

Chat with the Children - Going Higher

- Ladder - step-ladder
 - jump this high... impossible!
 - get this high step by step...
 - got to trust the ladder that it will take your weight and won't wobble...
 - Friendship with/following Jesus
 - step by step progress in learning to trust him
 - *Pray that we will learn to follow his call, respond to his invitation to get to know him more, to trust him...*
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Introduction

- Recap context, including steps of faith Abram has taken - trusting for provision in division of the land (chapter 13), and giving honour to God in the meeting with Melchizedek (picked up in Hebrews 7)
 - covenant is for loyalty, and the benefits for Abram include a future - descendants...
 - but they aren't showing up...!
 - God seems to be around and active, Abraham is learning to trust and putting that into action...
 - but no descendants!
- *Aside on validity of questions - as long as we bring them to God...*

Step of Faith

- Promise is re-iterated, confirmed and clarified
 - a son from Abraham's own body, a **real** heir, not some kind of second best...
 - indeed, many descendants... **seen the Milky Way?**

Credited as Righteous

- Sin/holiness the underlying issue
 - gift, not won by Abram - cf Romans four

Covenant Confirmed

- Step of faith comes before the satisfactory confirmation
 - (and note Abraham will doubt again in the future!!)
- Covenants confirmed by the shedding of (life) blood
 - exactly what all the ancients would have understood by all the details is less clear...
- Lots of contemporary signs of covenants/promises (**images**)
 - finish with the Cross, confirmation of the covenant
 - will we trust with our whole lives?
 - will we respond to the invitation to go deeper with God, to orient everything around him?