

Sermon #1: The God Who Calls

10 May 2026

BREAKING THE ICE

- Have you ever felt called to leave something comfortable or secure (a job, a home, a relationship) for an uncertain future? How did it challenge your faith in God?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Genesis 12:1-9)

1. In verse 1, what three specific things does Yahweh command Abram to leave behind in order to receive the land God would show him?
2. Considering that communities were very tribal at this time with deep ties to their clans, how significant is this calling in Abram's life?
3. List the seven promises God makes to Abram in verses 2-3. Why are these promises so audacious given what we know about Abram and Sarai (Gen 11:30)?
4. Reread the final promise in verse 3. How does God ultimately fulfill this promise of "all the families of the earth" being blessed "in Abram"? Stop to ponder the reality of this promise now in light of how it must have been comprehended by Abram.
5. What do you learn about Abram's faith by how he responds in verses 4-5?
6. Read vs 6-7. What obstacle appears to be in the way of Abram's descendants receiving this land that God has promised them?
7. Despite this obstacle, what do you see Abram doing in each location he travels (vs 7 & 8)? Note: It is important to understand the spiritual culture of the Ancient Near East. Each nation and land was associated with a specific god or gods. It would be radically disrespectful to a nation and their god(s) to worship a "foreign" god in their land.
8. Consider this whole passage (chpt 12:1-9) in relation to the previous chapters of Genesis (in particular chpts 10-11). How does this chapter make a dramatic shift from reporting how God is dealing with the *whole* human race to how He is calling out *one family* for the purpose of global blessing?
9. What does this passage teach you about God and how He has chosen to engage a fallen, broken humanity?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Abram believed God and left a pagan people to go to a new place to become a great nation and a blessing to the world. God credited this belief as righteousness. Jesus, however, left a perfect place to enter a pagan world and become a curse for our sake. Jesus made it possible for God to credit Abram with righteousness. He fulfilled the promise God made to Abram that "in you (i.e. from your line) all the families of the earth will be blessed." Jesus' faith in his Father resulted in righteousness being available to us. Praise God for His unfathomable grace!

- How does seeing the fulfillment of God's promise to Abram in Jesus death and resurrection move you to confidence in God's promises yet to be fulfilled?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Are their things in your life God is calling you to “leave behind” in order to receive promises He has for you? Share an example.
2. Abram’s story reveals to us that our God is a God Who calls out people from a broken, fallen world for the purpose of blessing others. How is God calling you out of this world to be a blessing to others?
3. Abram moved through the land as a temporary settler, never receiving the fulness of the promises God made to him. How can you cultivate a "temporary settler" mindset seeking security in God’s *eternal* blessings and not just *temporal*?
4. Abram distinguished his worship from the Canaanites by proclaiming the nature and attributes of Yahweh. How can your worship this week be a clear witness of God’s calling on your life to those around you?

PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God’s will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today’s lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.