

Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Guest Speaker McKale Hagg

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Summary of the Text

The text from Genesis 12:1–9 explores the story of Abram’s call from God to leave his homeland, people, and family to go to an unknown land. This passage highlights three key actions of submitting to God’s call: embracing uncertainty, trusting in God’s promises over personal plans, and responding with obedient action. Through Abram’s example, supported by stories of Noah, Moses, and others, the text illustrates that faith involves trusting God’s guidance despite unclear paths, believing in His greater promises, and acting promptly in obedience. The narrative emphasizes the importance of worship, community, and remembering God’s faithfulness as we navigate life’s uncertainties.

Ice Breaker for Discussion

Question: Share a time when you got lost or found yourself in an unfamiliar situation (like Miriam in the camping story). How did you feel, and how did you find your way?

Purpose: This question helps group members connect personally with the theme of navigating uncertainty, setting the stage for discussing faith in unknown circumstances.

Point 1: Following God’s Call Often Involves Uncertainty

Scripture Reading: Direct (Someone) to read **Genesis 12:1** aloud:

“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.’”

Summary:

God calls Abram to leave his familiar surroundings—his land, community, and family—without revealing the destination, only promising to “show” him the way. This reflects the nature of faith: trusting God’s direction even when the path is unclear. Examples like Noah building the ark without rain and Moses confronting Pharaoh despite doubts illustrate that faith requires surrendering control and moving forward without full clarity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some “comfort zones” in your life that you feel God might be calling you to leave behind? How does the uncertainty of that step make you feel?
2. How can we cultivate trust in God when His call leads us into unfamiliar or uncertain territory?

Point 2: Following God's Call Means Trusting That His Promises Are Bigger Than Our Plans

Scripture Reading: Direct (Someone) to read **Genesis 12:2–3** aloud:

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Summary:

God's promise to Abram is expansive, promising to make him a great nation and a blessing to all peoples. The repeated “I will” emphasizes God's initiative and personal involvement. Stories like the widow feeding Elijah (1 Kings 17) show that obedience to God's call can have far-reaching impacts beyond what we see. Our limited perspective may focus on immediate obstacles, but God's promises extend to eternal purposes, often unfolding over generations.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you share a time when you obeyed God in a small way and later saw a bigger impact than you expected? How does this encourage you to trust God's promises?
2. How can we stay focused on God's bigger plan when our immediate circumstances seem discouraging or unclear?

Point 3: Following God's Call Requires Action

Scripture Reading: Direct (Someone) to read **Genesis 12:4–9** aloud:

“So Abram went, as the Lord had told him... The Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built an altar there to the Lord...” (focus on verses 4 and 7 for brevity).

Summary:

Abram's immediate obedience at age 75, leaving his settled life, demonstrates faith in action. His journey is marked by worship, as he builds altars to God, and community, as he travels with others. The story of Jake pursuing a mission internship shows that acting on God's call often requires stepping out of comfort zones. Faith is not just about big moments but also daily, obedient choices, supported by worship and community.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one practical step of obedience God might be calling you to take right now, even if it feels uncomfortable?
2. How can community and worship (like Abram's altars) help us stay faithful when responding to God's call?

Recap of the Lesson

The lesson from Genesis 12:1–9 teaches us that submitting to God’s call involves three key actions: embracing uncertainty, trusting in His greater promises, and responding with obedient action. Abram’s story, alongside examples like Noah, Moses, and the widow, shows that faith means trusting God’s voice over our understanding, believing His plans exceed our own, and moving forward promptly, supported by worship and community. The “Footprints in the Sand” poem reminds us that God is with us, carrying us through trials when we feel alone.

Challenge

Challenge: This week, identify one area where you sense God’s call but have hesitated due to fear or uncertainty. Take one concrete step of obedience—whether it’s a conversation, a decision, or an act of service—and share your intention with someone in the group for accountability. Reflect on how God’s presence and promises sustain you as you step out in faith.