

## Chat with Children: Hello, Mr God, this is...

- Where might we meet...
  - a teacher? (school, but also...)
  - a fireman? (fire station, but also...)
  - doctor? (hospital/surgery, but also...)
  - a pupil? (school, but also....)
  - a postman? (post office, delivering letters, but also...)
  - God? (church, but also...)
- *Some people are better at remembering that God doesn't just "live" in church:*
- Flashing of lightning... little girl ran in... "Mummy, mummy, God has just taken my picture!!"
- "Mummy, who made me?"..... "God"
  - "Mummy, who made you?"..... "God"
  - "Mummy, who made grandma?"..... "God"
  - thoughtful pause
  - "He's improved a lot since he made grandma!"
- Little girl manages to land a punch on her older brother, and knocks him out:
  - mum exclaims, "Katie, how could you do such a thing?"
  - Katie's proud response: "The Lord gave me strength!"
- *Thank you God that we can meet you anywhere. Help us be alert to your presence, ready to see what you are doing and eager to join in*

## Introduction: Recognition

- Are you good with names and faces?
  - collage of Helen's side of family...
  - embarrassing situations when we don't really recognise someone... person on course Helen is teaching on did theology with me at Uni! Didn't recognise...
- Abraham has taken the step of faith from Ur to Canaan. Now he's learning to recognise God's presence in the whole of life

## Recognition

- Recognition: Abraham recognised God - as he showed hospitality, acted generously and kindly
  - do we recognise God in daily life?
- Famous American leader (Bill Hybels?) in airport
  - rushing to get next flight home to his family or on to next engagement, certainly after busy period of ministry....
  - sees older couple confused in the melee... help, or walk by?....
  - does decide to help, misses his flight (real cost), yet clear sense of God being present
  - if he'd chosen to get his flight, he'd have missed God...
- (This is not the gets me off the hook God is everywhere, I can meet him as well on the golf course stuff you sometimes hear)

## Revolution

- Revolution: when God shows up, things won't be the same...
  - for Abraham and Sarah - baby on the way, Sarah's attitude to God!!
  - revolution in our priorities, in our time, in our money, in our attitude, in our purpose
  - taking us to places, relationships, experiences we would never otherwise have had
  - whether the obvious of Jayne or G&S or Amanda heading to the other side of the world
  - or more of us being part of some kind of overt Christian service, at a children's camp or in Summer Focus or Girls Brigade or whatever
  - or for all of us, into relationships and conversations or service, of sharing our faith, of experiencing God's provision...

## Growing into Maturity

- (Couldn't find a word!!)
- Revelation: of God's heart, plans, self...
- Respectful relationship: partners, somehow...

## Conclusion

- Artist's impression of the developing shape of a living covenant relationship with God embodied in the particular relationship Abraham had.
  - where is God showing up in my life? In yours?