

Creating A New Community  
"It's Time To DTR" (Define the Relationship)  
Genesis 12-22

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Four dramatic encounters Abraham had with God

1. The call to leave (12:1)

Abraham is called to leave his **old gods**

The Old Testament principle of **separation**

Abraham was a **prosperous merchant** (12:5)

2. The cutting of a Covenant

Two kinds of covenants:

- A bilateral covenant is between **two equals**
- A unilateral covenant is between a **stronger partner** and a **weaker partner**

The covenant between God and Abraham is **unilateral**

What does God get out of this covenant? **someone to bless**

God's chosen people were to be a **model community**

3. The call to hope

The problem: Abraham had no **children** (16:1)

Sarah's solution: **doing it my way**

The sign of the covenant was **circumcision**

4. A call to deeper faith (22:1)

God's call is **just a test**

God's call: "Will you **trust** me even when you don't **understand**?"

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READING PLAN:

Complete Track

Monday - Genesis 32-34; Psalm 9

Tuesday - Genesis 35-36

Wednesday - Genesis 37-39; Psalm 10

Thursday - Genesis 40-41

Friday - Genesis 42-44; Psalm 11

Weekend - Genesis 45-50; Psalm 12

Fast Track

1st Reading - Genesis 12-14; Psalm 17

2nd Reading - Genesis 15-17; 18:1-25;  
Psalm 47

3rd Reading - Genesis 21-23; 25:1-11;  
Psalm 105