

Digging Deeper

Abraham and Us?

Read John 8:39; Galatians 3:8, 9, 14.

Whom does Heaven view as the true children of Abraham—and therefore the actual heirs of the Divine promises given to him?

Read Isaiah 51:1-2.

What qualities are we to reflect from this father of the faithful?

What made Abraham different from his forebears?

In what aspects of my life do I need to follow Abraham's example of separation?

Family Activity

Watch together the Bible Project's video on YouTube.

Title: Overview: Genesis 12-50

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo>

Devotional Guide

For Individuals and Families (Issue #5)

THE JOURNEY OF ABRAHAM

The Bible first introduces us to Abraham when he was 75 years old. At the time he was still known as Abram. Because Hebrew was his native tongue, the Bible refers to Abram and his descendants as Hebrews (Genesis 14:13; 39:14-17). His wife was Sarai. Although Abram had achieved considerable prominence and wealth, he and Sarai lived with deep heartbreak, for they were without a child. Abram's father and grandfather had made their home in Mesopotamia, along the Euphrates River, and area noted for its advanced economy. In Genesis 12, God appeared to Abram and instructed him to leave the comforts and culture of his homeland. Without specifying where He was taking Abram, God simply said, *"Leave for a land I will show you."*

In turn, God promised to bestow a series of blessings on Abram: *"I will make you a great nation. I will bless you, and make your name great. Thus you shall be a blessing. And I shall bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."* (Genesis 12:2-3)

Trusting God, Abram began his journey with his herds, his servants, his wife, a nephew named Lot, and Lot's family. Over time God brought them to Canaan, where He told Abram, *"I have given your descendants this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates."* (Genesis 15:18)

These two promises - -that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Abram's family and that his descendants would be a great nation - must have been quite difficult for the old man to believe. Not only was Sarai childless, she was now at an age when having children seemed no longer possible. But to confirm his promise, God renamed Abram. "You shall be called Abraham," He said, which means "the father of a multitude. Sarai also became Sarah, meaning "princess."

Journey Through the Bible
Journey to a Better Family

Mile Marker
Genesis 12

DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 11:26–32. Describe Abraham’s background and what distinguished him.

Although his [Abraham’s] own father was vacillating between the true and the false worship, and with his knowledge of the truth false theories and idolatrous practices were mingled, Abraham kept free from this infatuation. He was not ashamed of his faith, and made no effort to hide the fact that he made God his trust.

Read Genesis 18:17-19. How was God eventually to describe the trust He placed in this patriarch?

God designed that Abraham should be a channel of light and blessing, that he should have a gathering influence, and that God should have a people on the earth. Abraham was to be in the world, reflecting in his life the character of Jesus. When he received the divine call, Abraham was not a man of renown, neither a lawgiver, nor a conqueror. He was a simple herdsman, dwelling in tents, but employing a large number of workmen to carry on his humble employment. And the honor which he received was because of his faithfulness to God, his strict integrity and just dealing.

Read Genesis 12:1–7; II Corinthians 6:14–18. What was the first major step of faith that Abraham was called to perform, and why?

Read Hebrews 11:8–10. What was Abraham seeking? How are we to follow his example?

Read Genesis 17:1–8, 15, 16. Why were the names of both Abram and Sarai changed?

Read Genesis 18:1, 10–14; 21:1, 2, 6, 7; Hebrews 11:11, 12. What reveals the tremendous spiritual growth of Sarah?

GOALS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

MONDAY

- Read THE BIG STORY from page #1
- Start on “Discussion” from page #2

TUESDAY

- Complete “DISCUSSION” from page #2

WEDNESDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

THURSDAY

- Read and work on MEMORY VERSES

FRIDAY

- Use DIGGING DEEPER from page #4 as a guide for discussion.

SATURDAY

- Complete FAMILY ACTIVITY from page #4

MEMORY VERSES

Hebrews 11:8, “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

Genesis 12:4, “So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.”