

“Basic Bible Stories – The Calling of Abram” Genesis 12

Open: Story

- God wanted to have a group of people on the earth that He could bless in a special way; so, **God chose to use a man by the name of Abram. Gen. 12:1-3**
 - God is always looking for a person or a group of people He can bless and use to accomplish His will through their lives. **Ps. 14:2** “*The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*”
 - Abram was asked to do something that was culturally and carnally considered a foreign concept. Most people never traveled more than 25 miles from their home. It was almost considered treasonous to leave your family and set off on your own.
 - Abram was told by God, when *he was 75 years old*, of something that was better; but he had no proof that something better could exist. This truly would be a journey of faith.
 - Abram’s receiving these blessings from God would have to take preeminence over enjoying the pleasures of man.
- God’s first test for Abram was to leave his home and all his family. **Gen. 12: 4-5**
 - God needed Abram to be separated from everything and everyone in his life (leaving his comfort zone); to show Abram the importance and blessings of being solely dependent on God.
 - God often requires a separation not only from the world, but from those people in our lives that would lead us to make an emotional decision instead of living by faith.
 - Abram was not forbidden from ever seeing his family again, but in order for him to be blessed by God he would be required to step away from tradition and live by principle.
 - God allowed Abram to be successful, but Abram’s life would see unnecessary difficulties because he did not obey God the way God wanted him to obey.
- Like us, Abram had to learn how to grow in his faith in God. **Gen. 12:10-20**
 - Abram had to learn to depend on God for the most basic necessities of life, before He could depend on God for the bigger things of life.
 - In **Gen. 12:10**, we find Abram seeking his own solution to solving a lack of resources.
 - In **Gen. 12:11-13**, we find Abram seeking his own solution to the security of his family.
 - In **Gen. 12:14-18**, we find Abram’s plan start of going well; but in the end it falls apart.
 - In **Gen. 2:19-20**, Abram discovers the loneliest place for a child of God is on the path of his own choosing. (“...take her, and go thy way.”; “...and they sent him away...”)

Tran:

- When God looks down and sees your life, does He see a life that He can bless? **II Chron. 16:9a** “*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*”
- Don’t complicate your life or delay God’s blessings in your life because you think you can improve on obedience. **I Sam. 15:22b** “*...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*”
 - The best way to bring blessings on your family is by obeying God completely. God can only bless you, and those around you, as much as you are obedient to His Word. **Jer. 40:3** “*Now the LORD hath brought it, and done according as he hath said: because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed his voice, therefore this thing is come upon you.*”
- Are you trusting in God’s provisions for your needs, or are you seeking man’s solution for spiritual problems? **Ps. 118:8-9** “*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. [9] It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.*”

I. Lesson #1: God's calling for His children to follow Him, is a calling of separation from the world.

- **Gen. 12:1a** *"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country..."*
- A. God never uses someone, He does not first sanctify from the world. **II Cor. 6:17** *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."*
- Like Abram, we must allow receiving the blessings of God to take preeminence over enjoying the pleasures of man.
 - i. It is important that one cannot serve two masters. Each person on their own must make a choice to either follow the carnal or follow God. **Mt. 6:24** *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*
 - ii. It is important to then realize it's not a matter of how far from the world a person is, it's all about how close to God and individual is. **Ps. 24:3-6** *"Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? [4] He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.[5] He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. [6] This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah."*
- B. God never calls us to separate for separation sake; He always calls us to separate **from** something to something. **ILL: Paul being called on the Damascus Road. Rom. 1:1** *"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,"*
- i. Paul was called to be separated from a life that persecuted God so he could be separated unto preaching the Gospel.
 - ii. Paul and Barnabas were separated from doing what their flesh wanted them to do so they could be separated to doing a work for God. **Acts 13:2** *"...the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them..."*
 - iii. God separates His children from uncleanness, so they can enjoy the blessing of being separated unto godliness. **Lev. 15:31** *"Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them."*

II. Lesson #2: God's calling for His children to follow Him, is a calling of separation from tradition and family.

- **Gen. 12:1b** *"...from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:"*
- A. Parents need to teach their children, and children need to learn that obeying God and doing what God wants them to do is **ALWAYS** more important than doing what family wants them to do. **Acts 5:29** *"...We ought to obey God rather than men."*
- i. It is important that we teach our children how to make wise decision based on Bible principles; and that we do not set ourselves (as parents) up as god's in our children's lives.
 - ii. It is important to recognize and teach the next generation that *'Tradition Tramples Truth.'* **Mt. 15:6b** *"...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."*
- B. It is important to recognize that God called men and woman to leave father and mother and to cleave unto each other as they follow God's leading in their life. **Mt. 19:5** *"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"*
- i. Children are not to be reared to stay at home, but to do God's will. **Eph. 6:4b** *"...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*
 - ii. It is the parent's job, not the government's or the church's job, to train up and rear a child in the way he should God. **Prov. 22:6** *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

- C. God can only use those who choose to place God first in their life. **Matt. 10:35-38** “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. [36] And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. [37] He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

III. **Lesson #3:** God’s calling for His children to follow Him, is a calling of separation from dependence on man.

- **Gen. 12:2a** “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee...”
- A. Certain blessings in life can only come by trusting in God.
- i. **Ps. 34:6-8** “This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. [7] The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. [8] O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”
 - ii. **Ps. 40:4-5** “Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. [5] Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”
 - iii. **Ps. 52:7-8** “Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness. [8] But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.”
 - iv. **Jer. 17:7-8** “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. [8] For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”
- B. Those who depend on man’s solutions will be disappointed.
- i. **Ps. 118:8-9** “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. [9] It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.”
 - ii. **Ps. 146**
 - iii. **Is. 31:1** “Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!”
 - iv. **Jer. 17:5-6** “Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. [6] For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.”

Close:

- Are you obeying God’s calling in being separated from the world?
- Are you obeying truth or are you following the traditions of family and religion?
- Are you solely dependent on God, or keeping some trust in man’s abilities as a “Plan B”?

II Cor. 6:17

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

“Review Questions”

1. Who was promised by God if He would follow, He would be greatly blessed? **Abram**.
2. Lesson #1: God’s calling for His children to follow Him, is a calling of separation from the **w?????**. **World**
3. Lesson #2: God’s calling for His children to follow Him, is a calling of separation from **??????** and **??????**. **Tradition & Family**
4. Lesson #3: God’s calling for His children to follow Him, is a calling of separation from dependence on **?????**. **Man**