



Vision Matters: Genesis

July 23 & 24, 2023

We have more to share. Text **CONNECT** to **888-644-4034**

TCND Staff

A **genesis** is a **beginning**, and it is a key part of **vision**. We cannot properly see how things should go present and future without seeing how they went in the past.

Our vision has to include our beginning. And in many ways, that beginning was a call: the call of Abraham.




Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV) The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

2 “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

There are several interrelated elements in this call:

-  A _____ - God tells Abraham to do something
-  A _____ - God swears to give Abraham something
-  A _____ - God depicts a new and better reality

We share this beginning with Abraham. Like him, we have been called as The Church/a congregation with a command, a promise, and, most of all, a vision.

I. A _____ - What Have We Been? Abraham was a childless middle-aged man in a pagan city worshipping false gods.

Joshua 24:2-3 (NIV) **2** Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, **lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.** **3** But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants.

We were a church plant in Lincoln Village. That is our beginning. That is our history. That is what we have been.

II. A _____ - Where Are We Going? Abraham went to Canaan, the “promised land”, a land with some difficulty but much abundance.

Hebrews 11:9 (NIV) **9** By faith he made his home in **the promised land** like a stranger in a foreign country; **he lived in tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

Exodus 3:8 (NIV) **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into **a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey**—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

We are similarly going somewhere good. We are going to a multicultural, multigenerational community of faith that moves itself and others closer to God. That is our future. That is where we are going.

III. A _____ - How Will We Get There? Abraham travelled to the promised land with other people: his family.

Genesis 12:4-5 (NIV) **4** So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. **5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot**, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Traveling to the Promised Land was, had always been, and would always be a family affair.

Genesis 11:31 (NIV) **31** 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 Harran, they settled there.

We are getting there as a family, too. We are functioning as a family on mission. That is our manner. That is how we will get there.

Invitation/Challenge - How can you “go” with us as “family”? What will you experience if you do? What is your genesis vision?

This Week’s Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

- Sat. July 22, Eccl 11-12. SoS 1-5
- Sun. July 23, Sos 6-8, Is 1-2
- Mon. July 24, Is 3-6
- Tue. July 25, Is 7-9
- Wed. July 26, Is 10-14
- Thur July 27 Is 15-19
- Fri. July 28, Is 20-23
- Sat. July 29, Is 24-28
- Sun. July 30, Is 29-30