

The Shape of Christian Identity
Class 1 Abraham: Faith, identifying with the way of Jesus

- Introduction to the course.
 - How do we identify ourselves?
 - What does it mean to identify ourselves as Christian: followers of Jesus Christ?
 - The people we will meet to help answer that question:
 - Abraham: Faith, identifying with the way of Jesus.
 - Ambrose: Baptism, identifying with the sacramental life of Jesus.
 - Bernard of Clairvaux: Love, identifying with the heart of Jesus.
 - Theresa of Avila: Intimacy, identifying with Jesus as a friend.
 - Peter and Paul: Martyrdom, identifying with the cross of Jesus.
 - Gregory of Nyssa: The Beatific Vision, identifying with the glory of Jesus.
- Why Abraham in a course on identifying with Jesus?
 - 1) The whole Bible points to Christ.
 - 2) Abraham's prominence highlighted in Romans 4.
- Abraham's life: three stops
 - 1) Genesis 12:1-3. The call.
 - 2) Genesis 15:1-6. A reaffirmation.
 - 3) Genesis 22. The test.

Questions for discussion:

- 1) Was there something you heard that you liked about tonight's presentation?
What was it and why?
- 2) Was there something you heard that was troubling? What was it and why?
- 3) What is intriguing for you about the life of Abraham?
- 4) What is challenging to you about Abraham's life?
- 5) How does Abraham help us in our identity in Christ?

Abraham on the timeline:



Abraham
(c. 2000 BC)

Peter & Paul
(c. 60)

Gregory Ambrose
(d. 394) (d. 397)

Bernard
(d. 1153)

Theresa
(d. 1582)

Us
(2019)

Abraham on the map:

