
Abraham—God's Friend

2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:21-23

The back story. Genesis 11:10-25:11

God's call. Genesis 12:1-2

1. **Leave**

Land, his people, fathers household to an undisclosed place.

2. **Bless**

Himself, household, others

God initiates the friendship.

Romans 5:6-11; Matthew 4:19-22

Following God requires:

Hearing God

- His Word
- Holy Spirit

Faith

- God is completely trustworthy
- God is God
- God is smarter than me

Act

What is God calling you to:

Leave _____

Bless _____

Food for Thought

For the week of January 10, 2016

Questions and Scriptures for further personal study

1. One of the patterns to follow from Abram is to never forget the power of God's word. How do the following verses reinforce the power of God's word and importance of listening to it?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. [NIV]

Psalm 119:23 Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees. [NIV]

Psalm 119:27 Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on your wonders. [NIV]

Psalm 119:99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. [NIV]

Psalm 33:4-6 For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. [5] The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. [6] By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. [NIV]

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. [NIV]

John 12:44-50 Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. [45] When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. [46] I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. [47] "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. [48] There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. [49] For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. [50] I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

2. Just as God chose Abram he has also chosen us to not only follow him, but also to be used by him to influence and encourage others. As you read Colossians 3:12-17 write down some specific examples of how putting into practice the various character qualities it lists can have an influence at your work, home or with your friends.

Colossians 3:12-17 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. [15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [NIV]

Are there any character qualities you should particularly focus on this next week?

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships with Jesus and each other through the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25)

Here's how we accomplish this in our community:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's kingdom.