CHRIST CHURCH
CHORLEYWOOD

HOME GROUP STUDY
18th October 2026

Series: Developing our Vision – Sharing Christ … who promises blessing in our troubles

Acts 7 v1-10

7 And the high priest said, “Are these things so?” 2 And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3 and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ 4 Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. 5 Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. 6 And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them for four hundred years. 7 ‘But I will judge the nation that they serve,’ said God, ‘and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.’ 8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

9 “And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him 10 and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favour and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.

QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: have you ever worked abroad, if so what were the ups and downs?

1. WE GO
7 And the high priest said, “Are these things so?” 2 And Stephen said:
“Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3 and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’

Q1: When were you first aware of the presence of God in your life?

Q2: When God appeared to Abraham, did he ask him to do a difficult thing?

2. WE BELIEVE
4 Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. 5 Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child.

Q3: Abraham believed God's promises. Do we struggle to believe his promises?

3. WE SUFFER
6 And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them for four hundred years.

Q4: 400 years and the remained God's chosen people! Do we doubt our value to God when problems or suffering comes and seems to last a long time?

4. WE WILL BE GLORIFIED
7 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.' 8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

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Q5: Joseph's family story contains bad parenting, foolish boasting, jealousy and hatred, yet God redeems the situation with extraordinary blessings and honour for Joseph whose family is saved from death on account of his power and influence. Do any of these themes resonate with our experience?

Q6: If so, what does the story of Joseph teach us about how God works?

A PRAYER
Loving heavenly Father, Help me like Abraham to go where you send me and to believe in your promises even when human hope is lost. In what I might suffer now I thank you that like Joseph's sufferings in Egypt, this is not the end of the story, and one day, with and through your Son Jesus Christ, I shall be glorified. Thank you that you promise to bless me amidst my troubles, for the sake of your Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the power of your mighty Holy Spirit, Amen.

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