**GROUP MEMBERS**

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1. In the study of the Old Testament (OT), the term "patriarchs" refers to the key figures in the early narratives of the Hebrew Bible who are considered to be the ancestral fathers and founders of the Israelite people.

The three main patriarchs are:

**ABRAHAM**: He is regarded as the first patriarch and is known for his unwavering faith in God. Abraham's story begins in Genesis 12 when God calls him to leave his homeland and promises to make him the father of a great nation.

**ISAAC**: As the son of Abraham, Isaac is considered the second patriarch. His birth was a miracle, as his parents were advanced in age. Isaac's life revolves around the story of his binding for sacrifice by Abraham, which symbolizes his obedience and willingness to follow God's will.

**JACOB**: Jacob, also known as Israel, is the third patriarch and the son of Isaac. His story is characterized by his complex relationships and encounters. Jacob's most significant event is the night-long struggle with a divine being, after which his name is changed to Israel, meaning "one who struggles with God." Jacob’s fathers twelve sons who become the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel.

2. There are several valuable lessons that believers can learn from the life of Abraham. Here are a few key lessons:

Faith and Obedience: Abraham is renowned for his unwavering faith and obedience to God. Despite facing uncertainty and challenges, he trusted in God’s promises and followed His instructions.

Trusting in God’s Timing: Abraham and his wife Sarah faced the challenge of infertility for many years. However, in their old age, God fulfilled His promise of a son, Isaac.

Stepping into the Unknown: When God called Abraham to leave his homeland and go to an unknown land, he obeyed without knowing the details of the journey or the destination. Believers can learn from Abraham’s willingness to step into the unknown, trusting in God’s guidance and provision.

Interceding for Others: Abraham’s intercession on behalf of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18) demonstrates his compassion and concern for others. Despite the impending judgment, he pleaded for God’s mercy.

Covenant Relationship with God: Abraham’s life is marked by the covenant God established with him and his descendants. .

Hospitality and Generosity: Abraham’s welcoming of strangers and his generous hospitality (Genesis 18) serve as a lesson in kindness and generosity. It