

Abraham Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What were some imaginative games you liked to play as a child?
2. If you decided you needed to buy a new television, would this be a quick process or a slow process? Explain.

Read the following passage: Genesis 11:27-12:9.

Note that some translations of Genesis 12:1 read “The Lord had said to Abram...” (NIV) while others read “Now the Lord said to Abram...” (ESV). The underlying Hebrew can mean either, though the more straightforward reading is the latter. The NIV adopts its translation because of passages like Genesis 11:31, Genesis 15:7 and Acts 7:2-3. God was certainly behind Abraham’s departure from Ur with his family, and it is possible that God spoke to Abraham on multiple occasions.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are some of the factors that would have made responding to God in faith difficult for Abraham? What challenges make having faith in God difficult for you?
2. Why would God’s command in Genesis 12:1 have been so challenging?
3. Read Genesis 12:1, 4; Genesis 12:7; Genesis 14:18-20; Genesis 17:9-10, 23; and Genesis 22:2-3. How did Abraham respond to God’s instructions? How do you think this might be relevant for our own growth in faith?
4. Read Genesis 15:7-21. How did the Lord respond to Abraham’s question? Although this ancient covenant making ceremony might feel foreign to us, what can we learn from the Lord’s response to Abraham?
5. We can bring questions to God with a variety of different motives. What are some healthy reasons for questioning God and some unhealthy reasons for questioning God? Have you ever asked any questions of faith that you feel like you’ve received answers to?
6. Abraham regularly built altars to worship God. Why do you think worship can be a significant component of growing in faith?
7. In your own faith, do you consider yourself more of a thinker, a feeler, or a doer? Explain. Describe how each of these three components of human existence are important in our faith.

8. What's something you think you can do this week to grow in faith?

Pray