GOD'S CALL TO ABRAM

Genesis 11:27–13:4 Lesson 7

Key Verse: 12:2

1. Read 11:27. What details about Abram’s family are here? What did it mean for him to be the eldest son? For his youngest brother to have died? For his wife to be barren? Why do you think Nahor married his niece? Read 11:31,32. Where did Terah intend to take his family? Where did he stop? Why?

2. Read 12:1; compare with Acts 7:2. When had Abram received God’s call? What was God asking him to leave? (See also Jos24:2) How would this be hard to do? Where was God asking him to go? (See Heb11:8) To what kind of life was God calling him? What can we learn here about the nature of God’s call?

3. Read 12:2. What did it mean for Abram to become “a great nation”? How did his present condition make this difficult to believe? What did God mean when he said, “I will bless you”? When he said, “I will make your name great”? What does it mean to be “a blessing”? How do these promises apply to us? (2Co1:20a; Gal3:9,29)

4. Read 12:3. What does the first part of this promise mean? What was God’s intention in saying that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"? (Gal3:8) What can we learn here about God’s way of working?

5. Read 12:4. How would you describe Abram’s faith? How is his faith a good example for us? Who was Lot and what was his relationship to Abram? How old was Abram when he left Haran? Read 12:6. Who did Abram find in the land? How might this have been a disappointment?

6. Read 12:7. What was God’s promise? What did it mean? How did Abram respond? What did it mean to build an altar to the Lord? Read 12:8. What places were on either side of these hills? Why do you think Abram “call[ed] on the name of the Lord” there? (cf. 4:26b) Why are worship and prayer so important in living a life of faith?

7. Read 12:10. Why did Abram go to Egypt? Compare his motives in going to Egypt with his motives in going to Canaan. What plan did he make before entering Egypt? Why? What verses show how the plan worked out? Contrast his life in Egypt with his life in Canaan. Why didn't he build altars in Egypt?

8. How did God protect Abram's family? Why did Pharaoh rebuke him and send him away? What can we learn here about God? About the weaknesses in men of faith? Read 13:1–4. How did Abram show his repentance? What can we learn here?