

Abram's Call

GENESIS 12–14

FIRST DAY: Introduction

The life of faith is a life lived in response and obedience to God's Word. It is a life of adventure, promise, challenges, separation, victory, and divine encounters! It requires worship, sacrifice, waiting, and continually believing God's Word. This life begins when we hear and respond to God's call to us through Jesus. The Bible highlights Abram as a man of faith. As we study Abram's life, we see the practical and wondrous aspects of the life of faith. Like ours, Abram's life was filled with adventure, promise, challenges, separation, victory, and divine encounters.

Abram responded to God's call when he was seventy-five years old. He left his father's house, traveled some 450 miles, lived in a tent in a strange land, and was tested by famine, fear, separation, battles, successes, and delays. He is an example to us of what the life of faith experiences and entails.

Ask God to help you respond to His call and promises by faith.

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 12:1–3

1. In Genesis 12 we are more fully introduced to Abram, who would become the father of the Jewish nation. Recall that Abram's family had left Ur *to go to the land of Canaan*, but settled in Haran (Genesis 11:31). Noting this, what had the Lord *said* to Abram? Genesis 12:1a

3. God ended His call to Abram with a final promise of *blessing*. Comment on this promise as you connect it with its fulfillment in Galatians 3:8–9.

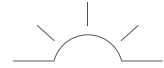
- a. Share a way your faith in God has *blessed* you.

4. From your study today, identify a present-day fulfillment of God's promises to Abram.

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 12:4–20

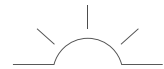
1. After receiving God's command and promises, *Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him* along with his wife, his nephew Lot, and *all their possessions*, and went to the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:4–6). Link this with Hebrews 11:8 to understand and comment on the magnitude of Abram's decision.

- a. How are you challenged by this aspect of faith?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Barak is the Hebrew word meaning *to bless*. The extended meaning is *to do, or give something of value to another*. Five times in Genesis 12:2–3 this word is used to reveal God's intentions to Abram.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*Wherever Abram went in the land of Canaan, he was marked by his tent and his altar. The tent marked him as a foreigner and nomad who did not belong to this world, and the altar marked him as a citizen of heaven who worshiped the true and living God.*¹⁴

—Pastor Warren Wiersbe

2. What did God do after Abram obeyed His command?
Genesis 12:7a
 - a. How does this highlight the reward of obedience? See also John 14:21.

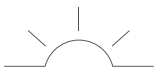
3. According to Genesis 12:7b–9, twice as Abram *journeyed* south, he *built an altar to the LORD*. Why do you think Abram did this?

4. When a *famine* came upon the land, *Abram went down to Egypt* (Genesis 12:10) where he felt threatened. Use Genesis 12:11–20 to briefly summarize and comment on:
 - a. Abram’s rationale (verses 11–13)

 - b. The Egyptians’ regard for Sarai (verses 14–16)

 - c. God’s response (verse 17)

 - d. Pharaoh’s rebuke (verses 18–20)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Note that Abram’s faith was still developing. God was patient and gracious to Abram and used Abram’s folly in Egypt to show him the faithfulness of His covenant.

(1) What evidence do you detect of God's grace to Abram in Egypt?

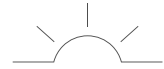
5. Share a way God's grace has covered your mistakes.

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 13

1. After Abram's time in Egypt, he returned to Canaan. From Genesis 13:1–2 describe Abram's entourage and possessions at this time.

2. Use Genesis 13:3–4 to note and comment on the significance of Bethel.

3. According to Genesis 13:5, Lot also had *flocks and herds and tents*, which resulted in conflict. Use Genesis 13:6–13 to identify and remark on:
 - a. The dilemma (verses 6–7)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the Bible, Egypt is a symbol of the world and bondage. Notice that Abram did not build an altar or call on the name of the LORD while he was in Egypt.

b. Abram's solution (verses 8–9)

(1) Abram was older than Lot and had been promised the land by God. Why does this make Abram's solution so gracious?

(2) Strife is defined as *disputes, quarrels, and contentions*. How is Abram's response to *strife* an example to you? See also Romans 12:10 and Philippians 2:4.

c. Lot's choice (verses 10–11a)

d. The outcome (verses 11b–13)

(1) What does Lot's choice suggest to you about him?

4. *After Lot had separated from him*, the Lord spoke to Abram (Genesis 13:14a). Use Genesis 13:14b–17 to answer the following:

a. What did God tell Abram to do? (verses 14b, 17)

b. How did God expand the promise given to Abram in Genesis 12:2–3? (verses 15–16)

(1) Considering Abram’s age and Sarai’s barrenness, why would this promise require faith?

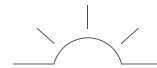
(2) Why do you think these promises would encourage Abram after separating from Lot?

5. Abram then *moved his tent* and *dwelt* in Hebron. Remark on what he did there. Genesis 13:18

6. Use Hebrews 11:8–10 to share a way Abram’s faith motivates you.

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 14

1. Genesis 14:1–10 recounts a war between various kings of the city-states around Canaan. Use these verses to briefly summarize this war.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The LORD’s promise to give the land of Canaan to Abram’s offspring is the single most repeated affirmation in the Torah. At least thirty-seven references are made to it in the books of Moses.¹⁵

—HCSB Study Bible

2. When the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown in battle, what did the conquering armies take from these cities? Genesis 14:11–12

a. *One who had escaped came and told Abram* what had happened (Genesis 14:13). According to Genesis 14:14–16, how did Abram respond when he *heard* this news?

(1) Considering Lot's behavior up to this point, what does this convey to you about Abram?

3. After Abram's victory and meeting with the king of Sodom (Genesis 14:17), he encountered an intriguing figure—Melchizedek. According to Genesis 14:18–20:

a. Who was Melchizedek? (verse 18)

(1) From Psalm 110:4, read the Messianic prophecy that was written 900 years after this encounter. Without the explanation given in Hebrews 7:1–3, the significance of this encounter would have remained mysterious. Use Hebrews 7:1–3 to unlock this mystery.

b. What did Melchizedek do? (verses 18–19a)

(1) From 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, remark on the symbolism of the *bread and wine*.

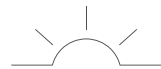
(2) Notice that Melchizedek *blessed* Abram. Use Hebrews 7:7 to explain why this is significant.

c. What did Melchizedek declare? (verses 19b–20a)

(1) How might this have encouraged Abram?

d. What did Melchizedek receive from Abram? (verse 20b)

(1) Link this with Hebrews 7:4 and share your thoughts.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Biblically, a *tithe* was one-tenth of income. This was the first act of tithing recorded in the Bible. It anticipated the tithe that God would require (Malachi 3:10).

4. In Genesis 14:21 the *king of Sodom* made Abram the tempting offer of all *the goods* from the battle. In your own words, express Abram's response to the king of Sodom. Genesis 14:22–24

a. What impresses you about Abram's response?

5. From today's study, what is your greatest takeaway about Abram's faith?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Use your study this week from Genesis 12–14 to reflect on the life of Abram concerning:

a. God's call

b. Abram's obedience

c. Abram's worship

- d. Abram's challenge

 - e. Abram's faith

 - f. Abram's choices

 - g. God's blessings
2. Genesis 12–14 records four instances in which Abram built an altar to the Lord. Oswald Chambers pointed out, *Commentators notice one interesting point in Abraham's life, whenever he neglected to erect an altar, he went astray.*¹⁶ What does this convey about worship?
3. What stands out to you most about Abram's relationship to Our Great Creator?