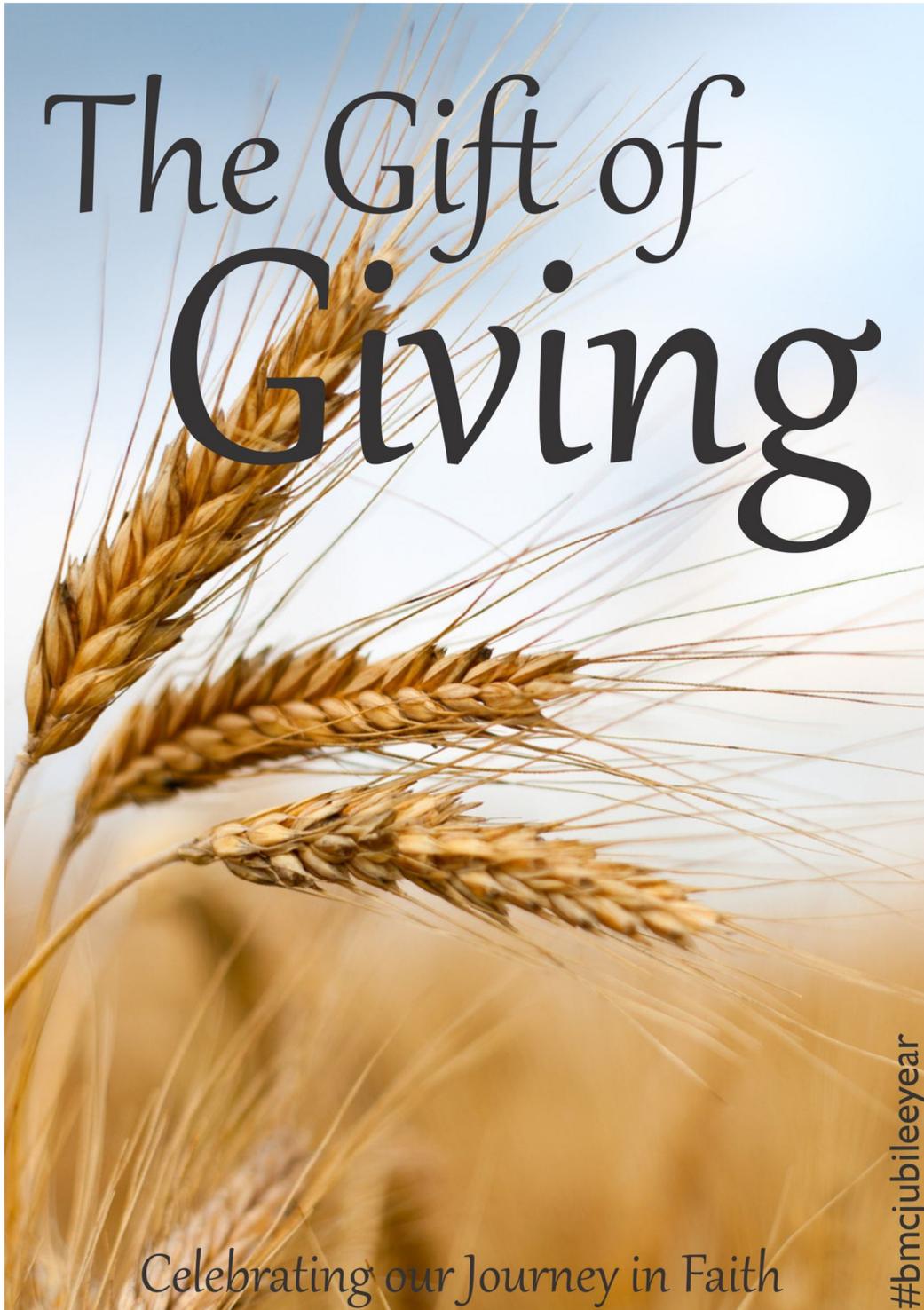




**ENCOUNTER**  
SUNDAY NIGHTS 6PM



**WEEK 1: GIVING IN THE PAST**

## **WEEK 1: Giving in the Past**

In the Old Testament the tithe was an obligatory offering requiring ten percent of an Israelite's first fruits. Because God provided the harvest, this first part was returned to Him. **It was a reminder to Israel that all things were God's, and it showed thankfulness for God's provision.** It provided for the Levitical priesthood, festivals, and the needy. **In this way giving became a significant spiritual experience – not an economic one!** We give without expecting anything in return, with a loving heart full of gratitude to God who gives and blesses us. Abram is one of the first examples of giving in response to God's blessing in the Bible.

In the same way that God called our spiritual fathers and mothers to a life of faithful trust, so God continues to call us today to walk in their footsteps. We can be inspired by the faith of Abraham to step out in our own faith in God. God promises that giving is a gift and that we can test him on this. If we respond in love to His grace he will “pour out a blessing so great that you won't have enough room to take it in”. Remember that God loved us first and He loves us unconditionally. Through His love and grace we are saved. Nothing that we do or not do will change that. God gave us minds and hearts so that we could choose Him, choose to love and choose to give. Love is a choice. Choosing to love in the church is choosing to be part of the family: sharing your time, talents and treasures in order to make the family work - giving! Giving generates such love that the whole becomes bigger than its parts and God's work gets done. We as the “parts” need to learn to live together, comfort each other, and sometimes carry each other. The Church is the bride of God, created to form spiritual families so that we can look after each other: shepherd Gods sheep. When we walk in God's will – he will bless us abundantly!

**Abraham is then remembered throughout history for his decision to trust God:**

**By faith** Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **By faith** he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. He was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. **By faith** Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man (and him as good as dead) were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. *Hebrews 11:8-12 (NRSV)*

**Read About Abraham's life in: Genesis Chapters 12-25**

## LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

- 1) Who has been your greatest hero in the past? Who inspired you to "step it up"? Why?
- 2) What specific part of Abraham's faith journey inspires you the most?
- 3) What is your legacy/imprint going to be?





## ABRAM / ABRAHAM

Abram's story plays a central role in our story of faith. Abraham was called to leave his home (everything he knew) and go to the land God promised (Genesis 12:1-4). He was 75 when he left Haran with his wife Sarai. God said He will make him a great nation, but waited another 24 years before God blessed him and Sarai with a son and he became the father of many nations. As he travelled on his life journey he encountered obstacles like we do. Sometimes by wanting things to happen in his time not God's (Genesis 16:1-4) and other times by lying to protect his family (Genesis 12:10-20). But he continued to grow in Faith: seeing God's will and blessing in his life to such an extent that he trusted God when He asked him to sacrifice his own son. He just knew that God would provide. He learnt that God keeps His promises, even if it isn't always in the way we expect Him to. When we live in God's will we take our place in history, blossoming into the person He created us to be.

### **BMC YOUNG ADULTS**

ENCOUNTER (Sunday Nights)

Contact Stanford January on 011 463-2333

**EMAIL:** [stanfordj@bmc.org.za](mailto:stanfordj@bmc.org.za)

or join us on

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/bmcyoungadults](http://www.facebook.com/bmcyoungadults)

**INSTAGAM:** [bmc\\_youngadults](https://www.instagram.com/bmc_youngadults)

