

## Cultivate Genesis Study

Welcome to Session Two of the Cultivate Genesis Study.

We will be studying Chapters 12 through 19.

### Chapters 12

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapters 12 this week  
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Read Genesis Chapter 11:10-32, to review Shem's family line after the flood.

We begin Chapter 12, with Shem's descendant, Abram, being called by God to leave his family and his home and begin the physical and spiritual journey that God has ordained for him, as the one that is carrying the seed of the promised Messiah.

Read Genesis 12: 1-3

The Lord's words to Abram were very strong. He is making great promises to this man.

1. What promises did God make to Abram?

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God's only command to Abram was that he follow where God led him to "Go".

God made a Covenant with Abraham. There were **no conditions on Abraham, all he had to do was believe**. This is called the Abrahamic covenant. What is a Covenant?

Genesis 11:31-32 *"Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. **But when they came to Haran, they settled there.** Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran."*

Was Abram partially obedient, fully obedient? \_\_\_\_\_

How difficult is it for some to leave their family, their old life, their sin? God wants people committed to follow Him.

2. Read 1Kings 19:19-21

What decision did Elisha make?

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Now Read Luke 9:57-62

What does Jesus expect of those that want to follow Him?

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3. What things might try to keep a Christian from being obedient to what God calls them to do?

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Philippians 4:13 is a common verse we like to stand on when we sense we are walking into uncharted territory.

4. What other verses could strengthen you as you walk in obedience to God's calling for you? Write down a favorite.

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Is God leading you to serve somewhere new? To leave your comfort zone? To be a blessing to others? Spend time in prayer about this and take note of God's answer.

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In verse 12:3, God told Abram that, "in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." What is the *ultimate* way that Abram's obedience blessed you?

Read Genesis 22: 9-18.

Matthew Henry wrote, "It was not God's intention that Isaac should actually be sacrificed, yet nobler blood than that of animals, in due time, was to be shed for sin, even the blood of the only begotten Son of God. Reference must be had to the promised Messiah, the blessed Seed. Christ was sacrificed in our stead, as this ram instead of Isaac, and his death was our discharge. And observe, that the temple, the place of sacrifice, was afterwards built upon this same mount Moriah; and Calvary, where Christ was crucified, was near.

A new name was given to that place, for the encouragement of all believers, to the end of the world, cheerfully to trust in God, and obey him. Jehovah-jireh, the Lord will provide.."

Read Genesis 12:4-6

There was a cost for Abram to obey God. He had to move his family. He was living comfortably with many possessions.

5. Write out Luke 12:15

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What is your attitude about your possessions? Do you find comfort and security in the things you have? Who do your possessions belong to really?

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Notice that Abram never built a house, a permanent dwelling a home, he was a sojourner living in a tent. This world is not our home. Psalm 127:1 *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."*

In vs. 7 we see what seems to be first time the Lord *appeared* to Abram when He spoke of the promise concerning the land He would give to Israel. As an act of worship Abram built an altar to God. This is the first of many altars Abram would build. The altar was a place to offer sacrifices and call on the name of the Lord. As new testament believers, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us enabling us to continually offer sacrifices and call on His name.

Consider- how often do you stop and call on the Lord for guidance?

6. What are some practical ways you offer sacrifices to God?

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7. Search verses about "calling on the name of the Lord". What did you find?

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Read Genesis 12:10-15

FEAR. Abraham makes some foolish, sinful decisions based on fear. There is no mention of Abram, praying or enquiring of the Lord for direction. He feared the famine. So, he moved his family to Egypt, instead of trusting God to provide in the place He led him to be. He feared for his life because of Sarai's beauty. And his fear resulted in a lie.

8. Find two verses that speak of sinful fear. (Not the fear of the Lord)

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Half-truths are still lies. That's why when we have witnesses in court proceedings they are sworn to say, "The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." A half-truth can shade enough of the whole truth to spin the tale completely in the other direction!

The Lord protected Sarai as she was submissive to Abram's deceptive plan. This shows God's sovereignty and grace. We will see in future chapters that God is going to use Abram and Sarai, to further the line of the promised Messiah, despite their foolish decisions.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:25

9. What do you think about Abram here, was he being the **spiritual leader** of that household?

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How many of you would do what Sarah did?

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We know that Abram was fearful and had a lack of trust, we know that Sarah was submissive but what does this tell us about God?

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In Genesis 12:16-20, we see that Abram's sin is found out. Your sin will always find you out. After Pharaoh's blessing on Abram, with intent to marry Sarai, God's intervention puts an end to the lie. This pagan king calls out Abram, who is a follower of God.

Have you ever been convicted by something an unsaved person pointed out about your behavior? Do not dismiss the correction of the Lord, in whatever way he reveals it to you.

10. What should Christian's response be when sin their life is revealed to them, whether through the Holy Spirit, or an unbeliever? What Scripture backs up your answer?

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Can you remember a time when you were protected and blessed even though you were not perfectly following Jesus?

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Give thanks to our merciful and graceful God, who offers forgiveness.