



Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 3: "Abraham: Blessed by God"

*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What is the greatest thing you have achieved so far in your life? Does that achievement make you great?

Transition: All greatness that matters in the long run comes from God. Nothing we do can perfect us. Today we look at Abraham who was far from perfect and yet he was seen by God as a righteous and holy man. God saw Abraham's potential and was ready to use him to build the future.

Bottom Line: God knows the faithful even with their flaws.

LESSON PLAN

Background: *The first mention of Abram was that he was born when his father Terah was 70 years old (Gen. 11:26). It mentions he had 2 brothers, Nahor and Haran. They lived in Ur of the Chaldeans where Abram married Sarai. It mentions that Sarai was barren and unable to have children. The families were headed for the land of Canaan, but stopped and settled in Haran, now part of Turkey. Abraham died at the ripe old age of 175. When he was not quite half way through his life, at the age of 75, God did something amazing through Abraham, or Abram as he was then called.*

Read Genesis 12:1-3

1. Where does God tell Abram to go and what will it cost him?

2. What does this tell you about his wife, Sarai?

Question: Have you ever felt like you were on an adventure for God but you didn't know exactly where you would end up?



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3. What promise does God make IF Abram obeys God?

Question: How is that true? Are you and I blessed through Abraham?

Read Galatians 3:6-9

Paul says that we who believe are children of Abraham. We are the example of the righteousness that comes by faith like Abraham lived out before God, even for Gentiles. Paul is pointing to this as an early form, a shadow of the gospel of Christ who brought salvation by faith. Notice that in Matthew 1 the genealogy of Christ begins with Abraham continuing through David and ending up with Joseph the legal heir of the family line who was legally the father of Jesus by law. Isn't it interesting that God used Joseph, the legal heir as the true bloodline? Could this have proven the point that it is not genetics but faith that God uses to bring together all who believe?

Read Genesis 12:4-9

4. Who went with Abram on this great faith adventure?

Sarai, his nephew, Lot, and all the people he had acquired in Haran, along with all their possessions. Many herdsman worked for Abram. Genesis 14:14 mentions 318 trained men born in Abram's house and Gen. 17:12 mentions males that Abram bought from a foreigner. This is a pretty big group packing up to move.)

Question: What does this tell you about Abram's ability to lead his family well?

5. God led them to Canaan. What happened at Shechem?
6. After building an altar to God at the oak of Moreh in Schechem, where does Abram go?

Question: Where would you be willing to go if you really felt God was calling you to move for Him to a place where His presence is needed?

Read Genesis 12:10-16

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- Because of a severe famine in Canaan, Abram went down to Egypt where the land was better suited to provide food. What did Abram do that was dishonest and why?

Actually Abram's lie has a half lie and half truth. When caught by Abimelech, he confronts Abraham and asks him how he could bring such sin upon him and upon Egypt. Abraham replies, "Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife (Gen. 20:12).

Question: What are some half-truths that people tell to protect themselves?

Question: What is our role if we hear someone telling a half-truth?

- What happened to Sarai when they entered Egypt?

The princes of Pharaoh saw she was drop-dead gorgeous. They praised her to Pharaoh. She was taken into Pharaoh's house and he takes good care of Abram. Abram was also sinning because he was accepting Pharaoh's generosity based on a lie. She was probably one of the most beautiful women Pharaoh has seen. According to Keil and Dilitzsch ancient writings say the Egyptian women were not very beautiful and they aged rapidly.

Read Genesis 12:17-20

- How does God prevent Sarai from being violated by an unknowing King?

This is a preview of what was to come because of Egypt's future treatment of Abram's descendants. Remember when God said, "I will bless those who bless you and those who dishonor you I will curse?"

- How does Pharaoh respond to the curse and to Abram?

Question: Why do you think God would record Abraham's sin for all mankind to read about?



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Question: Is there such a thing as a harmless lie?

Question: How does this lesson address situational ethics?

11. Why didn't God remove His promise to Abraham after this near fatal mistake?

Question: How does the instruction in James 1 apply to this lesson today?

Question: How can we become more like Abraham after our failures and unwise choices?

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?