

DATE: 7/8 Dec 2024
Speaker: Mr Allen Lim
Topic: Prepared and Ready
Text: Luke 3:1-14

Advent 2024:

Living in-between

Setting the context

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”

- Malachi 3:1

Setting the context



Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

- Matt 5:5-6

The Purpose of John's Message

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

- Luke 3:4b-6.



Obstacle#1 - SIN



And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

- Luke 3:3

Obstacle#1 - SIN

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “**You brood of vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

- Luke 3:7



Obstacle#1 - SIN

But when he saw many of **the Pharisees and Sadducees** coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

- Matthew 3:7



“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

If John thought that they were genuine in their repentance:

- **It was a declaration of the immensity of their sin**
- **And yet, their repentance was efficacious, bringing forgiveness, averting wrath.**

“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

If John thought that they were not genuine in their repentance?

- **It was a declaration of the immensity of their sin**
- **No one warned them to flee**
- **It highlights a condition of spiritual blindness and hardness of heart.**

Obstacle#1 - SIN

“Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off your relish of spiritual things; in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, **that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may be in itself**”

- Suzanna Wesley



Obstacle#2 Lacking Faith in God

⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. **And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'** For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

- Luke 3:8

Obstacle#2 Lacking Faith in God

“And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’”

- **This statement tells us that some were claiming to be ‘sons of Abraham.’**
- **It also tells us that John did not agree with their claim to be ‘sons of Abraham’**

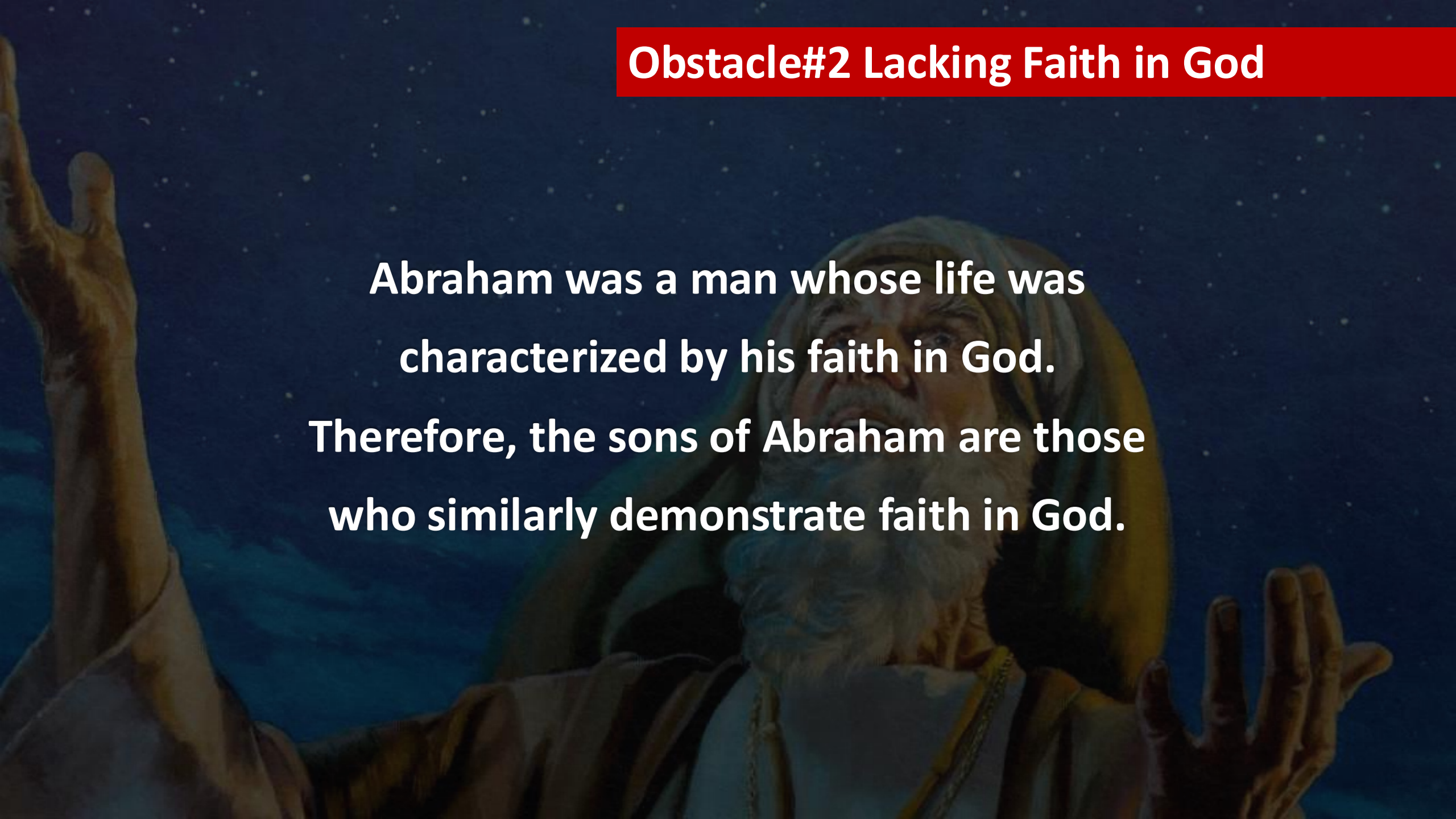
Obstacle#2 Lacking Faith in God

³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “**If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,** ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

- John 8:39-40

Obstacle#2 Lacking Faith in God

Abraham was a man whose life was characterized by his faith in God. Therefore, the sons of Abraham are those who similarly demonstrate faith in God.





**Am I aware of sin in my
life that needs to be dealt
with?**

**Am I struggling in my faith
in God?**