

ABRAM AND GOD'S PROMISE

God works his purposes through the men that he calls.



THE STORY: GENESIS 11:27–12:2

MONDAY

God called Abram.

God called Abram. Abram did not have knowledge of God apart from God revealing himself to Abram—it was God who took the initiative. Abram lived in a pagan country so if it were not for God's initiative, Abram would have ended up serving the idols of his homeland.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did Abram's relationship with God begin? (*God called Abram. It was God who reached out to Abram.*) Does God call us like Abram? (*Yes, God does call us like Abram. God calls us through his written Word just like he called Abram through his spoken word. There was no Bible in Abram's day. When God wanted to call a man, he did so personally. Today, his Spirit still actively calls us but he does so through the Bible when it is read or preached (See Romans 1:1-6).*)

PRAY:

Ask God to create a desire in you to read the Bible so that you may position yourself to clearly hear the call of God on your life.



THE STORY: GENESIS 12:1-7

TUESDAY

God made a promise to Abram.

God made a promise to Abram. Beyond taking initiative to call Abram, God also gave him the promise of the land (12:7). This was not because Abram was worthy of the promise—God simply loved Abram and reached out to him with an undeserved blessing. God's promise to Abram was by grace alone.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did God reach out to Abram? *(God reached out to Abram because of love. God loves the people that he creates and wants to save them. Reaching out to Abram was a part of his plan to send Jesus, who was Abram's descendant. John 3:16 declares that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son. God so loved the world that he reached out to Abram so that one day through Abram the Savior would come.)*

Who are the families who are going to be blessed through Abram? *(Your family is one of those blessed. Because God brought Jesus to the world through Abram, we are all blessed.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for making a promise to Abram and that one day Jesus could come as an answer to that promise.



THE STORY: GALATIANS 3:26–4:7

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

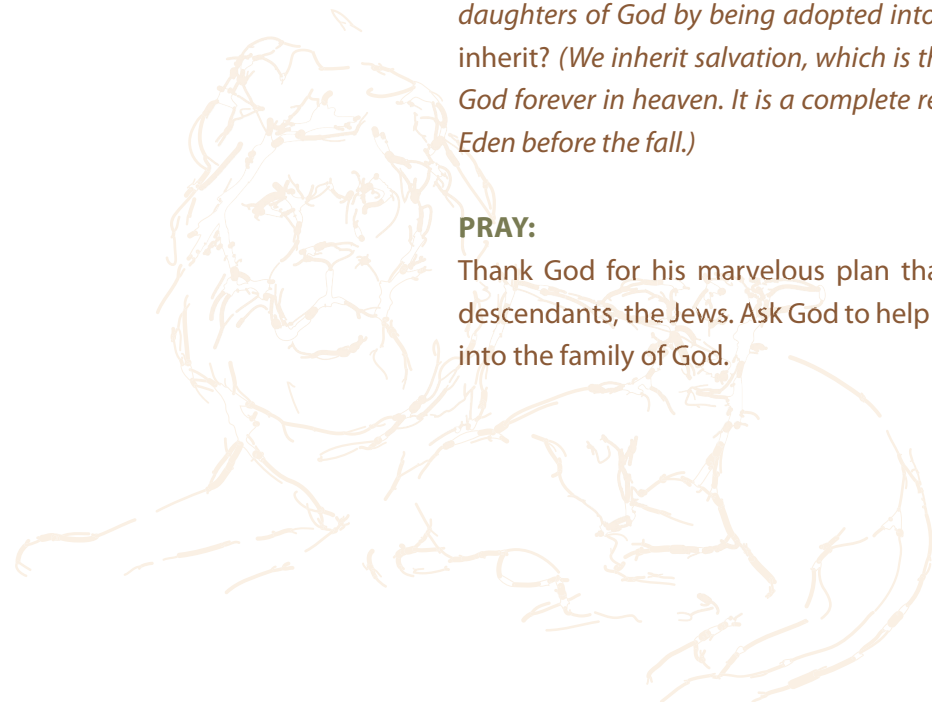
God made a promise to Abram that through him all nations would be blessed. Abram himself was not the one to bless all nations. The one who fulfills that promise is a descendant of Abram, Jesus Christ.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What makes us children of Abram and heirs to the promise? *(We become sons and daughters of Abram through faith in Jesus Christ. When we believe in Jesus, we become a part of the family of faith and heirs of the promise of Abram. We become sons and daughters of God by being adopted into God's family!)* What is the promise that we inherit? *(We inherit salvation, which is the forgiveness of our sins, and fellowship with God forever in heaven. It is a complete restoration of the peace that Adam first had in Eden before the fall.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for his marvelous plan that he worked through Abram's life and his descendants, the Jews. Ask God to help you believe so that you, too, can be adopted into the family of God.





Abram responded to the Lord with faith and followed God's call.

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God's initiative toward Abram so affected Abram that he believed. Both the Lord's words and the Lord's appearing birthed faith in Abram and that faith, which we can trace right back to God, is then credited to Abram as righteousness (Romans 4:3). God is basically behind it all—everything is of grace.

Even in the midst of Abram's sinfulness in lying, God continued to protect him and even bless him through the hand of Pharaoh. God's plan was bigger than Abram's mistakes. If we look to follow God in our lives like Abram, God's grace will overcome our mistakes as well. It is through the work of Jesus on the cross that our sins can be overlooked and not judged. Christ took the penalty for us so that we who deserve to be punished might receive grace!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was Abram's journey one of faith? (*Abram did not see where he was going. He simply trusted God and left his home believing God's Word to be true.*) What is God calling us to believe by faith? (*God is calling us to trust in Jesus Christ whom we come to know through his Word. Even though we do not see Jesus, for he has risen, we can believe by faith!*)

PRAY:

Pray that God would help us follow Abram's example by believing in what we cannot see and trusting God.



On the road to Emmaus.

Psalm 4:4 calls us to search our hearts. If we were to search our hearts, we would find them full of sin. Verse 5 gives us the remedy for our sinful condition, "Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord." There is one right sacrifice that will once and for all cover our sin. The only sacrifice that we can count on is the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. In this alone can we place our hope and trust.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Is it possible for a person to be angry but not sin? *(Yes, we can be angry without sinning but most often our motives are mixed. Though Ephesians 4:26 commands us to be angry and do not sin, it is most often the case that we are engaged in sinful anger.)*

What does it mean to search your heart? *(Searching your heart means to look inside yourself for the motive or reason for what you are doing. Often our motives for good things are even sinful because we do them for our own pleasure rather than for God's glory.)*

What sacrifice would be "right" in order to cover our sin? *(Only Jesus' death on the cross is a sacrifice sufficient to cover our sin.)*

PRAY:

Consider all you have learned about God's covenant with Abram and with us. Pray that God would help you to be faithful and follow him, treating one another as image bearers of God. Pray also that God would help you search your heart of sin and repent of the sin that you find.

