

For the Family

Read **Genesis 12:1-4** and **Hebrews 11:8-10**

Explain that God told a man named Abram (Abraham) to move from where he lived to a new place that God would show him.

Talk together about what this meant for Abraham:

1. He had to leave where he had lived for a long time. Abraham was probably happy where he was. He had family and friends. He had a nice place to live, with his father. He had a good business. It was tough for Abraham to leave all that, but he did, because God told him to.

If you have moved as a family, talk about how hard it was to leave family and friends behind.

2. He had to trust God that he would be okay in the new place. He was leaving a place where he had what he needed for a good life. Would God provide in the new place? Would he be safe? Would he have what he needed?

Talk about what it means to move to a new place. You have to learn where everything is. You have to adjust to a new school or a new job. You have to make new friends.

3. He had to live in tents, because the city had not yet been built. The city wasn't ready, and wouldn't be ready in Abraham's lifetime. Yet Abraham lived there, in obedience to God.

Sometimes when we move, we have to live in temporary housing while we wait for our more permanent place. It isn't always easy, but we know that a better place is coming.

Abraham obeyed God. He left behind everything he knew in order to move to a new place which God promised to him. He obeyed God, trusting that God would take care of him.

Pray together that you will be obedient to God, even if it means leaving something behind and learning new things. Tell God you will trust him, no matter where he sends you. 4



Abraham: The Friend of God Profiles in Faith

Genesis 12:1-4; Hebrews 11:8-10

Open

1. What does it mean to be a friend to someone?
2. Who is someone who has been or is a true friend to you? What makes/made that friendship special?
3. Did you ever have to move while you were growing up? What was that like? What did it mean to leave friends and family? What did you have to do to adjust to a new place?

Read Genesis 12:1-4:

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Read Hebrews 11:8-10:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Leaving

1. Why do you think God wanted Abraham to leave his homeland?
2. What did Abraham leave behind?

Reflect

3. Has God ever asked you to “leave ... ”?
Is he asking you now to leave ... ?

Following

1. What do the following phrases from Hebrews 11 tell you about Abraham’s faith?

“And he went out, *not knowing where he was going.*”

“He went to live in the land of promise, *as in a foreign land.*”

“*living in tents*”

“For he was *looking forward* to the city ... ”

Read Luke 9:57-62

1. What do each of the three stories tell us about following Jesus?
2. How does Abraham’s story compare to these?

Reflect

How does your faith compare to Abraham’s?
How can Abraham’s story help to increase your faith?

A Friend of God

Read James 2:23

1. What do you think the phrase “*friend of God*” means?
2. How does it apply to Abraham?

Reflect

Would you consider yourself a friend of God?
How is it possible to be a friend with the creator of the universe?²

To Bless All Nations

God promised Abraham that “*in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” (Genesis 12:3; See also Genesis 26:1-5)
What did God mean by “all families/all nations shall be blessed”?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Where are Jesus’ disciples commanded to go?

Read Revelation 21:22-22:5

What does this tell you about “the nations”?

Put the three together:

Abraham: “Through you I will bless all nations”

Jesus: “Go to all nations”

Revelation: “all nations” in the New Jerusalem

What does tell you about God’s plan?

Reflect

Do you have a role in God’s plan to bless all nations?

Do you look forward to seeing people from all nations in the New Jerusalem?

Take-aways

Share with the group your take-away from your time together.

Next Steps:

- I will commit to be “A Friend of God.”
- I have staggered and stumbled, but I will keep moving forward with God.
- I will live in such a way that God can say, “I am not ashamed to be their God.”
- One thing I need to leave behind to follow God more closely is:

Memory Verse – James 2:23

*and the Scripture was fulfilled that says,
“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as
righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.*