

GOD'S CALLING OF ABRAHAM

* All In Group Discussion Guide *

Week of Sept 18

Scripture

Genesis 11:27-12:9

Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram and Nahor took wives; the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak* of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring* I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

Discussion Questions

Introductions:

- If you could travel to one place you have not yet been, where would it be and why?

Scripture Reflection:

- This is a story about God's calling of Abraham. What do you think it means to be called by God? Is this just something for Bible times, or does it happen to us, too?
-

GOD'S CALLING OF ABRAHAM

* All In Group Discussion Guide *

Week of Sept 18

Sermon Questions:

- Josh said the first thing to realize about Abraham's call from God is that he is challenged to leave his comfort zone, a leap that requires risk. What are the sorts of things that hold us back and keep us away from what God has for us? What holds our church back from doing this? What holds you back in your own life?
- One of the key words in this Scripture passage is blessing. In what settings have you heard the word blessing before? What does it mean to you?
- Josh observed that God "blesses Abraham to be a blessing." How does this idea of "being blessed in order to bless others" change your view on what blessing means? What are ways we can "be blessed to bless others?"

Closing Question & Application

- What is God calling you to leave behind in the coming months? How might that open you up into "being blessed to be a blessing?"

Closing Prayer:

Centering prayer:

1. Each person is to come up with a "sacred word." It could be "blessed, come, Jesus, peace, hope"—anything. Just make sure it's a word that's meaningful to you.
2. The group will sit in silence for 5 minutes. I find it helps to put your feet flat on the ground, and to either place your hands on your lap or in the shape of a cup—open to receive what God has for you.
3. When you find yourself distracted, call yourself back to the quiet by using your sacred word.
4. This practice is grounded in the idea that prayer is an act of listening. Silence can be challenging, but also deeply spiritually significant.