

GOD'S CALL AND THE REALITY GAP

GENESIS 11:27-12:9

1/11/26

I. CONTEXT (Genesis 11:27-32)

A. The line of Seth – worshippers of God

1. They are in Ur of the Chaldeans
2. The line is led by Terah

II. GOD SPEAKS

Genesis 12:1a - "Now the Lord said to Abram..."

A. Timeline of events

Acts 7:2-4 - "And Stephen said: 'Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' ⁴Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living"

- Set out for Canaan "BUT" end up in Haran

B. Terah led his family to what he knew

III. GOD'S CALL

Genesis 12:1b - "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."

A. God calls Abram away from his comfort

1. Comfort of surroundings
2. Comfort of family
3. Comfort of security

B. God's call gives Abram significance

IV. GOD'S PROMISES

Genesis 12:2-3 - "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. ³I 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."

A. God's promise is accompanied by His protection

B. Hurdles to God's promises

1. Abram doesn't know where to go
2. Sarai's bareness
 - Pictures our hopelessness and inability

C. Living in the reality gap

1. This is the gap between our reality and God's promises
2. We bridge this gap with faith

V. ABRAM'S RESPONSE

A. Faith - "Abram went"

Genesis 12:4 - "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran."

B. Worship - "he built there an altar"

Genesis 12:7-8 - "Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord."

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing that stood out or challenged your thinking from the message this week?
2. In scripture God has called us to do many different things as His followers. What are some of the things that God has called us to do?
3. Why is it important for us to be aware that God's call, not our spiritual knowledge or well lived life, is what make us significant in His eyes?
4. God's call giving us significance, humbles us, and keeps us from overestimating our abilities. Why is this important for us?
5. As we navigate the reality gap...what are some things that encourage you to have faith? Why are those things such an encouragement?
6. Abram had massive hurdles to his faith that God was going to overcome. What are some hurdles to your faith that God has overcome? Share with the group to encourage their faith.
7. This week's message closed by encouraging deeper worship. What are some ways you and your family worship God in your home? What are some ways that you can deepen that worship this year?
8. What is one thing from the message or the group, that you would like to live out this week?

*****Over this next year, we will be highlighting various promises of God that arise in the passages we study on Sundays. As a group, take some time and reflect upon this promise or other promises that arise out of our passage.**

GOD'S PROMISE FROM THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK – *God promises to protect His promises to us...*

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you and him who dishonors you I will curse..."

- Why is this a good promise for us to reflect upon?
- What does this promise reveal to us about God?