

# ABRAHAM'S CALLING

Genesis 11:27 - 12:9 // January 8, 2023



## Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

## Reflect/Connect

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

## Grow in the Word

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

# FAITHFUL

## THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

### REFLECT/CONNECT

- What was the most memorable part of your holidays?

- What are you most looking forward to in 2023?



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Moses provided historical and cultural background for a central character in the history of our faith: Abram, who would later be called Abraham. We are introduced to Abram and his wife Sarai soon after they settled in Haran (11:27-32).

- What do you learn about Abram and our shared, common humanity? Specifically, what hardships are implied within the genealogy given in these verses?
- What do you notice about how Moses described Sarai, and why is it significant? See Genesis 12:7, 18:10-14.

God commanded Abram to take a large step of faith when he called him to leave his native country, his culture, his community, and to go to an unknown land. God promised tremendous blessings to Abram, blessings that would lay the foundation of God's work to redeem the world (12:1-3).

- What did Abram do to merit selection for such a high calling and blessing? See Joshua 24:2-3 and the note below from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary about the city of Ur.
  - "As a result of archaeological excavation, the city of Ur is now one of the best-known sites of southern Babylonia. Woolley in his *Abraham: Recent Discoveries and Hebrew Origins* . . . gives a description of the worship of the city god of Ur, the moon god Nannar and his consort Ningal. Woolley describes in minute detail the sacred temenos of the city in which were the famous ziggurat and the various buildings erected to the moon god and his consort, with a description of the moon god ritual." Merrill F. Unger, *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, rev. and updated ed., ed. R. K. Harrison (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1988), 1320–21.

- How would you summarize what God promised Abram?
- Compare Genesis 11:31 with Acts 7:2-4. How would you describe Abram's initial response to God's call?

Abram responded to this call of God by departing Haran with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and their servants and possessions. Abram worshiped the Lord throughout the journey (12:4-9).

- What do you learn about God and how he works in the world through this part of Abram's story?
- What step of faith do you sense God calling you to take in this season of life? Take a moment to pray and listen for God's guidance.

## GENESIS (PART 2) BY THE BIBLE PROJECT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo>

This animated short tells the story of the start of God's work to rescue and bless his rebellious world by providing an overview of the second half of the book of Genesis, and by outlining how God moved towards redemption by choosing to bless a man named Abram.

## ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH - CHUCK SWINDOLL

<https://www.amazon.com/Abraham-Nomads-Amazing-Journey-Faith/dp/141438064X>

The real-life story of Abraham as told by Chuck Swindoll. In this biography, we encounter false gods, self-seeking glory, and the faith of a man named Abraham through whom God would bless the nations.

## THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM - THE GOSPEL COALITION

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-life-of-abraham/#course-introduction>

This is a free, three-lesson course on the account of Abraham's life as described in Genesis offered by the Gospel Coalition. The course offers video, audio, and downloadable study guides.

## WHEN I LAY MY ISAAC DOWN - CAROL KENT

<https://www.amazon.com/When-Lay-Isaac-Down-Circumstances/dp/1641582723>

Carol Kent looks to Abraham's faith as she describes her struggle and surrenders to God in the aftermath of her son's murder conviction and subsequent incarceration. Dealing with her anger, grief, and shame, Carol could have given up. Instead, she tells a highly personal, heartbreaking, and uplifting story that will bolster your faith.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DISCOVERING WAYSIDE

Sunday, January 15 | 10:45 am

Join us for an informational class and learn more about who we are as a church, what we believe, and how to get connected. Lunch is provided with registration.

### MLK MARCH

Monday, January 16 | 9:30 am

Come walk with others from Wayside as we participate in the MLK March with the city of San Antonio. Registration is not required, but more information is available online.



Find more information and register for events on our mobile app and website!