

BEGINNINGS

3. Synergy in the Beginning

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Genesis 18.16-33

¹⁷Then the Lord said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?' ¹⁸Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

- **Fate:** Prayer is Pointless. Have you ever held the opinion that everything that happens is God's will, that can't really be changed? (It was just his time etc.) How does this kind of belief affect us? How does it make us feel towards God? Does it motivate us to pray?
- **Fake:** Prayer is Pious. Have you ever thought that prayer is more about changing us, rather than changing God? It sounds like a pious idea, but how does it make us feel about God and how does it make us feel about prayer?
- *Read Genesis 2.19 and 6.6.* How do these verses challenge our traditional view of God? Should we take these Scriptures at face value – that God allows human beings the ability to surprise Him and even cause Him regret and hurt? Does this change how you feel about God?
- *Genesis 18.17.* God decides to reveal His plans to Abraham. How do you think God wants to show us His plans and let us in on what He's doing? What one thing could we do to be more receptive to God's revelation for us?
- *v25. Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?* Is it right for us to plead our case before God in prayer – to even argue with Him and push back? How could prayer be more of a two way conversation between you and God?
- **Faith:** Prayer is Powerful. How do you feel about the idea that your prayers and your actions can change things? Is it something that makes you feel anxious or excited? How does it motivate you to pray and take initiative?
- Which unchurched friends/family/colleagues can you be praying for and inviting in right now? Do you really believe that God could use you to genuinely change someone's life? Do you believe you're in the driving seat?

Big Idea: 'God puts us in the driving seat so we can work with Him to fix the world. Prayer is genuinely powerful and changes things.'

Pray in smaller groups. Pray for greater faith for prayer. Pray for 1 or 2 friends that you have a heart for and want to see come to faith. Pray for opportunities this week to share something of God's love with them.