

A Great Nation

Genesis 12:1-5

This has been a tough week.

In our fraying society we are used to tough weeks.

But this one has been tougher than most.

It seems like a long time ago and such a small thing since an adult Phillies fan stole a home run ball from a young boy on his birthday.

Earlier this week the video emerged of a 23-year-old woman from Ukraine—a refugee from a never-ending war, seeking a new life in the United States—stabbed to death on a train by a man who had been arrested 14 times. Also disturbing were the people who sat around her as she bled to death in her seat and fell on her side.

Her name was Iryana Zarutska.

Then on Wednesday, Charlie Kirk, a husband, a father of two young children, an evangelical Christian and founder of Turning Point USA, a champion of free speech and conservative ideas was shot and killed as he spoke on a campus in Utah.

He was 31.

And the reaction has shown us so much about our nation. Rather than coming together to mourn a horrible reality, we have been driven further apart by those who want to celebrate or explain away or justify.

And we watch all these events and our culture seems so foreign and frightening. Life seems a little darker, little more frightening. We wonder if this is our world now. And if it is our world, how do we live? What is God calling the Church to do? As followers of Jesus what is our next step?

Should we fear? Should we flee? Should we fight?

Or, as the people of God, the people of promise, the family of God should we have faith?

We are going to spend the next few months talking about a man named Abram and his family. We are going to do a deep dive into this question because Abram and his family lived as God's people in a world that opposed Him.

And this is vital because we are his family too. How do we live as the family of faith in a sinful world?

Abram was born in a city called Ur which lies along the Euphrates River somewhere around 2000 BC, most Bible scholars believe. Ur was one of the most important cities in the ancient world flourishing for around 3000 years—surviving empire after empire. It was home to as many as 65,000 people at its height and covered 160 acres—so just about a mile square.