

THE STORY  
God Builds A Nation  
Genesis 11-35  
Chapter 2 September 10, 2023  
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The Story is about the big picture of what God is doing in the world

### TOWER OF BABEL

Left untouched the world would repeat the same self-centered sinful actions that lead to the flood. So God mixed their language to force them to scatter over the face of the earth.

### GOD CHOOSES A PATRIARCH

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; 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."*

Genesis 12:1-3 NIV

God uses the least likely people to accomplish His purposes and to tell His story over and over.

### GOD'S PLAN TO BUILD A NATION

*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*

Genesis 12:4 NIV

Faith is obeying God even when you don't know what or where you are going. But you are trusting someone you know, God.

God promises Abram he will be a father

*Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

Genesis 15:6 NIV

Faith is believing God against all hope.

So much of your story will come down to one simple question. "Do I believe God?"

### WE GET IN THE WAY

*Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; <sup>2</sup> so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.*

Genesis 16:1-2 NIV

Ishmael is Abraham's first born so God will bless him but he will not be the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. Abraham and Sarah will have a son named Isaac.

How is your story doing with God's story?

1. No way, I do not trust God
2. Half way, I will trust God as far as I can see it working
3. My way, Sarah says we have waited long enough take Hagar
4. Your way, complete surrender

*7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"*

*"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering? 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."*

Genesis 22:5-14 NIV

**Faith is trusting God even when the story doesn't make sense.**