



Date: 5-31-2026

Sermon: Blessed to Become a Family

Text: Genesis 12:1-9 NLT

What if the church is not mainly a community we choose, but a family God promised?

- 1. God calls Abram to leave one family so He can create a _____ family.**

Genesis 12:1-3 NLT

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."

Notes:

2. Abram obeys before the promise looks _____.

Genesis 12:4-6 NLT

4 So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. 5 He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth--his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran--and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

Notes:

3. Abram _____ before he settles.

Genesis 12:7-9 NLT

7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the LORD, and he worshiped the LORD. 9 Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.

Notes:

So, what does this mean for us this week?

1. See the church as family, not a _____.
2. Trust God in the _____ places
3. Live as a _____, not just as someone
who wants to be _____.

Application:

Look for one intentional way to bless someone this week, especially someone outside your normal circle.

Ask: Who might experience the blessing of God this week because I belong to the family of God?

This week, will you live like church is something you attend, or like the family God has called you into?

Expanded Notes

Genesis 12:1–9 in the Larger Story of Scripture

Genesis 12 is a major turning point in the Bible. Genesis 1–11 describes God’s creation of the world, humanity’s fall into sin, the spread of violence and corruption, the flood, and the scattering of the nations at Babel. By the end of Genesis 11, humanity is divided, scattered, and unable to restore itself.

Genesis 12 begins God’s gracious answer to the brokenness of the world.

God calls one man, Abram, but His purpose is much larger than one man. God promises to make Abram into a great nation, to bless him, and to bless “all the families on earth” through him. This means God’s plan from the beginning was not merely to bless Abram privately, but to create a people through whom His blessing would spread to the world.

The call of Abram is the beginning of God’s covenant family. That family would become Israel, and from Israel would come Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, the blessing promised to Abram reaches people from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

This helps us understand the church. The church is not an afterthought in God’s plan. The church is the family of God formed through the saving work of Jesus Christ and brought into the blessing promised to Abraham.

The Promise to Abram Was Always Bigger Than Abram

God says to Abram:

“I will bless you...and you will be a blessing to others.”

This is one of the clearest mission statements in Scripture. God blesses Abram so that blessing will move through Abram to others.

The promise contains both privilege and responsibility.

Abram receives the grace of God, but he is also called to become a channel of God's grace. He is blessed, but not merely for himself. He is chosen, but not so he can ignore the nations. He is called out from one family so that all families of the earth may eventually be blessed through him.

This pattern continues throughout Scripture.

God blesses His people so they can display His glory, demonstrate His character, and extend His blessing to others.

The same is true for the church today. We are not saved simply to gather, receive, and consume. We are saved into a family that exists for the glory of God and the good of the world.

Helpful Cross-References

Genesis 3:15 — The First Promise of Rescue

After Adam and Eve sin, God promises that the offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head. This is the first glimpse of the gospel. Genesis 12 develops that promise further by showing that the promised blessing will come through Abram's family line.

Genesis 12 does not appear out of nowhere. It is part of God's plan to undo the curse of sin and bring blessing to the nations.

Genesis 17:4–7 — God Establishes His Covenant with Abraham

God later expands His promise to Abram, renaming him Abraham and saying he will become the father of many nations. This shows that the promise was never small. God was not only forming one ethnic nation; He was moving history toward a worldwide family of faith.

Galatians 3:7–9 — Those of Faith Are Children of Abraham

Paul explains that those who have faith are children of Abraham. This is important because it shows that the family promised to Abraham is ultimately fulfilled not by ethnicity alone, but by faith.

The church is connected to Abraham's family because believers are united to Christ by faith. In Christ, we become heirs of the promise.

Galatians 3:16 — The Promise Points to Christ

Paul says the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring, and that offspring is Christ. This means Jesus is the true fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise.

The blessing promised in Genesis 12 comes to the nations through Jesus.

Galatians 3:28–29 — Believers Belong to Christ and Are Abraham's Heirs

Paul writes that those who belong to Christ are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to the promise. This helps us understand the church as a promised family.

The church is not merely a religious organization. It is the family of God made up of people who belong to Christ.

Ephesians 2:11–22 — Christ Creates One New Family

Ephesians 2 explains that Gentiles were once separated from the covenants of promise, but through Christ they have been brought near. Jesus has broken down the dividing wall and created one new people.

This passage strongly connects with the sermon theme. The church is not a group of naturally similar people. It is a family created by the reconciling work of Jesus.

1 Peter 2:9–10 — God's People Have a Shared Identity and Mission

Peter describes believers as a chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, and God's own possession. The purpose is "to show others the goodness of God."

This echoes the pattern of Genesis 12. God makes a people for Himself, and that people exists to display His goodness to the world.