***4. Faith and God’s promises: Abraham***

*1. Ways in which Abraham demonstrated his faith in God.*

* *Accepted to move from Haran to Canaan.*
* *Accepted to be circumcised in old age.*
* *He believed to God’s promises.*
* *He accepted to sacrifice his only son to God.*
* *He entered into a covenant with God.*
* *He changed his name from Abram to Abraham.*
* *He built altars for God.*
* *He worshipped God alone.*
* *- He made sacrifices to God*

*2. Elements of covenant.*

 *- A Covenant involves two or more parties.*

 *- It should have a physical reminder.*

 *- A covenant involves an oath or a promise to fulfill an obligation.*

 *- A covenant should be sealed by shedding blood, taking an oath or signing a pact.*

 *- It should involve a witness or witnesses.*

 *- A covenant speaks out serious consequences for those who break it.*

 *- It should have a solemn ceremony.*

*3. Importance of the circumcision to Abraham and his descent ants.*

 *- It was a sign of the covenant God has with Abraham.*

 *- It was a sign of the Israelite’s unity.*

 *- It was an outward sign of inner faith.*

 *- It showed the Israelites’ acceptance of God as the tru God and their willingness to obey Him.*

 *- It had a spiritual significance and set apart the people of God.*

 *- It was a reminder of the promises God gave to Abraham and his descendants.*

 *- It gave them a sense of belonging and identity as the chosen nation and separated them from the Gentiles.*

*- It became a constant reminder that the Israelites needed to remain committed to the covenant.*

*-Through the circumcision, Abraham and his descendants were expected to obey God and do what is right and pleasing to Him. (7 x 1) mks*

*4. The covenant between God and Abraham*

1. *Abraham was told by God to bring sacrificial animals, a heifer 3 years old, a she goat 3 yrs old, a ram 3 yrs old, a turtle dove and a young pigeon*
2. *God told Abraham to cut the animals into halves and arrange them opposite each other*
3. *Abraham drove away the birds of prey that came onto the carcasses*
4. *At sunset, Abraham fell into deep sleep and thick darkness came over him*
5. *Abraham was given other promises by God*
6. *Smoking fire pot with flaming torch appeared and passed between the pieces of meat*

*5. Ways in which Abraham demonstrated his faith in God.*

* *Accepted to move from Haran to Canaan.*
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* *He changed his name from Abram to Abraham.*
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* *He worshipped God alone.*
* *He made sacrifices to God.*

*6. Reasons why Abraham is referred to as father of faith*

1. *Left his land and wealth to go to a foreign land*
2. *He was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac*
3. *He built an altar for God at Bethel and Shechem*
4. *He accepted to make a covenant with God by offering him sacrifices of animals and birds*
5. *He accepted to change his name from Abram to Abraham*
6. *He accepted God’s command of circumcision at old age*

*He abandoned the worship of idols and worshipped Yahweh as true God*