

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Faith – Depending on God

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Lesson 2: Faith Under Construction Genesis 12:1 – 9

The runner who crosses the finish line first. The winning candidate on election night. The celebrity Oscar winner. All these get applause and congratulations. But who cheers for the fired factory worker, leaving work for the last time, who still believes that God will provide for him and his family? Who throws confetti on the young woman, waking up in a hospital bed paralyzed from a car accident she can't even remember, who cries out to God for help instead of cursing him?

Group Discussion. When have you made a major change because you believed the Lord wanted you to, and how did you know what God was asking you to do?

Apollo 13: "Getting Home"



With the fate of astronaut **Jim Lovell** and his Apollo 13 crew in jeopardy, an old interview airs on television, where he talks about the faith of finding a way home.

Questions

- What was the dilemma facing Jim Lovell and his attempts to get home.
- What was Jim tempted to do when it seemed he was out of his own options?
- In what ways do people respond when life gets hard and seemingly out of options?
- How does the cockpit malfunction and the darkness correlate to help Jim? Has God ever worked in a similar way?
- What do you think it means to live by faith? When have you wished you had more faith?

In study 1 we visited Hebrews 11, the "hall of fame" of the Old Testament faithful. One of the prominent names is that of Abraham.

Read Genesis 12:1-9.

1. How did God break unexpectedly into Abram's (Abraham's) life?

- Abram's father Terah, moved the family from Ur toward Canaan and settling in the Land of Haran (Gen 11:27 – 32).
- The land was filled with people worshipping idols – god's of their hands and understanding.
- God breaks through and speaks while Abram and his family did not know or seek Him.
- God changes Abram and his family's agenda and purpose (or lack of ...) and moves them in the direction of His Purpose.
- God breaks through by announcing His desire and purpose to bless Abram, his family and others through him.

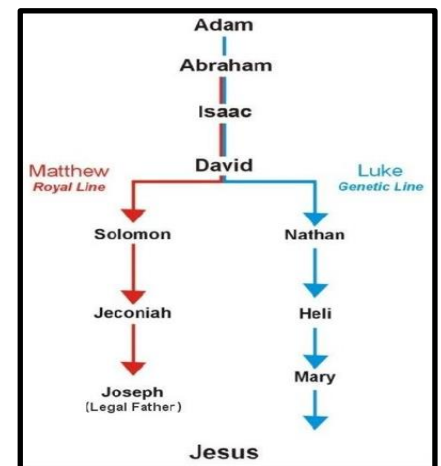
2. How did God's promises cover many of Abraham's possible questions (vv. 1-3)?

Abram's Questions	God's Promises
What Do You Want?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house,• I will bless you
Where Do You Want Me To Go?	... A land that I will show you

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." (Heb 11:8)

3. How would Abraham's obedience affect the whole world (v. 3)?

- **Abraham's Obedience Provides A Prime Example Of The Rewards Of Believing God By Faith.**
- **Abraham's Obedience Gives The World The Foundation Of God's Imputed Righteousness To Sinners By Grace Through Faith.**
- **Abraham's Obedience means that all people would be blessed through direct genealogical lineage with "came to its complete realization in Christ"**



4. What aspects of Abraham's situation would have complicated his move (vv. 4-5)?

- It could not have been a simple move. Abraham was 75 years old, and Sarah was 65 (Gen 17:17).
- Their destination was unclear and unknown.
- They took along all their possessions, which included herds of livestock such as sheep, goats, cattle, camels and donkeys.
- They also took "the people they had acquired in Haran," which meant servants and some family members, at least Lot and his family.
- It would have been hard to explain their actions people - especially to people who did not know this God.

5. The group with Abraham and Sarah must have looked impressive as they moved along the caravan route from Haran toward Canaan (vv. 5-6). How do you think they would have answered a traveler who asked, "Where are you going?"

- **We Are Following The Lord's Leading – Wherever He Says.**
- **I Don't Know Exactly But We're Heading Toward The Lord's Blessing.**

- **To The Land/Home That The Lord Has Promised Us.**
- **To the new nation – that not on the map yet (GPS Update).**

6. A natural follow-up question to “Where are you going?” is “Why?” How do you think Abraham and Sarah might have answered?

Quest.	Answers
Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Has Promised To A Great Nation • God Has Promised To Will Bless Us • God has place to make our name great • And you shall be a blessing. • God has promised to bless us and protect us. • We are setting up a blessing for our families that will affect everyone.

7. When Abraham had traveled some distance into Canaan, what additional promise and encouragement did God provide (vv. 6-7)? What do you notice about Abraham’s response to this further revelation of the Lord (vv. 7-8)?

- **When Abraham Hears the Word and the Promises of the Lord – He builds an Altar and worships the Lord right where he is.**

7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

- **As Abram move in the direction/fulfilment of the promises of God – he sets up a new Altar to worship and calls upon the Name of the Lord.**

8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

8. Think of a major life change you have made or are in the process of making. If someone asked you, “Why are you doing this?” what would you say?

Why Are You/We Doing This?

- We Believe It Is The Will Of God For Us To Build And Move.
- The Facilities Here On Derry St. Are Becoming Less Able To Support Our Ministry Events.
- To Prepare For Our Future Growth In Numbers/Attendance.
- To Be Ready In Case There May Be Changes To Our Current Rental/Lease Agreement.
- To Be Forward Thinking – Proactive Rather Than Reactive.
- To Build Our Faith In God And Bring Glory To His Name.



Thank God for how he has faithfully led and guided you and kept his promises.

Keys for Living



Following God by faith will often require us to step out into the unknown or the unfamiliar. It pleases God when we put our trust in Him.



The things God calls us to have impact not just for our lives, but for the lives of countless others that we may not even be aware of.



As we model the faith of Abraham, we will receive the blessings and rewards – either on this side or the other side of Glory.