



## Lesson 1 | Stepping out in Faith

### Genesis 12:1-3

Abraham's life can be summed with the simple phrase "a faith-filled friend of God." The NT repeatedly holds up Abraham as an example for his faith, and on three occasions Scripture calls Abraham the friend of God. Yet Abraham's incredible legacy is meant to be a pattern for us to strive to follow. What does it look like to live a life of faith?

### The Call to Faith (12:1)

God calls Abram (who would later become Abraham) when he and his family were living in Ur and serving idols. God initiates the relationship, but it's up to Abram to respond.

God Wants Faith that Leads to \_\_\_\_\_

God comes to Abram and gives him a command that must be obeyed. For Abram to believe God means that he must obey God. True faith means trusting God's Words, which will flow out in the way that we live.

God Wants Faith When Things Are \_\_\_\_\_

After telling Abram to go, God made clear what Abram was leaving behind. In Abram's culture leaving behind country, family, and father's home meant leaving behind all that is familiar and all that is safe. If he had stayed, Abram probably would have taken over for his father, would have lived a comfortable life, and would have enjoyed the prestige and ease of being at least a moderately wealthy Chaldean.



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## God Wants Faith When Things Are \_\_\_\_\_

But God's call to Abram came without a whole lot of explanation. "To a place where I will show you" is pretty vague. God expected Abram to leave everything behind, and it was not until he had left everything behind that God would show him the next step. Such a call required Abram to decide in advance whether God Himself was someone worth trusting, since Abram didn't even get a chance to look at the plan first.

### The Promise for Faith (Genesis 12:2-3)

God's promises to Abram are important for two reasons. First, they show us the generous character of God, but they also set the stage for the rest of the story that will eventually lead to Jesus.

#### God Promised to \_\_\_\_\_ Abram

In these brief verses there are at least 3 key ideas that will be picked up and developed throughout the Abram story. Abram is promised a nation, which implies descendants and a land, and that he will be a blessing. Now, land and family are some of the very things Abram was being asked to give up. God promised to reward Abram by giving him what Abram was being asked to give up. Similarly, Jesus said that those who sacrifice for the kingdom will find that God rewards them richly, both in this life and in the life to come (Matthew 19:27-30).

#### God Promised to \_\_\_\_\_ through Abram

Genesis tells the story of how God's beautiful creation begins to deteriorate due to man's sin. By the end of the first 11 chapters, the reader is ready for God to break through and do something to fix all that is broken. Rather than make a grand announcement to the king of the most important city on earth at the time, God kicks off His grand plan to save humanity by going to a wealthy idolater and calling for Him to leave everything and follow God. God uses people of faith to be the conduits of His blessing to the world. God doesn't need anyone, but He chooses to use us to accomplish His purpose in the world. All He is looking for is faith.

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