

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

The Call of Abraham

Genesis 11:26 to 17:19 *(Selected verses)*

Major Segments:

- God's Command, God's Promise
- Promise repeated and expanded
- Abram's belief challenged, God is pleased
- Name changes and blessings

Segment Questions:

- God made a pretty significant request of Abram—to leave everything he knew and go to an unknown place. What are some thoughts Abram may have had, some fears?
- What was the promise made to Abram? How would he have responded? What was he thinking and feeling? What did he think about God making him a nation, or making his name great?
- Do you think Abram may have thought, "Why can't I be blessed right here in Haran?" Is there any significance to God making a request this impactful to Abram? Do you think Abram made any connection between the command and the promise? Was the promise unconditional?
- God repeated his promise and added the promise of a son. Would this be important to Abram? How would he respond to a name change? How would you react? Was it different for Abraham?
- Many years passed between God repeating his promise and the final fulfillment. Do you think Abram grew in his faith or struggle as time moved on? If you shared this verse with Abram, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life," (Proverbs 13:12), how do you think he may have responded? What were his thoughts?
- What are some character qualities Abram/Abraham demonstrated through this faith journey?

Action Questions:

- Do you have a current challenge you are facing? How can you respond righteously when much is expected of you?
- Do you have a promise you are clinging to? How can you respond righteously when nothing seems to be happening?
- Have you ever strayed from a godly plan because you thought you had to take care of yourself, or try to get God to change His plans?

Genesis 11:26 to 12:20

From: www.btstories.com

When Abram was 75 years old, the LORD said, "Abram, I want you to leave your family and country and go to a place I have selected for you. I'll make you a nation and your name will be great. I'll bless you, and I'll also bless everyone else who blesses you. And I'll curse anyone who curses you. All the families of the earth will be blessed because of you."

So Abram and his wife Sarai started their journey following God. He took them to a place called Canaan and said, "I'm giving this land to you and your children." Abram believed God, even though he didn't have any children. He knew God would keep His promise. So he built an altar in the new land God had given him, and worshipped the Lord. Years went by and Abram prospered in the land. One night the Lord said, "I'm your shield and exceeding great reward." Abram answered, "Lord, I still don't have a son, but I have a servant that is like a son to me. Let him inherit your promises to me."

"No!" God said, "You'll have a son, and he'll be your heir. Abram, look at the stars in the sky. Your descendants will be as hard to count as those stars." This seemed impossible to Abram, but he believed it, and God was pleased!

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord said to him, "You'll be the father of many nations, and some of your descendants will be kings! Therefore I'm changing your name to Abraham, the 'father of many nations'. Your wife's name will be called Sarah."

Abraham laughed and said, "How is it possible for a man who is 100 years old and a woman who is 90 years old to have a child?"

God said, "Sarah will have a son and you'll call his name Isaac. I'll give my promises to him and his descendants, and I'll be their God. And the whole earth will be blessed because of them."