

Neighbors & Nations: Made to Worship

Made to Go

October 8 & 11, 2026

GENESIS 12:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

- I know that many people don't enjoy numbers. For some they all just sound the same...for example: million and billion. *Have you ever thought about the difference between a million and a billion?* It's only one letter that separates them and if you are talking money, I'll take either amount as gift!
- Let's say you were going to save a *million* dollars. If you could set aside \$45,000 a year and not spend one penny of it it would take you 22 years to save a million dollars. Let's do the same thing with a *billion*...saving \$45,000 a year it would take you 22,000 years to save a billion dollars. **A billion is a thousand millions!**

8,319,093,253 (as of 10/8/2026)

That's the total population of our world as of today—the total number of people living and breathing on this planet. And as I said, the number will be different by the time we finish this service, because the global population increases by roughly forty people every ten seconds.

- As followers of Jesus, we need to understand that every number in that total of more than 8.2 billion represents a soul. A person. A human being. These are individuals who've been made in the image of God to enjoy a relationship with the One who made them. Boys and girls. Men and women. Teenagers. Grandparents. Moms and dads. Aunts and uncles. All these people are precious in the sight of God.

"But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?" **Romans 10:14 (NLT)**

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."

Carl F.H. Henry

What is **GOD'S PLAN** to reach the world?

The whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world!

- The mission is not just for pastors, planters, missionaries, church staff members or even the radical people in the "missions ministry"...the mission is for every Jesus follower and the call is to leverage your job, skill, and passion where you live, work, and play for the sake of the mission of God!
- Today I want to talk to you about how God used an ordinary family to join in His activity in the world! When you hear the name you're gonna think "Oh super Christian...or hall of faith". But when the call came he was just an ordinary man with an ordinary family.

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 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. I 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.' 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. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan."

Genesis 12:1-5a

What do we learn about our family from the story of Abraham's family?

- TWO "BIG PICTURE" TRUTHS:

I. GOD IS AT WORK IN THE WORLD

- What had just taken place in Genesis 11 —The Tower of Babel— people decided life was all about them and they would create their own way to God. God intervened and we read about it in verse 9:

"Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth." **Genesis 11:9**

- At this moment, God initiated a relationship with Abram for the express purpose of revealing Himself to this world and bringing them back into a relationship with Himself.
- Since the fall of humanity, God has been at work redeeming a people for Himself!
- Six times in these words spoken to Abram God says, “I will”.
- God is at work all over the world bringing people into right relationship with Himself!

“We are living in the greatest days in the history of Christianity to be alive! There are more people coming to Christ today on a daily basis than at any other time in human history.”

- God has brought you and/or your family to Himself for such a time as this!

II. THERE IS AN INVITATION TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO BE A PART OF GOD’S ACTIVITY

- It is true that God is at work in this world, but God in His sovereignty has chosen to work through people! He does not need us, but He has invited us to be a part of His activity!
- His invitation to Abram, was an invitation to Abram’s family — *“And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions...” (v.5)*
- The primary task of my family is to be on mission with God to reach the world! (Matthew 6:33)

*“You cannot be in relationship with Jesus and not be on mission.”—
Henry Blackaby, Experiencing God*

➤ What does this mission look like?

A. It is a geographical mission

- The call to Abraham began with a location!
- This was not necessarily a missionary call like you might think...this was about the place where Abram’s family was to live!
- **POINT:** Where you live is the starting place for you to be on mission to join in God’s activity!
- God is at work all around you and He has strategically placed your family where you live to watch for His activity and join Him.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **Acts 1:8***

B. It is a generational mission

- The mission for Abram’s family included Abram’s family!
- The rest of the story of the book of Genesis and the history of Christianity is the generational impact of Abram’s family!
- God’s ultimate intention through Abram’s family was to introduce Jesus to the world...the same is true for your family and mine!

*“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.” **Psalms 33:11 (NASB)***
- Through discipling your family you can reach generations to come—parents are now training the grandparents of their own great grand children!
- You can through your family live your life in a way that outlasts it!

"Your greatest contribution to the Kingdom of God may not be something you do, but someone you raise." Andy Stanley

- You can impact the world from generation to generation by accepting God's invitation to be on mission in your family!

III. FIVE CLOSING THOUGHTS WHEN YOU ACCEPT GOD'S INVITATION TO JOIN HIS ACTIVITY:

1. God has blessed my family for a reason

"And I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:2-3c

- When we look at our lives in America all we can say is that God has blessed us!
- If you have an annual household income of \$50,000 you have more wealth than 97.3% of the people on planet earth. (If you take the income to \$100k you are in the top 1% in the world)
- God's blessings are not simply for my means, they are for His mission!

2. Accepting God's invitation requires sacrifice

- **Sacrifice:** giving up of something valued; a giving up of something valuable or important for somebody or something else considered to be of more value or importance (Encarta Online Dictionary)
- Abram had to leave his homeland...maybe for you it is a sacrifice of time, comfort, money, reputation, plans...

3. If you join there will be opposition

- *"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse." Genesis 12:3a*
- *"dishonors"* (Heb) to call for harm or evil upon someone or something

"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12

- *"persecuted"* (διωκω) (future passive) to pursue with repeated acts of harassment and attack
- When you accept God's invitation to join in His activity there will be opposition! We have an enemy in this world!

4. You never retire from God's activity or It's never too late to join

- *"Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran." (v.4c)*

5. God's activity is not just through your family, it is in your family

- When you accept God's invitation to join in His activity you are making the greatest decision for your family!