



How to
Speak Like
God Speaks

Peter Lewis

breakthrough
Christian Church

How to Speak Like God Speaks

The First Jew

You may have heard these words: Jew, Hebrew, Israelite. Do you know what they mean?

Really, they all sort of mean the same thing. Just as you are an Australian, there are a group of people called Jews or Hebrews. The land they live in is called Israel. So they are also known as Israelites. Much of the bible is about the Jews. Can you think of any famous people who were Jews? Write down the names of people in the bible that you think were Jews.

Can you think of the name of the most famous Jew? I'll give you a clue, He is also known as the Son of God.

But where did the Jews come from? Why are they so special?

The very first Jew was a man named Abraham. Have you heard of Abraham? Actually, his name was Abram - but God changed it to Abraham (we will talk more about that later).

What was the name of the first Jew?

God gives Abraham a country

Abraham lived in a land called Ur. God told him to leave Ur and go to another land. The name of that land was Canaan (which was later called Israel). Get an atlas or globe of the earth and see if you can find the country called Israel. On pages 6-7 of the book *Maps of Bible Lands* you will see a map with the names of the towns and cities at the time when Abraham lived. Can you find the city of Ur? Can you find the city of Haran? Now can you find the land called CANAAN? Put your finger on Ur, move it to Haran and then move it down to Canaan. That is where Abraham went. This is about 1,500 km. That would be like going from Melbourne to the Gold Coast, but remember, Abraham had no car - they would have had to travel by camel all the way.

God promised that He would give Abraham the land of Canaan. That is why the land later became known as the land of Israel (the name of Abraham's grandson) and it is where all the Jews lived.

Look up these verses in the bible and draw a line to the statement which matches the verse.

Genesis 12:1	Abram lived in the land of Canaan. Lot (his nephew) lived in the Jordan valley.
Genesis 13:12	Abram was told to get up walk all through the land because God was giving it to him.
Genesis 13:14-15	God said that He was the one who brought him from the city of Ur in order to give him this land to own.
Genesis 13:17	Abram was told to leave his country and relatives and to go to the land that God would show him.
Genesis 15:7	Abram was to look north and south and east and west. God said that He would give Abram all the land that he could see.

Abraham has a problem

This was a wonderful promise that God gave Abraham. Abraham would have his very own country. But who would live in his land. Well, God said that Abraham's family would. His children and grandchildren and great-grand-children and their children would live in the land. God said that there would be thousands and thousands of Abraham's descendants and they would fill the land.

How exciting for Abraham. What a wonderful promise. His family would become a great nation. There was just one problem. Quite a big problem really. Abraham didn't have *any* children. Not only did Abraham not have any children - his wife Sarah couldn't have children. They had always wanted a baby, but sadly Sarah was not able to have one. Read Genesis 11:30.

Did God make a mistake? Why did he promise Abraham that his family would become a great nation when Abraham and Sarah couldn't have any children? Look at these promises that God gave Abraham. Match the verse with the correct statement.

Genesis 12:2	God appeared to Abraham and said, "I am going to give this land to your descendants"
Genesis 12:7	God said that Abraham would have so many descendants that they would be like the dust on the earth.
Genesis 13:16	God said, "I will make you a great nation"

How could Abraham and Sarah have a baby?

How could Abraham and Sarah have a baby? All they had to do was to believe God. They couldn't have the baby - that was impossible. But they could believe what God had told them. This is what God wanted them to do. To trust Him. He wanted them to believe the promise He gave them and obey his instructions.

When we trust God to do what He has promised and obey Him it is called faith. When we think that God won't do what He promised it and disobey it is called unbelief. Did you know that Jesus needed people to have faith before He could heal them?

Read the following verses in the bible. Does the verse say the people had faith or unbelief? Write *faith* or *unbelief* next to each verse.

Did the person/people receive a miracle? Write *miracle* or *no miracle* next to each verse.

Bible Verse	<i>Faith</i> or <i>Unbelief</i>	<i>Miracle</i> or <i>No miracle</i>
Matthew 9:22	_____	_____
Mark 6:5-6	_____	_____
Matthew 13:58	_____	_____
Mark 10:52	_____	_____
Luke 18:42	_____	_____

Read the verse below and then write out the first sentence.

Romans 4:16 "So people receive God's promise by having faith. This happens so that the promise can be a free gift. And if the promise is a free gift, then all of Abraham's children can have that promise. (NCV - Int. Children's Bible)

So people _____ by having _____ .

Abraham makes a mistake

When God told Abraham that Sarah would have a baby, Abraham believed God. (Read Genesis 15:6) God was pleased with Abraham's faith. But the baby was not born that year, or the next, or the next. In fact 24 years later Sarah still had no baby!

Even though Abraham believed God at the start, because the baby was not born straight away Abraham had times of unbelief. In fact when Abraham was almost 100 years old (and Sarah was 90) God told them again that they were going to have a baby. Do you know what they did?

Read Genesis 17:17 to see what Abraham did. He _____

Read Genesis 18:9-12 to see what Sarah (v12) did. She _____

Both Abraham and Sarah didn't do too well, did they? Sometimes you might make some mistakes when trusting God. Well, don't give up! If you will just ask God to forgive you - you can start believing again. You can then do the second thing Abraham did.

What did Abraham do after he believed?

Do you know that it is not enough to just *start* believing. You must *keep* believing! Even though it takes a long time - you must still believe what God has promised. This is called *perseverance* or *patience*.

Eventually Abraham stopped his unbelief and was strong in his faith.

Read Romans 4:18-21 and discuss the following questions with a parent.

- 1) Verse 18 says that Abraham believed God and continued hoping. What does it mean to *continue hoping*?
- 2) Verse 20 says that two things happened. 1. Abraham's faith grew stronger, and 2. Abraham gave praise to God. How can your faith grow stronger? When Abraham gave praise to God what sort of things would he have said?
- 3) Remember, Abraham did two things. He believed and persevered. If you had a very sore throat and you read in the bible that God promised to heal you. You could be like Abraham and say "God, I believe You. Thank you for healing me now. Amen". What would happen if the sore throat didn't go away straight away? What else could you do?

Memorise the following verse.

Hebrews 6:12 *Be like those who have faith and patience. They will receive what God has promised.*

Why God changed Abram's name

Do you remember that Abraham's name was Abram. God changed his name. Why would God change his name? Well to understand the answer you have to know what the two names meant. Remember, Abraham spoke another language. In their language this is what the two names meant.

Abram = Honoured Father

Abraham = Father of a very large group of people

When people said, "Hello Abram" they were really saying, "Hello Honoured Father". Remember, Abraham and Sarah still didn't have any children so this would have been very embarrassing. Now God comes to Abram and says, "I'm going to change your name". I wonder if Abraham was shocked when God said, "Now your name is going to be Abraham (Father of a large group of people)".

Why would God change Abram's name before he and Sarah had any children? Wouldn't you think it was better if God waited until after they had their baby before he changed their name?

But this is the way God works. It is also the way he wants you to work. When God gives a promise He wants us to talk about it as if we already had it.

Let us talk about an example. Have you ever been sick with a high temperature and you hear Mummy and Daddy saying "Thankyou Jesus, our boy is healed". And you think - "Hey, they're crazy. I'm not healed, I'm still sick. Can't they see that I've still got my temperature?" Well, they're not crazy. They are talking like God talks. They are saying what God's promise in the bible says ("you are healed") - rather than just saying what you are feeling ("you are sick"). As they continue to believe, the temperature leaves and you are healed.

It is not enough just to believe God's promises in your heart. You must also speak about them. That is why God told Abram to start calling himself Abraham. Every time he said his name, "Abraham", he was saying that he believed in God's promise.

God wants you to talk about yourself the way God talks about you. Draw a line from the bible verses to the right way of talking.

I John 1:9

Even though Abraham and Sarah had no children

He did not say, "I can't have children - I will never have a big family"

He did say, "I am called Abraham - a father of nations".

Jeremiah 29:11

When you make a mistake and feel like you can't do anything right.

You shouldn't say, "I'm useless. I can never do anything right"

You should say, "Jesus gives me strength, so I can do things right"

Matthew 14:16-20

When you do something wrong and ask Jesus to forgive you - but you still feel bad inside.

You shouldn't say, "I'm just a naughty boy. I'm horrible"

You should say, "Because I asked Jesus to forgive me, I am clean inside"

Genesis 17:5

If you feel like things will always be bad for you.

You shouldn't say, "Things will never be good for me. I will have a bad life"

You should say, "God has got good plans for me".

Philippians 4:13

When there were thousands of people and only five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus didn't say, "God wants to feed these people but He must have made a mistake. There is not enough food for them"

Jesus did say, "Have the people sit down and give them this food"

Memorise the following verse.

Romans 4:17 *God .. calls those things that do not exist as though they did.*

Conclusion

We have to do the three things that Abraham did. We have to believe God, not give up and we have to speak like God speaks. Write those three things here.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

This week

Every day, for the next week, write down one thing you have said during the day that is something that God has said in the bible about you.

Eg. You could say after praying in the morning, "You know Daddy, God hears our prayers". Or you if you have been disciplined you could say, "Mummy, even though I have been disciplined I know that Jesus is helping me to grow up to be a good boy".

<i>Name of the day</i>	<i>What you said.</i>