

# THE ANCIENTS

## Sarah Considered

What things stood out for you in Matt's message? How were you encouraged, how were you challenged?

Read Hebrews 11:8-12

*11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.*

Matt explained that there are two types of faith we see in Abraham and Sarah's story:

1. Faith to **Step Out**. Abraham had faith that was practical - he 'obeyed and went' and 'made his home in the promised land'. There were practical steps he could take and he took them trusting in God.
  2. Faith to **Stand Firm**. Sarah on the other hand had faith that still trusts God when there is *nothing we can do* to change an impossible situation. She was barren and very old and yet she still had faith.
- Is there a time recently that you have acted on faith in the way that Abraham did - where you *did something* because you had faith? What is the difference between having this faith that leads to action and just becoming self-reliant and doing things in our own strength?
  - Have you experienced a situation where you needed faith like Sarah; when there seems to be nothing you can do apart from trust God? Take some time to explore these examples, what did you do to get through it? What is difficult about trusting God when there is little that we can do?

Matt then went on to explore how we can grow this faith like Sarah had.

- How do we grow in faith? Is there anything we can do? Is faith just something we are born with?

Matt shared that the key to Sarah's faith is that she "considered him faithful who had made the promise".

- What do you think it means to 'consider God faithful'?
- What can we do in our day to day lives to help us remember the faithfulness of God?

Sarah's faith was mixed up with laughter and questioning God. It wasn't a complete acceptance of what God said, but it was enough for her to trust His character and His promise. God can use such simple faith and trust in Him to do remarkable things.

- How does that change our perception of faith? What does it mean for us if all that is required for God to do remarkable things is to have a tiny bit of faith?

If people in your group feel open to sharing, there will probably be several situations we are facing that seem impossible. We can help each other grow in faith by praying for one another, so take some time to pray for these situations and wait to hear what God says.