Strange(r) Solidarity Genesis 18:1-15 An Ujamaa Centre Contextual Bible Study

- 1. Read Genesis 18:1-15. Share with each other in your small group what you think this text is about. Each person should have the opportunity to share.
- 2. Re-read verse 1-2. In this verse the reader knows more than Abraham. The reader is told that God will appear to Abraham. The reader/listener thus knows more than the characters in the story. Why do you think the story is told in this way?
- 3. Re-read verses 1-8. Where was Abraham when the three strangers arrived? And how does he react once he notices the strangers?
- 4. What does Abraham's reaction tell us about the position of a stranger in that context? How is hospitality shown in this context? How are strangers treated in this context?
- 5. How is hospitality shown in your context? How are strangers treated in your context?
- 6. Re-read verses 6-15. Where was Sarah when the three strangers arrived? And how does she react to the news that there are strangers?
- 7. In what ways do the strangers make Sarah into a subject, drawing her from inside the tent to the area outside the tent where the men are gathered?
- 8. How does Sarah respond to being treated as a subject? What does this change in position mean for Sarah considering the society she lives in?
- 9. What resources can you take from this biblical text for your work in contexts of hospitality to strangers? Be specific about who the strangers are in our context, including those who are 'strange' because of their sexual identities.