

THE LIFE OF ABARAHAM



1. Abraham's Call & Commitment

(Leader's Notes)

Introduction

Abraham is often called 'the father of our faith'. There are many wonderful lessons we can learn from his life. Let's begin by looking at God's call on his life.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:31 – Genesis 12:9

A. ABRAHAM'S CALL

- ☆ What was the Lord's initial call to Abraham? Genesis 12:1

(God called him to leave his country, his people and his father's house and go to the land that he would show him.)



When God calls us to be his children we are leaving an old life and going into a new one. Discuss the similarities between Abraham's call and our call to follow Jesus.

- ☆ What promises are included in Abraham's call? Genesis 12:1-3. What are God's promises to us when we come to Christ? See Galatians 3:14.

(God promised to make Abraham into a great nation, to bless him and make his name great and to make him a blessing to all peoples on earth. That blessing was the Holy Spirit, who we can now receive through Christ.)

- ☆ How did Abraham respond to God's call? Genesis 12:4-6, Hebrews 11:8-10. Imagine what it must have been like for Abraham! How do you think he felt?

(Abraham obeyed the Lord. In the book of Hebrews we see that he was commended for his faith and obedience.)

- ☆ How did Abraham know that Canaan was the land that God had called him to? Genesis 12:6-7

(The Lord appeared to him when he arrived in Canaan and God promised that he would give this land to Abraham's offspring. Note that this land was later called Palestine and now it is called Israel.)

B. ABRAHAM'S COMMITMENT

- ☆ What was Abraham's response to God? Genesis 12:7

(He built an altar to the Lord.)

- ☆ In his walk of faith there were many times when Abraham built altars to the Lord. When and why does he build the first and second altar? Genesis 12:7-8. What do you think was the significance of these?

(The word altar means 'place of sacrifice or place of slaughter'. It was the place where sacrifices were given to God. Abraham was expressing his worship and gratitude to God, as well as renewing his commitment to him.)



Although we no longer need to build altars and offer sacrifices, we do need to renew our commitment to God again and again. Look at Romans 12:1-2. What do these verses mean to you?

(Just as Abraham built altars at different times in his life, we also need to offer ourselves to the Lord again and again. This is not just an outward action, but should involve our heart, mind and will. When Abraham built an altar it was an act of worship. When we offer ourselves to the Lord it is also an act of worship.)

Conclusion

Abraham was asked to leave his home and people and go to a new country. We too have been called out of the world and into the Kingdom of God. Although Abraham did not know where he was going, he responded in faith and obedience. That needs to be our response too, not only on the day we turn to Christ, but every day. Let's offer ourselves to the Lord as a living sacrifice once again!