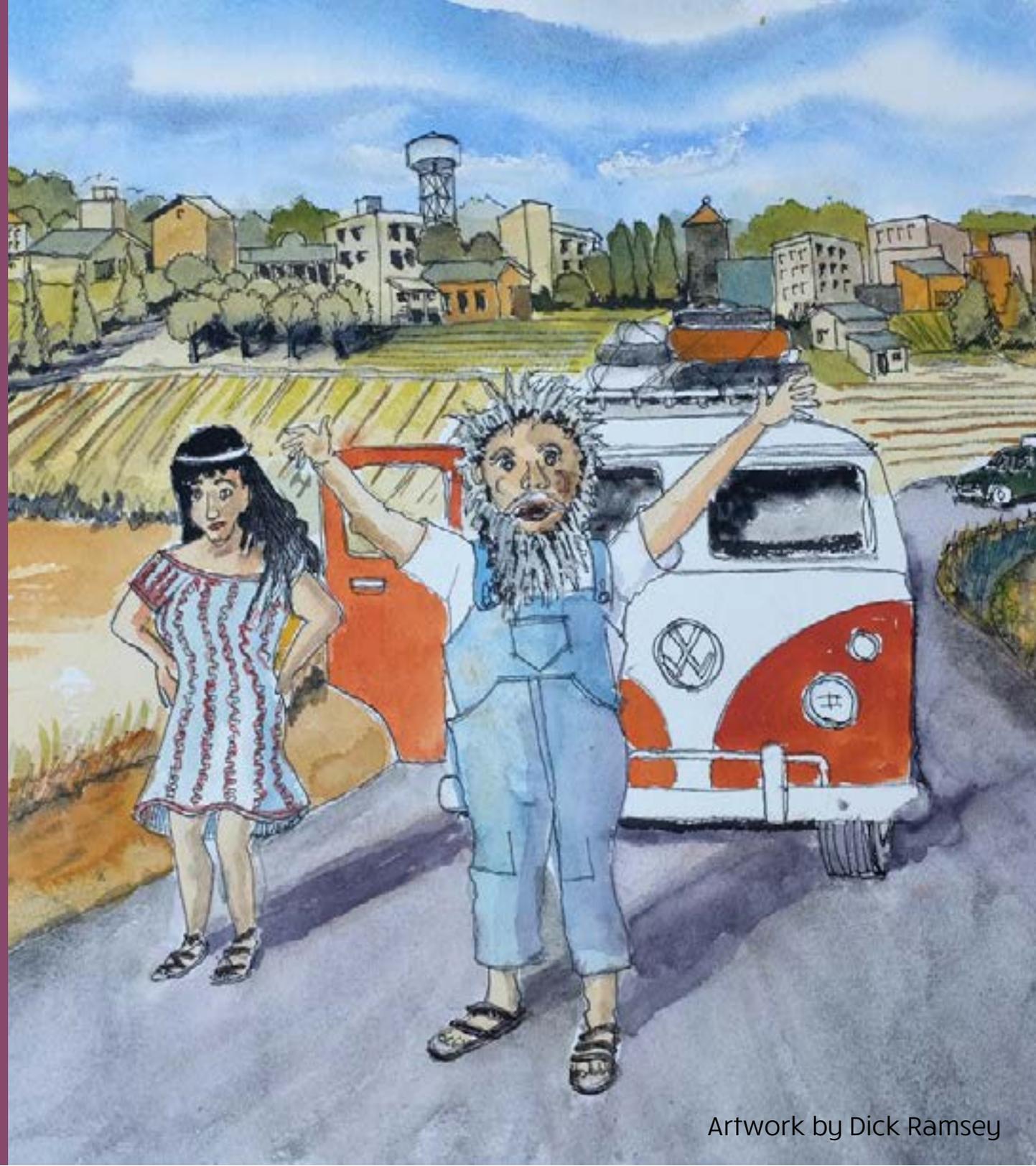
THE BIG STORY

Faith Journeys

Week of October 4

*Abraham believed the LORD;
and the LORD reckoned it to him
as righteousness.*

Genesis 15:6



Artwork by Dick Ramsey

THE BIG STORY

Legend

CARAVAN! (FOR GROUPS)

Unpacking is designed for a discussion of Sunday's message. It gives a chance to interact further with the Sunday message as a group.

Trip Planner Bible study that explores the story that we will be studying in the coming Sunday – explore the stories before Pastor Laurie preaches.

On Mission is a super important section exploring our life together as West Side family. How do we participate, in tangible ways, with God's mission to bless our neighbors and city through his people?

SOLO TRAVELERS

Day Trips gives daily readings through the story cycle that we are on.

Playlist A curated list of songs from the Psalms just for this journey.

FAMILIES

Family Vacation has videos for household adaptations.

Where are we in the BIG story?

Last week's readings and Bible study took us through Genesis and the story of Abraham's family – called and blessed by the Lord to be a blessing. This week's readings journey with the children of Israel (God's new name for Jacob who was Abraham's grandson). Moses is sent by God to rescue the Israelites from oppression in Egypt and lead them into the promise of God's covenant at Sinai.

On Mission!

When the Lord called Abraham with the promise of blessings he also called him on a mission – to be a blessing to all people. This combination of God's promises and our belief always sets on the road to God's rescue mission for the world! As a family on mission, let's talk together about what this means AND act together on mission with the Lord.

"The church is only the church when she lives for others." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Reflect: Do you generally think of "church" as the place that you go to worship and grow or as the people that God has sent to invite all the people of the world into his blessings?

Act: Identify 2 people or households that you do life with (neighbors, school friends, workmates – maybe even your barista or the people you work for). Make a plan to both pray for them and do one thing each week that blesses them.

I will bless [Sarah], and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her. – Genesis 17:16

Continued on next page

Unpacking: Faith Journey Genesis 12:1-9

Read the story: Genesis 12:1-9

What strikes you in this passage?
What stuck with you from Laurie's sermon?

Our story and the BIG story

Laurie suggested that God uses words of promise to move our story forward into the BIG story of his rescue mission in the world. Which words do you often listen to that shape your experiences? What would it look like to navigate by God's promises instead?

BIG Questions

It was Abraham's belief + God's promise that took him on mission – blessed to be a blessing to all peoples. What blessings has God given you to provide all you need to live into the mission to bless others?

THE BIG STORY

On Mission - continued from previous page

Reflect: It's easy to forget that the Lord insisted to Abraham that Sarah was fully a part of this blessing – even to forget that God also blessed Hagar and Ishmael in Genesis 21. Have you ever felt overlooked or excluded from fully participating in God's mission?

Act: Ask God to open your eyes to see who you may be overlooking or discounting as an essential person in God's mission. As God answers this prayer, ask that person about their story.

"It is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world." – Christopher Wright

Reflect: If you had just moved to West Seattle as an 'overseas missionary' and had to work out how to be a blessing in Jesus' name in this place, where would you start?

Act: Get curious about the people around you. Try a 1 minute mission question in a grocery story or at work by asking, "Hey – can I ask you a question? What do you think is the main thing just now that gets in the way of people really thriving in life? And once they answer, if there is time, ask, "Would you say it's the same answer for you?" Keep a journal of the answers – and if the person answers that 2nd question make it a prayer journal to pray for that person ...

Playlist

Psalm 105

... the covenant he made with Abraham

Psalm 25

The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them.

Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-56)

... according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:67-79)

... the oath he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Day Trips | With Moses and the Israelites!

Our stories this week pick up the thread of Abraham's descendants enslaved in Egypt as God leads them to freedom and worship at Sinai.

Monday | Exodus 1-4

Thursday | Exodus 16, 19-20, 23

Tuesday | Exodus 5-10

Friday | Exodus 32-34

Wednesday | Exodus 11-15

Saturday | Exodus 40; Lev. 16, 19

Trip Planner

Freedom Journey with Moses and the Israelites!

This week's Bible study questions can be used in a group, in your own study of the daily passages, or in a conversation with family or friends. The Bible stories prepare for the sermon theme that Laurie will preach on October 11. So much more is gained by doing a little trip planning beforehand!

Key Passages for worship October 11...

Exodus 3 // 6:1-13 // 19:1-9

Who is giving this witness (whose stories are these?)

How does this story fit the BIG story of God's rescue mission (redemption and restoration)?

What is the invitation from God to faith?

What was the response?

Family Vacation

There are so many great **BibleProject** videos about Covenant and God's mission through Moses!

The videos in the [Torah series on Exodus](#) are great overviews. This [Covenants video](#) is also helpful.