Abraham – Go, I Will Show You

Text: Genesis 12:1-9

At this week's Open Door service, we continued our *Journeys* series by exploring the story of Abraham's call in Genesis 12. Through a mixture of storytelling, visual illustrations and reflection, we considered what it means to follow God when the future is unclear and the road ahead cannot yet be seen.

The story begins with a remarkable invitation. Abraham is settled in Haran, surrounded by family, familiarity and security, when God calls him to leave everything he knows and travel to a land that God will reveal. It is striking that God does not provide detailed directions. There is no map, no timetable and no explanation of every step that lies ahead. Instead, God offers Abraham a promise.

That promise unfolds in three parts. First, God promises blessing: "I will bless you." Abraham is assured that he will not travel alone but under the care and faithfulness of God. Secondly, God promises a future that Abraham cannot yet imagine: "I will make of you a great nation." This promise seems almost impossible given Abraham's circumstances, yet it reveals a God who sees possibilities beyond human limitations. Thirdly, God declares that Abraham will become a blessing to others. God's gifts are never intended merely for personal benefit. Abraham is blessed so that blessing may flow through him to the wider world.

These promises are significant because they come before Abraham has done anything at all. Before he moves, God speaks. Before he acts, God promises. Before he demonstrates faithfulness, God demonstrates faithfulness towards him. The story reminds us that faith begins not with human achievement but with God's initiative. We respond because God has first reached out to us.

Perhaps the most remarkable verse in the passage is also one of the shortest: "So Abram went." Abraham does not receive answers to every question. He does not know exactly what lies ahead. Yet he takes the next step. As the story unfolds, Abraham will encounter challenges, uncertainty and setbacks, but he chooses to trust the God who has called him.

There is something deeply familiar about this experience. Many of us would like life to come with a map. We would prefer certainty about our future, our decisions, our health, our relationships and our work. We often want to see the whole journey before taking the first step. Yet the story of Abraham suggests that God rarely works in that way.

Instead of revealing the entire road, God often provides enough light for the next stage of the journey. The next conversation. The next act of courage. The next opportunity to serve. The next prayer. The next faithful step.

This does not mean the journey is easy. Abraham's life was not free from obstacles or moments of doubt. Yet throughout his travels one thing remained constant: the presence and faithfulness of God. Abraham may not have known where the road would lead, but he knew who had called him.

For Christians, the story ultimately points beyond Abraham himself. The promises made to Abraham become part of God's wider plan of salvation, culminating in Jesus Christ. The blessing promised to

Abraham becomes a blessing offered to all people. The God who called Abraham is the same God revealed in Jesus, who continues to walk alongside his people today.

As we reflected together during the service, we were reminded that faith is not primarily about possessing certainty. It is about trusting the God who is faithful. Abraham did not have a map, but he had a promise. For many of us, that remains a timely reminder. We may not know exactly what lies ahead, but we can trust the God who journeys with us, one step at a time.