

Big Idea: You are a crucial part of God's plan.

Primary Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4

Supporting Scripture: Hebrews 11:8-10; Romans 4:20-21

CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)

- Have you ever been part of a group project where you felt like your contribution didn't really matter?
- Or have you ever had a moment with your friends when you wanted to do something, but everyone else wanted to do something different, so it felt like your opinion didn't even matter?
- Or even worse, have you ever shared an idea with a group, only for everyone to shoot it down... but then a few minutes later, someone else says, "Ooh! I have an idea!" and proceeds to say almost exactly what you just said, and suddenly everyone thinks it's brilliant?
- Feeling like you're a side character in someone else's story is the worst.
- We're in week three of *The Sacred Timeline*, and over the past two weeks, we've seen some pretty big moments.
- First, we discovered that God created everything, including us, with purpose and power.
- Last week, we realized that one choice broke everything by allowing sin to shatter the perfect relationship between God and humanity.
- After hearing those stories, it's easy to feel small.
- You are not a side character in God's story, you are a crucial part of God's plan.
- And if that feels difficult to accept, or if you can't quite manage to see how you fit into God's story, that's okay.
- As we continue the story, we're going to meet someone who felt that same exact way.

SCRIPTURE (What does God's Word say?)

- Let's pick up where we left off last week.
 - Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden.
 - Sin had entered the world, and everything was broken.
 - Their relationship with God, their relationship with each other, even their relationship with creation itself was all shattered.

- Thankfully, God had a plan to fix what was broken and bring humanity back into relationship with Him.
- For several generations, things got worse before they got better.
- Adam and Eve's son, Cain, killed his brother Abel.
- Violence spread, and eventually, God sent a flood to reset creation, saving only Noah and his family.
- After the flood, humanity started over, but it didn't take long for sin to show up again.
- Genesis 12 is where everything starts to change as God takes the first major step in His rescue plan.

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3 – NLT)

- Notice what God asks Abram to do: **Leave everything** and **go** the land that I will show you."
- God just says, "Trust me. Start walking. I'll let you know when you get there."
- God doesn't just ask Abram to leave. He makes him some incredible promises:
 - "I will make you into a great nation."
 - "I will bless you and make you famous."
 - "You will be a blessing to others."
 - "All the families on earth will be blessed through you."
- God is blessing Abram so that **through Abram, the entire world will be blessed.**
- This is God's rescue plan kicking into gear.
- He's choosing one person, one family, one nation because He's going to use them to bring salvation to everyone else.

⁴ So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed (Genesis 12:4a – NLT)

- Abram packed up his life and started walking, trusting that God knew what He was doing—even when Abram didn't.
- Despite many mistakes Abram made along the way, God kept His promise.

- Almost 2,000 years later, the author of Hebrews would write about Abram (whose name was ultimately changed to Abraham).

⁸ *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. ⁹ And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. ¹⁰ Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. (Hebrews 11:8-10 – NLT)*

- Abraham obeyed and trusted, and through him, God set in motion a plan that would eventually lead to the birth of Jesus, the One who would finally restore what sin had broken.

INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)

1. God's story involves ordinary people who say yes.

- God chose Abraham because God wanted to.
- When God called, Abraham said yes.
- God is still looking for ordinary people, just like you, who will say yes.
- God invites you to take one step of faith, and then another, and then another.
- God's rescue plan didn't require Abraham to be perfect. It just required him to be willing—and the same is true for you.
- We don't always know what the next step is, so often the best we can do is simply say yes when God calls us.

2. Faith doesn't require all the answers.

- Abraham had no idea what he was getting into.
- God said, "Go," and Abraham went.
- We live in a world that values certainty—we want to know the outcome before we take the risk.
- But that's not how faith works.

²⁰ *Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. (Romans 4:20-21 – NLT)*

- You can struggle with doubt and still trust God.

- Faith is about choosing to believe that **God is who He says He is, even when you don't understand what He's doing.**
- You don't have to have all the answers. You just have to trust the One who does.
- Abraham didn't know where he was going. But he knew **Who** he was following. And that was enough.

3. You are part of a story that's much bigger than you.

- Abraham's obedience wasn't just about him. It was also about everyone who would come after him.
- Jesus is actually one of Abraham's direct descendants.
- The Messiah, the Savior, the one who would ultimately fix everything that sin broke—He's part of Abraham's story.
- This means Abraham's story is also directly connected to yours.
- When God called Abraham, he said yes. And because he did, the world was forever changed.
- Plain and simple: your **yes** matters, too. Maybe more than you could ever realize.

ACTION (How could we live this out?)

1. Ask God to show you where He's calling you to say yes.

- Spend a little time each day this week asking, "God, where are You asking me to trust You right now?"
- Then, take some time to listen.
- Maybe you'll start to get the sense that God is calling you to something super specific.
- Whatever it is, as soon as you think you might have an idea of where God might be leading you, share it with a few trusted adults and friends, and ask them to pray for you as you work up the courage to say yes.
- You don't need to have the whole thing figured out, just keep asking God to show you the *next step* He wants you to take.

2. Look around for how God is using others.

- This week, pay attention to the people around you and look for moments where you can see God using someone else.
- When you see it, take a moment to thank God for them.

- If you get the chance, tell that person you saw them saying yes to God.
- God's plan involves countless ordinary people all over the world saying yes in their own unique ways.
- You might not see the full impact of your obedience today, but that doesn't mean it's not happening.
- As you learn to say yes to God, you'll start to notice opportunities to invite others into His story too.
- As you practice saying yes to God yourself, stay open to the moments when He might want to use your story to reach someone else.
- Abraham's yes changed the world for countless others, and God could use your yes to do the same thing.