



## Genesis: The Book That Started It All

### Weekly Devotionals | October 12

Begin this devotional exercise by finding a quiet place where you can spend time with God in His word. Before reading, pray that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes and heart to what God wants to say to you through His Word.

#### **OPEN with prayer.**

Find a quiet place where you can reflect on God's goodness in your life. Read this blessing from Numbers 6:24 – 26.

<sup>24</sup> "The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
<sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
<sup>26</sup> the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace."

Take a few moments to journal about how you have experienced the blessing of God in your life. Imagine yourself receiving God's graciousness and peace.

#### **READ Genesis 12-13**

These two chapters highlight three important aspects of our identity as children of God: **calling, blessing, and worshiping**. God calls us to leave our old lives behind and follow Him. As we follow Him, we both receive the blessings He pours out and we become conduits of His blessing to others. The calling and the blessing are both connected to relationship. The reason God calls us to follow Him is so we can be near to God and receive His gifts that He delights to lavish on His children. And we discover that this is so good, we are compelled to pass these blessings on to others. As a result of being in this rich relationship with God, we worship Him!

#### **Calling**

Mark Labberton writes that “The heart of God’s call is this: that we receive and live the love of God for us and for the world. This is the meaning of the two great commandments, that we are made to love the Lord our God with all we are and our neighbors as ourselves.” This summarizes the call of Abram in Genesis 12-15. He is welcomed into a deeper love for God and this love will be expressed when he pours that love out to others in His family and to all the nations. Following this call, would require him to leave behind what he was familiar with (family, place, comfort).

- As you reflect on your own life, when are some moments that God has called you to leave something behind in order to follow Him?
- How did those experiences shape you?
- Is there anything right now that God is calling you to release or leave behind? Perhaps these are areas of temptation or addiction, or it may simply be that God has something new for you and the only way to experience it is to let go of the familiar and follow him into the unknown.

Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” Having faith means that I don’t have all the answers, but I trust in the God who does. Stepping out in faith is risky. Abraham literally risked everything when he responded to God’s call. Genesis 15:6 says that, “it was credited to him as righteousness.” If I want to be righteous, it is essential that I step out in faith.

- When is the last time you stepped out in faith because of something God was calling you to? What was it like to take that risk?

## **Blessing**

Five times in Genesis 12:2-3 God speaks blessing over Abram. Circle each time below when a form of the word “bless” is used.

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

From the very beginning God blesses His creation. To bless means to pour out divine favor for the purpose of flourishing. This is what God did in the garden. Just think of the flourishing in Eden. Everything was good, beautiful and right. Sadly, sin resulted in curses rather than blessing. But now, in Genesis 12, the story pivots away from cursing and God inaugurates His redemption plan through Abram. The nations have been scattered because of the curse, and through the line of Abram he will bless the nations by making a way for all people to be reconciled to God. Every time we receive a blessing, God’s intent is that we pass on the blessing to others. We are conduits of His love and favor and goodness.

- How have you been a blessing to others in recent weeks?
- In what ways, big or small, might you be a blessing to others this week and in the weeks ahead?

## **Worshiping**

Three times in these two chapters Abram builds an altar. These altars are erected as a way of marking an encounter with God. These altars were physical acts of thanksgiving and they were built as monuments to help Abram remember, “Look! God met me here!”

- As you reflect on God’s meeting with you, write out a prayer of worship and thanksgiving below:

**CLOSE with the same prayer you began with:**

Take a deep breath as you read the blessing from Numbers 6:24 – 26.

<sup>24</sup> “The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
<sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
<sup>26</sup> the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.”