

## WARM-UP

- Describe the experience of moving into a new house. What excited you and what made you uncomfortable?
- Recall a promise someone made to you or your family that was eventually fulfilled. Tell us about what happened.
- What do you like about traveling? What is the first thing you do when you reach your destination?

**WORD** *<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* **GENESIS 12:1-3**

(Read also **GENESIS 12:4-9**.)

Hundreds of years since the scattering of people at Babel, the nomadic family of Abraham wandered the land without a place to truly call their own. His father, Terah, initially planned to travel to the land of Canaan—the Promised Land—but settled in a different place along the way. It was only after Terah's passing that God led Abraham not just to a place, but also to a calling so great that it still influences us today. In this lesson, we will go deeper into what God told Abraham and how this applies to families of those who have also been called by God.

## 1 | God had a great purpose for Abraham and his family.

*And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” GENESIS 12:2*

Abraham, then called Abram, and his family could have stayed where they settled and built a community there. But God had greater things in mind for them. He called Abram with a charge to go, and had already prepared the land designated for Abram. God even blessed him, that as he would go, God would make of him a *great nation*. This was a continuation of God’s desire to bless Adam, Noah, and their families, and His command for them to be fruitful and multiply. In the same way, God’s original design for our families is to be an environment where its members are nurtured and blessed. This is so we would thrive in our God-given calling and, in turn, produce more generations of thriving families that will experience God’s blessings as well. How does this truth affect how you see God’s purpose for your own family?

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## 2 | God has a greater purpose for Abraham’s family and for all the families of the earth.

*<sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you <sup>3</sup>I will curse, and in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”*

**GENESIS 12:2-3**

God’s purpose for the family goes beyond blessing it and its members. For Abraham, God promised to bless him and his family so that they could be a blessing to all the families of the earth. God’s purpose for families is not just inward, but also outward. God desires all families to be blessed and be channels of His blessing to others around us. This would

mean that it would not just be Abraham's family that would be a blessing; the generations of families after him would also be blessed to be a blessing. Even though we may not be biological descendants of Abraham, all believers in Christ are considered as Abraham's descendants (Galatians 3:7–9). Therefore, God has the same purpose for us and our families: He blessed us so that we would be a blessing to others. In what ways can we help our family members experience God's blessing and be a blessing to others around us?

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### 3 | God's ultimate purpose and blessing is the redemption of humanity.

*<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. HEBREWS 11:8-10*

Abram, now called Abraham, responded in faith to God's charge to go to a new place and become a father of nations. This was a means for God's greater plan to redeem mankind from sin and restore us back into His family. Through Abraham's line, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the way to our heavenly Father. What Jesus did on the cross was not only meant for Abraham's descendants, but also for all those who believe in Him. This promise of salvation and purpose applies to all people in all stages of life. What does Galatians 3:7–9 say about those who believe in God? How could our personal response of faith with regard to how we view and treat our family be a channel of God's redeeming work for humanity?

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## APPLICATION

- Has God given you a family or a group of people to lead? How can you be a godly example for other families to follow?
- What do you think is God calling your family to be and do? How will you respond to this purpose and mission?
- As a child or sibling, how can you be a blessing to your family? How can you reach out to other families?

## PRAYER

- Praise God for leading us to His greater purpose, as Abraham was led. Thank God for giving you and your family a unique calling.
- Ask God to show you how you may be a blessing to your family. Ask for forgiveness for the times when you were otherwise and pray that God would renew your heart and mind towards your family.
- Pray that God would use you to raise the next generation so that they may love God and be a blessing to others. Make an effort this week to reach out to them and share about God's faithfulness in your life.



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