

Abraham's Call

By faith we obey God's call and trust God's promises.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-21

February 23, 2020

(Gen. 12:1-7) ¹The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ²"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. ⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

(Gen. 15:1-21) ¹After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." ²But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." ⁴Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." ⁵He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. ⁷He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." ⁸But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" ⁹So the Lord said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." ¹⁰Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. ¹¹Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." ¹⁷When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates – ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, Kennizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites."

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- **What is the most significant promise you have made? Were you able to keep that promise? Why or why not?**
- **What determines whether we believe a promise made to us?**

The source of a promise, the nature of the promise, and the time frame in which it was made affect our decision to trust the promise. Most of us would likely say we believe promises from God. Today, as we look at the life of Abraham in Genesis, we will consider how willing we are to take God at His Word and surrender to His plan.

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer to read Genesis 12:1-7

- **What did Abraham have to sacrifice in order to obey God's call?**
- **Why is it often difficult for us to take God at His Word? What does our unbelief say about our view of God's character and power?**

Have a volunteer to read Genesis 15:1-6

- Why did Abraham doubt he would ever become a father? What indicates Abraham had given up hope?
- What does God's kind response tell us about His character and grace?

Have a volunteer to read Genesis 15:7-21

- How did God respond to Abraham's doubts (vv. 9-10)? Why did God ask Abraham to do this?
- Who is the lesser person in the covenant between God and Abraham? Who do you expect to walk between the pieces of the dead animals?
- Who walks between the pieces of the animals (v. 17)? What does a "smoking fire pot and a flaming torch" symbolize? How does this story remind you of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- What are some ways that your heart is like Abraham's heart? In what ways are you struggling to surrender trust and control to God?
- How does knowing that God always remains faithful to His Word help us through seasons when our faith is weak?
- How might we tangibly encourage one another to believe God and surrender to His plans this week and in the weeks ahead?

PRAYER: Spend some time thanking God for His promises and His faithfulness to always uphold His end of the covenant, even when we are unfaithful. Take time to thank God for sending Jesus and declaring us His righteous children.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Genesis 18-19
 DAY 2 – Genesis 20-21
 DAY 3 – Genesis 22
 DAY 4 – Genesis 24
 DAY 5 – Genesis 25:19-34, 26

KEY VERSE: Genesis 26:4

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.