



Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion

Week of
September 26

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4

Sermon Title: *Blessed to Be a Blessing*

Summary:

As in the beginning of creation, God's powerful word creates something new. Against a backdrop of barrenness (Gen 11:30), by dramatic summons, hope for the future is born by God's speaking. God calls Abram into relationship and life with God begins anew. The promise that follows assures Abram that when God makes such a radical command, he journey's forth not alone, but with God, who is leading him. The outline of God's promise is fivefold and provides the basis for all that follows: land, a great nation, blessing, blessing and curse, and other nations, which will be beneficiaries of blessing. The blessing includes what we still seek: a place to live and thrive, the security of community, prosperity, and prominence. The text reminds us that these are not acquired by our own doing, but are gifts from God—divine grace, divine blessing.

- from The Life with God Bible

Questions:

1. What does it mean to you to be blessed?

Describe a time when you felt blessed.

2. Our passage this week is from Genesis 12. In the previous chapter, Genesis 11, we read the account of Babel.

Different stream of the human family gather at Babel, and human aspirations grow ... a collective maneuvering to become more like God results in the scattering of the people abroad ... The creation narrative, which began with God ordering chaos, ends with the chaotic scattering and confused tongues of the People of God. The prehistory end awaiting yet another new intrusive and creative word.

- from The Life with God Bible

What do you notice about the chaos and scattering in contrast with God's blessing?

3. God blesses Abram, out of God's freedom to love and bless. What action does God expect back from Abram and how does Abram react? Do you see parallels in your relationship with God? Has that given you a sense of purpose?