

The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 1
Gen. 11:27-12:9

Getting Started

- ❖ Have you ever sensed a definite call from God for your life or for some situation? If so, share this with your group.

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. A New Call (11:31-12:1)
 - A. God's call on Abraham's life was incredibly gracious.
 - B. God's call on Abraham's life was thoroughly radical. (Radical in it's nature, demands and results.)

2. A New Covenant (12:2-3)

3. A New Claim (12:4-9)

Takeaway Truth: God's call on us is both gracious and radical at the same time.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon outline, read the sermon text and answer the following:
 - Did it surprise you to hear that Abraham was called by God while following false gods and that he was, by definition, a Pagan? What applications and conclusions can be drawn from this?
 - How has God's call on your life been gracious and radical at the same time?
 - Would the fact that Abram had already set out once for Canaan make obedience to God's call easier or harder when it came again in Haran?
 - Do you see the years spent in Haran as a time of disobedience for Abraham or a time where God was preparing him, or both?
 - What elements of verses 1-3 indicate God is establishing a covenant with Abraham?
 - Of the promises God gives Abraham, which ones would resonate with you the most?
 - What key reason does God give as to why He is going to bless Abraham?
 - How does this passage give us better insight into the gospel and point us to Jesus?
- ❖ Read Hebrews 11:8-10 & Galatians 3:25-29?
 - What does these passages have to say about Abraham?
 - How is he an example to us?
 - How else is his faith commended?
 - Who are to be considered his children and what are the implications of this?

Apply It!

- ❖ Are you sometimes anxious or afraid of what God may ask you to do for Him? If so, why? What are those things that make you anxious/afraid?
- ❖ How does this passage of scripture encourage you to trust God more?
- ❖ Since God blessed Abraham so he could bless others, are you blessing others through the blessings you receive from God? If so, how?

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Think About It!

“How do you respond when you find yourself falling into the reality gap? How do you feel when there seems to be a huge difference between what God has promised and what you see now? What do you do when the vision you once had of the way your life was supposed to work out seems to be crumbling into dust? It is easy to be a Christian in the sunshine of Palm Sunday, surrounded by the crowds chanting their praises to Jesus, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” But it is much harder to be a disciple in the gathering gloom on the road to Emmaus, puzzling over the death of the Messiah and not yet seeing how that death will lead to resurrection.

For most of us, much of our life seems to be spent trudging along that dreary road to Emmaus. For one person, the reality gap may appear in the form of sudden and unexpected unemployment, with little prospect of another job. For another, it may come with sickness and crippling health problems. It may come to you through the death of a spouse or child. It may be caused by an intense frustration with the church in which God has placed you. Any or all of these circumstances may cause a crisis of faith in your life as you ponder the reality gap between what God has promised and the circumstances in which you find yourself. Surely this isn't what life should be like as a Christian, you think to yourself.”¹

NOTE: Study questions for this year's annual theme are derived either directly or indirectly from a number of sources. These Covenant Group studies are indebted to the works of Dr. John Walton, Dr. Derek Kidner, Dr. Bruce Waltke, Dr. James Boice, Dr. Ian Duguid, Dr. Warren Wiersbe, and Dr. Tim Keller.

¹ Duguid, I. M. (1999). [*Living in the Gap between Promise and Reality: The Gospel according to Abraham*](#). (T. Longman III & J. A. Groves, Eds.) (p. 1). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

January 24, 2021 | Third Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP SONGS

WE CROWN YOU (ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME)

Words by Edward Perronet, 1779 / Music by Oliver Holden, 1793

Additional chorus by Paxson Jeancake, 2015

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate, fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the Fall.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

We crown you, we crown you Lord of all.

We crown you, we crown you Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

GRAVES INTO GARDENS

Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Christ Brown,

Steven Furtick and Tiffany Hammer, 2019

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.
Then You came along and put me back together.
And every desire is now satisfied here in your love.

*Oh there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.*

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
May failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all,
and You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

You turn to mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can.
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.

O PRAISE THE NAME

*Words and Music by Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings,
and Dean Ussher, 2015*

I cast my mind to Calvary where Jesus bled
and died for me. I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears, they laid Him down
in Joseph's tomb. The entrance sealed by heavy stone.
Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God.
O praise His Name forevermore. For endless days
we will sing Your praise. Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.*

Then on the third at break of dawn, the Son of Heaven
rose again. O trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King.

He shall return in robes of white, the blazing sun
shall pierce the night. I will rise among the saints;
my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face.

YOU ARE OUR LIFE

Words and Music by Paxson Jeancake, 2019

Blessed are those whose trust is the Lord; planted by streams,
like trees, they endure. Their leaves will not wither; they stand firm
and sure. Blessed are those whose trust is the Lord.

Blessed are those who delight in Your word; day after day,
seeking what's pure. Not following foolish ways of this world.
Blessed are those who delight in Your word.

*We'll follow Your ways for You are our life. We'll find all we need,
our soul's deep delight. There's no greater love, no greater prize.
You are our hope; You are our life.*

Blessed, all poor, the kingdom is yours; and all who now hunger
for you shall be full. Blessed when weeping for laughter will come.
Blessed, all poor, the kingdom is yours.

Blessed are those whose hope is in Christ; who've died unto Him,
but have been made alive. For one day these bodies will be raised
to life. Blessed are those whose hope is in Christ.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 93; Isaiah 47:1-15; Hebrews 10:19-31; John 5:2-18

MONDAY | Ps. 85; Isaiah 48:1-11; Galatians 1:1-17; Mark 5:21-43

TUESDAY | Ps. 54; Isaiah 48:12-22; Gal. 1:18-2:10; Mark 6:1-13

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 125; Isaiah 49:1-12; Gal. 2:11-21; Mark 6:13-29

THURSDAY | Ps. 81; Isaiah 49:13-26; Gal. 3:1-14; Mark 6:30-46

FRIDAY | Ps. 20; Isaiah 50:1-11; Galatians 3:15-22; Mark 6:47-56

SATURDAY | Ps. 63; Isaiah 51:1-8; Galatians 3:23-29; Mark 7:1-23

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Lord Jesus, you call to share the good news of the gospel, but
sometimes, like Jonah, we are reluctant to obey. You call us to let go
of earthly attachments and follow you, but too often we want to hold
on to our possessions and comforts in this life. Sanctify us, O Lord,
that our grip on this world would become less and less, and our desire
to obey you in all circumstances would become more and more. In
the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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