

Israel's Patriarch

A Study in Genesis 12-24

The Call of Abram
Genesis 11:27-12:3
July 19, 2020

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. - **Genesis 12:3**

I. SETTING THINGS UP (11:27-32)

- The “toledot” of Terah serves as a segue between the postdiluvian world and the age of the Patriarchs.
- Our narrative has been narrowing and driving toward Abram and the revelation of the beginnings of the people of God (Gen. 5, 9:26, 11:10-26).
- Terah moves his family to Canaan, but stops short in Haran (Gen. 11:31).

II. GOD'S CALL TO ABRAM

- Abram's family were pagans. God changed that (Josh. 24:1-5).
- God spoke to Abram while he was in Ur, but revealed himself to him when the time came to obey him fully in a move to Canaan (Gen. 12:1-2; Acts 7:1-7).

III. BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

- Abram's blessing was not to be held onto, but to be dispersed, like all God's blessings (Gen. 12:2-3, 22:18; Luke 6:37-38; 2 Cor. 8:13-15).
- Although the nations have been dispersed, God has set into motion a plan to bring the hope of salvation to them (Gen. 18:18, 49:10; Isa. 49:6; Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47, 26:23).
- God's call is always purposeful. Rarely easy, but always according to plan (Isa. 55:10-11; Eph. 1:11).
- Abram is called to obey, but not without reason. God's commands come with explanations and blessings.

KNOW: God's call to Abram came with a promise. God rarely says “do it” without a promise or explanation to accompany the command. Our God does not act in random or irrelevant ways. All his ways are purposeful.

DO: Trust God's directives. They are always for the good.

Suggested Reading:

Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will by Kevin DeYoung (LifePoint Library #248.4 DEY)

The Reason for God: Conversations on Faith and Life by Tim Keller (LifePoint Library #DVD KEL)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 11:27-12:3

1. The generations of Terah tell us what in 11:27-32?
2. What kind of man is Abram, based on what we know of the narrative thus far?
3. What do we know about Sarai thus far? Why is this important?
4. Have you ever obeyed God in something “big” in which the outcome was unsure? Share with your group about that if you are comfortable doing so. What did you learn?
5. Why is God blessing Abram? Why did he pick Abram?
6. What is the end goal in this calling and blessing?
7. What is one clear application point for you from this message?