

Small Group Questions | January 6, 2019

The Great Explorers — Abraham Part 1

Genesis 11:27–12:9

Other Passages to Reference: Hebrews 11:8–12; Additional Context in Gen 12:10–25:18

Announcements to Leaders

- Please plan to attend our Small Group Leaders training, Saturday, January 19 from 9:00–noon. If you have identified one or more potential leaders of new groups within your group, please invite them to join you.
- I went to the last Gospel Conversations Training held in December and I highly recommend it to anyone who has not yet gone. This would be a great small group shared experience. You may register online now for the next one scheduled February 2.

Sermon Recap: In Genesis 11:27 - 12:9, we read that in the midst of barrenness Abram (Abraham) is called to go. Abraham has a decision to make. Ultimately, Abraham believes God in the face of barrenness and goes. For this, the Bible calls Abraham great, because he believed God in the face of barrenness. A study of the text, however, shows us that even in his belief, Abraham is a delayed and guarded explorer. Where are you delayed or guarded in the midst of God meeting you and calling you in your barrenness?

Hook: *A Question to Help Ignite Conversation (Choose one or both)*

In your personal “wiring” do you see yourself as more of a goer or a stayer?

If you could pick anywhere in the world to explore, where would it be and why?

Look:

Read Genesis 11:27–12:9

1. What is the only thing God commands Abraham to do in Gen 12:1?
2. What are God’s promises for obedience to Abraham in Gen 12:2–3?
3. Abraham will become the father of the Jews, but what is his stated relationship to other nations or people groups found in Gen 12:2–3?
4. How did Abraham respond to God’s call to go?
5. What is the significance of Abraham building altars and calling upon the Lord as he and his traveling companions journeyed through Canaan?
6. In 12:7, the Lord brings more clarity about the promise He made to Abraham in 12:1. What does the Lord say?

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

Practical Applications:

1. Why is the context of barrenness important for the readers to understand?
2. What caused Abraham to be obedient to God’s call? How can we cultivate this kind of obedience?

3. Where do you know God has asked you to go, and yet you have not gone?
4. What has God asked you to do, that you have not yet done?
5. What is preventing you from going to or doing these things?
6. Is there a “barrenness” in your life that is making obedience to God difficult for you?

Verse (You might consider memorizing this one):

“And he (Abraham) believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” –Gen 15:6

Prayer:

- Pray for one another’s requests.
- Pray that God would make us blessings to our city and to all the people groups of the world.

What we hope members glean from the passage.

1. To go from his country and family to the place God would show him.
2. God promises to:
 - a. Make Abraham into a great nation (people)
 - b. Bless Abraham
 - c. Make Abraham’s name great
 - d. Bless those who bless Abraham
 - e. Curse those who dishonor Abraham
 - f. Bless all the families on the earth through Abraham
3. Abraham would be a blessing to all the families of the earth.
4. Abraham went, leaving his parents, land, extended family, and friends. He took his immediate household, his nephew Lot, and everything they owned to the place he trusted God would show them.
5. Abraham was worshiping the Lord and putting up markers of worship in a land where the people did not worship him. His actions were signposts that one day the land would belong to Abraham’s descendants and YHWH would be worshipped there.
6. “To your offspring I will give this land.”