

Habits

Genesis 12:1-9

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

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. I will make of 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 the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' **Genesis 12:1-3, 7**

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Through this sermon series, we continue to practice positioning ourselves rather than planning so that we can be ready to move forward when God opens a door. As we see in the text, Abram and Sarai don't create this plan for themselves, yet they are ready to respond when God calls them. We, too, can establish this rhythm in our lives through daily disciplines of solitude, community, and service. This week, we examine what it means to have a servant's heart and how to build it into our daily lives.

We see perhaps the best illustration of service in Jesus' response to the disciples' question, "who is the greatest?": *It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many (Matt. 20:26-28).* Being the greatest involves serving others, just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve. **Who in your life represents this kind of *agape* love and service? How can we follow Jesus in this pattern of living out habits of service?**

God calls Abram and Sarai for this particular purpose, so that future generations will be blessed. **How might our selfish culture cause us to struggle to believe we are called in this same way? When we think about how God calls each of us, how can we see it instead as serving something larger than ourselves?**

We are inheritors of the promise given to Abram and Sarai that no matter how much we rebel or walk away, He will be our God and we will be his people. This promise invites us to practice habits far grander than merely surviving each day and taking care of ourselves. **How does this quote from MLK help you think about stories you might be swept up in that give you purpose: "If a man has not found something worth dying for, he is not fit to live"? How can taking the time to pray for, love, and support those where you live, work and play help you become more alive and rescue you from survival mentality?**

Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting us to be part of a story greater than ourselves. Help us this week to seek ways to serve our neighbors so they might hear your grace and truth. Help us to position ourselves to think about our call wherever we live, work, and play. Amen.