Living Like the First Family
Outside the Family

• Some claimed kinship with Abraham and Sarah

Yet...
They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

– John 8:39-40
Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. – John 8:56

They Rejected Good News in which Abraham Gloried
So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. – John 8:57-59

They Rejected the Savior
Lessons from the First Family...

• Faith is a difficult term for many to define
  – Helps to see it through Abraham’s eyes
What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. -- Romans 4:1-2
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- Payment for debt
  - Justified by good deeds
  - Allows for boasting
For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. (vs. 4)

(And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. – Genesis 15:6)

• He did not trust himself
  – Trusted God’s grace
Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness (vv. 4-5)

- God does not owe me
  - Faith in His grace/mercy
  - Faith that He helps me
Lessons from the First Family…

• Like Abraham…
  – Faith is seen when the situation seems hopeless
    • Are you dealing with a situation that looks hopeless?
    • Real belief and real trust are essential

True Understanding of Faith
Lessons from the First Family...

• Abraham’s faith brought to maturity by works

True Understanding of the Fruit of Faith
What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. – James 2:14; 20-24
What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. – James 2:14; 20-24
Lessons from the First Family...

• Sarah’s faith brought to maturity by works

True Understanding of the Fruit of Faith
For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands – 1 Peter 3:5
as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.
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- Intrinsic good
  - Give as we have received
  - A sacrifice to God

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. – Hebrews 13:16
as **Sarah** obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And **you** are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

- **Real test of faith**
  - Willingness to spiritually “get out of the box”
  – Sarah
  - Followed
  - Didn’t know destination
  - Left family behind
  - Gave birth at 90
Lessons from the First Family...

• Sarah’s faith brought to maturity by works
  – As she did good, we do good
  – As she was not frightened, neither are we
• We “get outside of the box”

True Understanding of the Fruit of Faith
Do I Live Like the First Family?