



Small Group Study Guide for December 8, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: God used Abram to fulfill his plan of salvation by promising to make him into a great nation. Ultimately, this would be fulfilled through Jesus as one of Abram's offspring. God's promises were true for Abram and they are true for you today.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Have you ever moved away from home before? What was it like?

2. How hard would it be for you to move away to a different state today?

In the Word: Read Genesis 12:1-9

3. Genesis begins the story with God creating the heavens and the earth. The first few chapters show us how distinct God is from any other. Chapter 12 begins the story of Abram being called by God. This begins the story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob which spans throughout the rest of the book of Genesis. **Genesis 12:2-3** lists a few promises that God made to Abram. What are some of those promises? Which one stands out to you the most?

4. **"So Abram went, as the Lord had told him..." (vs. 4).** What does this response tell us about Abram?

5. **Read Joshua 24:2-3.** According to Joshua, What else did Abram leave behind when God called him out of his homeland?

6. Throughout much of Abram's story in Genesis, God would continue to make promises to Abram. **Verse 7** records another promise God makes to Abram, "**Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.'**" What is different about this promise than the one God made to him earlier?

7. Abram responds yet again by *building an altar and calling on the name of the Lord* (vs.7-8). Can you think of other people in the Bible who built altars? In what ways do we call on the name of the Lord and gather around his altar?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. Abram responded in faith to God's promises and his call. How have God's promises to you shaped the way you live?

9. While Abram got to experience the voice of God calling out to him, He did not have the whole story written down like we do. Where do we turn to when we want to know what the Lord wants us to do?

10. God used Abram, an idol worshipper to fulfill his plan of salvation. How might God use your current place in life to participate in the mission of God?

Prayer: Ask that God the Father would help us to trust in his promises throughout all of our life. Ask Jesus that He might turn our hearts towards Him and away from the things of this world where we put our hope and trust in. Finally, ask the Holy Spirit to embolden us to share the Gospel with those around us.

Next Week: We will continue with our third Sunday in Advent (December 15). Our sermon series will look at Old Testament prophecy of Micah, especially focusing in on Bethlehem being the place where Jesus would be born. Advent devotions, written by OSL members, are available in the lobby and will be shared via email also.

Note: Our Savior Lutheran School Christmas concert (Grades 5-8) is next week, December 11, 7 p.m. Come hear the students sing and play wonderful songs during this Advent season. Check our website and e-news for the other great events happening during Advent.