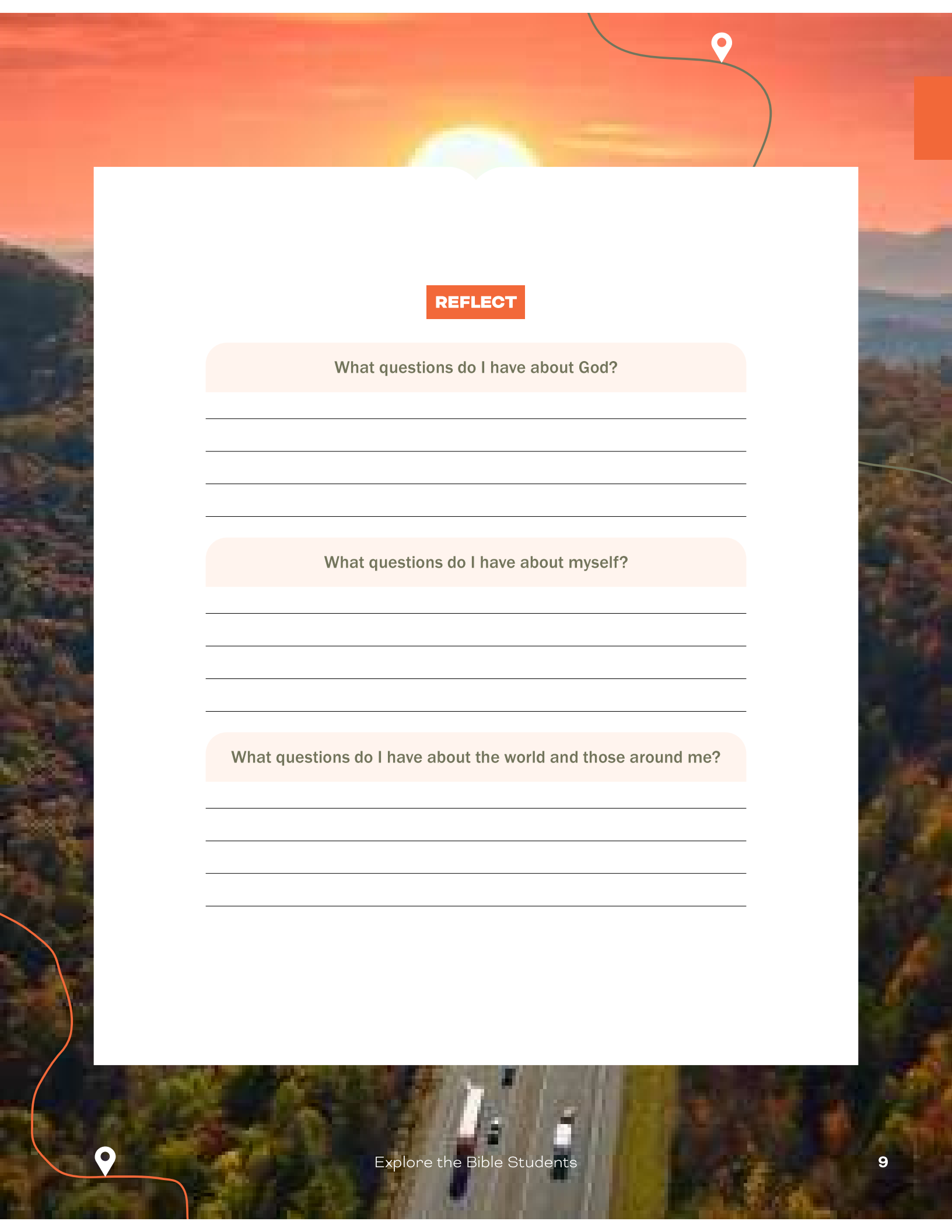


Session 01

God Calls ABRAM

CENTRAL TRUTH | The Lord is gracious and has blessed the world through Abram.

People will often say, “Bless you!” or “God bless you!” when others sneeze. Scholars suggest different reasons for this, but saying “God bless you!” was basically intended as a prayer of protection and good health. Of course, that’s not the only way we hear the word *blessed* these days. People say they’re blessed when they get what they hoped for, when good things happen to them, or because they have an abundance of physical possessions and resources. But blessing in God’s Word is so much deeper than that. It doesn’t mean you feel happy or that everything is going well for you; it carries the idea that you can experience God’s goodness and trust in His promises even when life hasn’t turned out how you hoped. This is what we’ll see in Abram’s story today: No matter how it seemed to Abram as he waited, the Lord is gracious and has blessed the world through him.



REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

GENESIS 12:1-3

¹ The LORD said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your

name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

GENESIS 12:4-6

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵ He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for

the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the site of Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. (At that time the Canaanites were in the land.)

GENESIS 12:7-9

⁷ The 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. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent,

with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He built an altar to the LORD there, and he called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ Then Abram journeyed by stages to the Negev.

Day01

GENESIS 12:1-3



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

READ & RESPOND

We start this week with the Abrahamic Covenant. A covenant is an agreement between two parties. This covenant, specifically, is called an unconditional covenant, which means that only one of the parties must fulfill the agreement. The other side is not required to do anything. God decided to call out a special people for Himself, which He determined to do through Abram's lineage because Abram believed the Lord and was considered to be a righteous man (see Gen. 15:6). Look how many times God says "I will" to Abram. God is the one party who will fulfill this covenant agreement, and He did. Through the fulfillment of this covenant in Jesus Christ, "all the peoples on earth [have been] blessed through" Abram.

 What does God promise in this covenant with Abram? Underline or write down His "I will" statements.

 What does this *unconditional* agreement tell you about God's character?

 What does this unconditional covenant tell you about Abram and his descendants' responsibility?

MEMORIZE

Write out **Genesis 12:1-3** on a notecard. Read the passage out loud five times. Next, read it in a whisper five times. Finally, say it in your head with your eyes closed five times.

PRAY

Lord, You are the Promise-keeper. When I struggle with doubt or fear, remind me that You have always fulfilled Your promises. I can always depend on You.

GENESIS 12:4-6

📍 READ & RESPOND

Abram trusted God, so he obeyed Him. God said to go, so he packed up his wife, nephew, people, and possessions and set out for Canaan. Notice that verse 4 says that Abram was seventy-five years old when he took God at His word and left his home to start a nation. His age alone would have been enough for him to hesitate, but he didn't. It's easy to use our age as an excuse to not do something God has called us to do. As a teenager, you're probably told you can't do something because of your age, but when God calls you, He will make a way. God takes care of all the details. He just asks us to trust Him and be obedient.

← Why do you think the detail of Abram's age was mentioned? Why would his age and family situation be notable in starting a new nation?

→ What is God asking you to trust and obey Him with today?

↻ Pray for God to give you the boldness to be obedient to Him in all He calls you to do.

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out **Genesis 12:1-3** on a piece of paper or notecard. On the back, write only the first letter of every word, including punctuation. Keep attempting this until you get every word in the right order and can use only the first letters to say the verse comfortably.

📍 PRAY

Lord, You promised the impossible with Abram, and he believed You would do it. Help me have faith like Abram, so that when You say to go, I trust and obey immediately.

Day 03

GENESIS 12:7-9

READ & RESPOND

While Abram and his caravan were in Shechem, the Lord appeared to him and promised He would give that land to Abram's descendants. This "appearance" is called a theophany, which is a visible manifestation of God in the Old Testament. In response, Abram built an altar, his first of many in the promised land. An altar is a place of dedicated worship, often built in response to an encounter with God. Today, many churches have designated places for prayer and worship—places to encounter the Lord. Abram continued his promised land tour, stopping and building altars, continuing to call on the name of the Lord.



Why do you think Abram built an altar after his encounter with the Lord? How was his response to God's presence an act of worship?



How do we unknowingly build altars (places of worship and prayer) in our lives? Who or what do these altars worship?



How can we be more intentional in building altars dedicated to prayer and worship of the Lord?

MEMORIZE

Instead of writing out **Genesis 12:1-3** in words, draw the verse using icons or symbols. Translating the passage into images helps you to process the meaning of the words.

PRAY

Lord, I pray that when I encounter You and Your work, my first response is always worship. Help me build altars to You, dedicated places of prayer and worship, and to tear down altars to anything else.

Day **04**

LUKE 2:27-32

READ & RESPOND

The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would see the promised Messiah with his own eyes before he died. Can you imagine the joy Simeon felt when he saw the Savior of the world in the arms of Mary and Joseph? He knew that through this child, freedom and salvation were brought not only to the nations but especially to the Jews—“a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.” God used Abram’s descendants to bless all the people of the earth, but it was through Jesus that the covenant reached its ultimate fulfillment, and Simeon had much to rejoice about.

 What do you think others witnessing this and hearing Simeon’s words would have thought?

 Look back at the covenant with Abram in day one. How did the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, accomplish this agreement between Abram and God?

 How do Simeon’s words encourage you while you wait on God’s promises?

MEMORIZE

Record yourself reading **Genesis 12:1-3** different ways: (1) in a normal voice, (2) in a whisper, (3) as fast as you possibly can. Can you think of other ways? Listen back to the recordings throughout the week.

PRAY

Lord, You are faithful to every promise, and I know I can trust in You. Thank You for sending Your Son to fulfill Your promise to Abram and to bring salvation to the world and to me.

Day 05

GALATIANS 3:7-9

READ & RESPOND

In today's passage, Paul tells believers that we are Abraham's sons (and daughters) if we have faith. Abraham was chosen by God to create a nation and lineage that would bless the world and draw it back to Him. We see the fulfillment of this covenant in Jesus. God credited Abraham with righteousness because he trusted God. Likewise, when we put our faith in His Son, we are grafted into the spiritual family of Abraham and join God's chosen people. The Jews of Paul's day struggled to understand that the spiritual family—through faith—not the physical one by blood, is what justifies us. The faith of your relative will not save you from your sin—only your own faith in Jesus will.



Who are Abraham's sons (and daughters)? What makes them so?



If faith grafts us into the family of Abraham, what responsibilities do we share with His chosen people? How will nations be blessed through us?



How can this passage help you explain faith to someone who thinks they are saved because their family goes to church?

MEMORIZE

Rewrite **Genesis 12:1-3** in today's modern language. You could even text-speak it, but be sure to keep the theology accurate! Paraphrasing in everyday language helps us comprehend what we're memorizing.

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for bringing me into Your spiritual family. I know that I am saved through faith in You alone. Help me be a blessing by sharing Your good news with my family and friends.