

**Deane Parish Church Home Groups
w/b Sunday 6th December 2015**

**God's faithfulness
Genesis 17**

"We were made for relationship with God. We were created for covenant relationships, relationships made more intimate because they are more binding"¹

Do you agree with this statement? What are the strongest relationships in your life and why?

Thinking back to the early chapters of Genesis, what has happened to the state of the relationship between God and humanity?
Are there any signs of hope?

God calls and chooses Abram out of all the people in the world. What does God promise to do in each chapter? How do they match up?

- Genesis 12:1-6
- Genesis 15 (especially v1, vv4-5, vv18-21)
- Genesis 17 (especially vv1-8)

What do you make of these promises?

The key word to describe this new relationship is "Covenant", which can be defined as *"An unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the nature of their agreement."*

What is the role of circumcision in this covenant? (Note circumcision is the cutting off of the foreskin of a penis)

What must Abraham (and his descendants after him) do to keep the covenant?

Do you think they succeeded? Why?

Is it possible for anyone to keep this covenant perfectly? Has anyone done it?

How can God be truthful to his covenant, showing justice and love?

We no longer have circumcision as a sign of our covenant, but instead have Baptism and the Lord's Supper. How do they remind us of the new and better covenant?

¹ Tim Keller, *Preaching*, p.73.