Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Pause Group 2019-2020
Session 21 Discussion Questions
Goldingay pp. 140-147

Highs and Lows

Genesis 12:3-6a

1. Abraham is one of the most significant figures in history - Judaism, Islam, and Christianity all trace their roots to this one man. What images, thoughts, characteristics come to mind when you think of Abraham?

2. Goldingay engages the question of whether or not Abraham actually existed. In what ways do these verses lend credibility to Abraham's existence? Are there ways that they do not lend credibility? Does it matter?

3. What does it mean that Abram will be a "means of blessing"? What does it mean for Abram to be an "embodiment of blessing"? (pg. 142)

Genesis 12:6b-10

1. God "appears" to Abram for the first time *after* he has responded to God's initial call, left home, and gone to the land of the Canaanites. What does this tell us about trust in God's plan?

2. Soon after his arrival, a famine sends Abram to Egypt where he must live is as an "alien". Why might this be significant?

Closing Prayer

Begin this time of prayer with a minute of silence, focusing on intentional breathing as you welcome the Holy Spirit, the breath of God that created you, into your body.

Great and guiding God, you call us to trust in you as we go where you would have us go. Help us to follow, knowing that we are always safe in your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.