

## God Of...Abraham I Week 2

Good morning! Thank you so much for being here today. My name is Bobby and if we haven't met yet, I would love to say hey after the service.

I've been praying that this week each of you would experience the hope of Jesus in every way.

I want to start today with a little question...Have you ever sat down in your car after someone else drove it only to find your seat and mirrors are in the wrong place?

IDK what's more frustrating...that you have to change everything back to the way you like it? Or, that you can never quite get it back exactly the way you had it before?

This is important right...because if you cannot get it just right, you will be left with... a blind spot.

### **Blind spots can put you in tough spots.**

Fun Fact... Did you know... When driving, you should check your rearview mirror every 5-8 seconds.

By constantly referencing your rearview mirror, you will know who is passing you, who has already passed you, and who is the maniac behind you.

From changing lanes, to changing careers, to changing roles (getting married, having kids), to a rapidly changing culture, we are all expected to look around and keep up with everything that is happening all around us...

### **When was the last time you checked your mirrors?**

Long ago, a man named Abram felt the same way. He had to keep up with everything going on around him.

We are in just our 2<sup>nd</sup> week of this new series called, God Of...We are digging into the life of Abraham.

He is considered a hero of faith and a cornerstone character in 3 world religions (Judaism, Islam, and Christianity).

Still, Abram (and his family) ended up in tough spots.

To be fair, a lot constantly changed around Abram.

1. His home (from Ur to the Promised Land), (Genesis 11:27-31)
2. His name (from Abram to Abraham), (Genesis 17:5)

3. His family (from fatherless to father of multitudes). (Genesis 17:1-8)

But, even when all these things changed, Abraham's dedication to God did not change.

Which is exactly why his God became known in that time and for generations to come as...The God of Abraham

We believe God never changes, we also believe, **everything changes when God changes you.**

Maybe you are no fan of change. But, regardless of what's changing all around you in life

right now, we believe that the God of Abraham is a God who can be trusted, even when we cannot see the whole picture.

Picking up where we left off last time, go to Genesis 13.

Abraham is heading north from Egypt with several others traveling with him. Imagine a caravan of many people herding livestock and hauling the things they needed to set-up a new home.

Like any moving trip, the family and Abraham are leaving many things in the rearview mirror.

Abraham leaves so much behind to follow God's guidance.

While looking forward to that Promised Land, like any of us, Abraham (who was still going by Abram) found himself looking back and failing to see that the family and friends who followed him were sitting in a blind spot.

Let's stand together in honor of the reading of Gods Word.

**Genesis 13 | Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev—he, his wife, and all he had, and Lot with him. <sup>2</sup> Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold. <sup>3</sup> He went by stages from the Negev to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had formerly been, <sup>4</sup> to the site where he had built the altar. And Abram called on the name of the LORD there. <sup>5</sup> Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. <sup>6</sup> But the land was unable to support them as long as they stayed together, for they had so many possessions that they could not stay together, <sup>7</sup> and there was quarreling between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. (At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land.) <sup>8</sup> So Abram said to Lot, "Please, let's not have quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, since we are relatives. <sup>9</sup> Isn't the whole land before you? Separate from me: if you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left." <sup>10</sup> Lot looked out and saw that the entire plain of the**

Jordan as far as Zoar was well watered everywhere like the LORD'S GARDEN and the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

<sup>11</sup> So Lot chose the entire plain of the Jordan for himself. Then Lot journeyed eastward, and they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram lived in the land of Canaan, but Lot lived in the cities on the plain and set up his tent near Sodom. <sup>13</sup> (Now the men of Sodom were evil, sinning immensely against the LORD.) <sup>14</sup> After Lot had separated from him, the LORD said to Abram, "Look from the place where you are. Look north and south, east and west, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you and your offspring forever all the land that you see. <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust of the earth, then your offspring could be counted. <sup>17</sup> Get up and walk around the land, through its length and width, for I will give it to you." <sup>18</sup> So Abram moved his tent and went to live near the oaks of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

Pray

So many great truths we can learn from this story. Abram and his family are on this journey.

1. **We are all on a journey.** Each and every person is being shaped or formed spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, intellectually...

Lets focus on your spiritual journey...Spiritual formation is not this optional pursuit for a small special group of people who want to go deeper.

If you are not being intentionally formed by Jesus himself, then its highly likely you are being unintentionally formed by someone or something else.

There is an inner you. You have a spirit, and it is being formed.

**Intentional Spiritual Formation = The process of becoming more like Jesus Christ for God's glory and the benefit of others.**

This is a never-ending journey that requires the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the consistent submission of my own will.

King David gives us a glimpse of some intentional spiritual formation in Psalm 63.

**Psalm 63.1 I God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you. I thirst for you; my body faints for you in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.**

Everyone is on a journey.

2. **Leaders bring people along on their journey.**

**Vs. 1 | Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev—he, his wife, and all he had, and Lot with him.** (Vs. 7 - we see that there were also herdsman's that Abram brought with him. )

### **Who are you bringing with you on your journey?**

This is tough right...because Ive got enough going on in my own journey, how can I look around for someone else's journey?

Abram was on his journey. He was being obedient, but He had people along with him. He lived out this call of a true follower of God.

### **Am I a Christian or an apprentice?**

The word Christian is used only 3 times in the NT. The word disciple or apprentice is used 269 times.

Here's the rub...The word Christian has lost its meaning. Today it's just someone who ascribes to the bare bones of Christianity and occasionally attends church.

**“Jesus is not looking for converts to Christianity; he's looking for apprentices in the Kingdom of God.”**

This may be the single biggest issue facing our world today.

Will Christians turn from their own version of life and become true students, apprentices, practitioners of Jesus?

Jesus modeled this lifestyle at every turn.

Always bring his disciples with him as he did ministry. Always having people around him learning and growing.

Scripture

Abram was called, but he brought people with him.

### **Three Keys to Apprenticeship I**

**Access**

**Time**

**Proximity**

This was Abram's way of life.

### **3. The secret to a successful journey...connection with God.**

**Vs. 4 I to the site where he had built the altar. And Abram called on the name of the LORD there.**

Right smack in the middle of his journey, Abrams connecting with God.

This is bigger than read your Bible and Pray everyday...thats going back to bare bones minimum of being a follower of Christ.

This is bringing God into every single decision I make. This is allowing Him to help me through my processing. This is me giving Him permission to edit my life.

This is bigger than attending church 1.4 times per month. What Abram did and what I believe God is calling us to do...is to reorder your entire life around following Jesus.

Make Jesus your undisputed top priority over your job, your money, your reputation---over everything.

Remember what Jesus told his first disciples.....**John 15.4 I <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**

Connection with God isn't some technique we use to control our relationship with God. Its not a once-a-week thing.

"Most people are just too busy to live emotionally healthy and spiritually vibrant lives."

Connecting or abiding in Christ is a skill. A skill that we must develop to use and access along every step of our journey.

**Turn God into a habit.**

### **4. Whoever we bring will have their own baggage.**

**Vs. 5 I Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents.**

When we bring them, we will bring along their belief or disbelief.

When we bring them, we will bring every bump in the road caused by their destructive Behavior.

We don't bring them along because they are perfect. We bring them along because God calls to us to disciple others.

There is someone on a spiritual journey that could use what you have learned.

Just understand...comes with baggage!

**5. We are all on a journey, but that doesn't mean we have the same path.**

When they split the land...Lot took all the beautiful parts.

**Lot had the paradise, but Abram had the promise.**

One of the unhealthiest things we do as humans is compare. It either makes us feel inferior or superior.

**There is no win in comparison.** Stop comparing other people's journey with yours.

If people don't do things exactly like you do, its ok.

If people don't think just like you its ok.

If you're looking at someone's journey and it seems they, have it all together...remind yourself they have sins just like you do and God is their guide, not you.

When we compare...you're putting a burden on yourself that you weren't built for.

Lots journey was different than Abram's and Abram was ok with that.

The best antidote to comparison is grace.

**Vs. 9 I <sup>9</sup>Isn't the whole land before you? Separate from me: if you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left."**

He notices, acts, and even graciously gives Lot his pick of the land.

**Bring grace on your journey.** Grace for others and grace for yourself.

Grace is amazing. Be grounded in grace.

Abram was graceful to Lot...and look what happened.

**Vs. 14-18 I <sup>14</sup>After Lot had separated from him, the LORD said to Abram, "Look from the place where you are. Look north and south, east and west, <sup>15</sup>for I will give you and your offspring forever all the land that you see. <sup>16</sup>I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust of the earth, then your offspring could be counted. <sup>17</sup>Get up and walk around the land, through its length and width, for I will give it to you." <sup>18</sup>So Abram moved his tent and went to live near the oaks of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.**

God's grace followed Abram's grace.

Conclusion:

**The God of Abraham is unchanging, He can still change everything.**

Start a relationship with the God of Abraham today?

God calling you to a higher calling in your walk with him. You've been living in the bare minimum and now's the time.

Who are some people you need to give some grace to? Maybe its yourself.