## **Going deeper**

Genesis 12:1-7 is the beginning of the story of the people of Israel. However, the story starts small with one old man and his wife. Yet, God makes amazing promises!

#### Read Genesis 12:1-7

- 6. What does God promise Abraham in this passage?
- 7. What is big about the promises God makes to Abraham? What do you think is the 'biggest' promise?
- 8. How does Abraham respond to these promises?
- 9. How easy was it for Abraham to trust in these promises and obey God's commands?
- 10. How does Abraham's faith and story encourage us when we are feeling despondent about Christianity in our country?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...

# **Growth Teams**

# Week Beginning Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017

#### **Growth Team News**

There are three daytime Growth Teams running this year on the dates and times below. Why not try one out at the start of a new year. They are a great place to think further about the Bible's teaching, pray together and support one another. Please use the contacts below if you want to give one a try.

At present there aren't any evening Growth Teams, but we are running a three Week course on **Tuesdays - 7:30pm** in the Vicarage called, **Through the Bible**, where we are looking at how the Bible fits together.



Growing in Christ to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

# The Yeast

Matthew 13:31-35	(page	980)
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Space to take notes on the talk

The Mustard S	eed:	 
The Yeast:		 
The Parables: _		 

### **Starter question**

What small thing has had a big impact in your life?

# Responding to the talk

- 1. If you had to write a newspaper headline for this week's talk what would it be?
- 2. Read Matthew 13:31-32.
  - a. How does the growth of the mustard seed illustrate the growth of the Kingdom?
  - b. What do you think the birds refer to (cf. Ez. 31:6; Dan. 4:20-22)?
  - c. How does knowing that God grows big things from small beginnings help us?
- 3. Read Matthew 13:33
  - a. How is this parable similar to the one about the Mustard Seed and how is it different?
  - b. What is the point of such a large amount of flour?
  - c. How does this help us understand how Christians are to work to change the world?
- 4. Read Matthew 13:34-35
  - a. What does the quote from Psalm 78 suggest about the truth Jesus teaches?
  - b. Read Psalm 78:1-8. What is the hope of the Psalmist?
  - c. How does it teach us to pass on the great truths about God?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

## Applying it to our lives

- 11. You talk to a Christian friend who has been part of a Christian project that hasn't worked out. They are feeling that God has let them down. How might you counsel them?
- 12. What cautions and encouragements does this passage give about preparing church vision statements?