**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Grace Despite Failures in Faith**

Epic Failure #1: The Fall of Man

Epic Failure #2: The Tower of Babel

Epic Failure #3: The Golden Calf

Epic Failure #4: Refusal to Enter the Promised Land

Epic Failure #5: Failure to teach the next generation about the Lord

3 points that help us see the amazing Grace of God despite failure

**I. The Extent of Abraham’s Failure**

A. He refuses to acknowledge that Sarah might be part of God’s Plan

**Genesis 12:11-12** - *It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.”*

B. He creates a half-truth in order to preserve his own life

**Genesis 12:13** - *Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.*

**Genesis 12:14-15** - *It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house.*

C. His plan is so bad that a pagan ruler has to rebuke him

**Genesis 12:18-19** - *Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go.”*

**II. The Extent of God’s Grace to Abraham**

A. God intervenes to rescue Sarah from Pharaoh

**Genesis 12:17** - *But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.*

B. God refuses to allow human failure to derail his plan

**Genesis 18:14** - *Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.*

C. God gives Abraham wealth and power even in the midst of failure

**Genesis 12:16, 20** - *Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels. Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.*

D. God accepts Abraham’s return to worship

**Genesis 13:1-4** - *So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him. Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.*

E. God has used the famine and the failure to bless Abraham physically and mature his faith spiritually

**III. Lessons for us concerning our Failures**

A. Epic failures are what Christ came to redeem

B. Epic failures are the pathway the growth rather than guilt

**1 Peter 1:6-7** - *In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

C. Epic failures remind us of our need for continual dependence on Christ

D. Epic failures demonstrate the faithfulness of God