

Acts 7:1-16

1. Abraham and Sarah left everything behind for an unknown land at 75 because they were trusting in the promises of God. It took 25 years for them to see the promise of God begin to be fulfilled in their lives. Even then the fullness of the promise would only be realized far after they were gone.

a. What are some promises of God that you are longing for Him to fulfill at this time in your life?

b. To what degree, if any, have you seen God already fulfill this promise?

c. What does it look like for you to by faith in these promises even though they have yet to be fully realized?

2. The text says that even though Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, God was with him. One thing we learn from this is that God being with someone doesn't mean that they are protected bad things happening to them. What it does mean is that God will preserve them and give them what they need to fulfill His will for their lives.

a. What have been some of the key moments in your life when you clearly saw that God was with you?

b. What were you experiencing at that time?

c. How has that experience and God's faithfulness in that time shaped you?

3. At this time of year, like Stephen, we are faced with the challenge of making Jesus the center of a sacred institution. In his case it was the Temple and the Law. We have various examples for us, but right now it is Christmas.

a. What are some of the most meaningful ways that you have found to keep Jesus at the center of the way you celebrate Christmas?

4. Who in your life needs some extra support and encouragement this Christmas season? How can you be a blessing to them this year?