

10 A NEW LAND

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 12:1-5; 13:11-18

CENTRAL truth

Today we'll meet one of the most famous people in the Bible: Abraham. For now, he's known as "Abram." God called him to step away from all that was familiar into a new land, promising to make him into a great nation that would be a blessing for the whole world. And so, in faith, Abram obeyed. Well, sort of. Fortunately, **God is faithful, even when people are not.**

key question

God repeats His promises a lot in the Bible. Why do you think He does this?

Abram's life in Genesis 12–13 reveals how prone humans are to forget God's promises. Although Abram is certainly an example of faith (see Heb. 11), he is also an example of faithlessness. God made a big promise to Abram, but it's clear that he struggled to fully believe it. It seemed impossible by human standards for this old man to become a father of nations. But nothing is impossible with God. Our forgetful, faithless minds need lots of reminders of God's faithfulness.

keep in mind

- Don't miss an opportunity to make gospel connections here! Abram didn't show perfect faithfulness to God, but God would show perfect faithfulness to Abram. It's not about Abram's character but about God's. And, God's promise to Abram is for us, too. From Abram's line would come the twelve tribes of Israel. From one of these tribes, Judah, would come great kings like David and Solomon. And from David's family would come Jesus, the One who made the way for anyone who looked to Him to become a child of God. Truly, God's promise to Abram has come true: there are countless children in this family!
- This session's "Give an Answer" note will lightly cover Abram's journey into Egypt and how he chose to protect himself at his wife's expense. To help students stomach this, point out God's protection for her. Even though horrible things happen in the world, God sees sin and limits its power. When we encounter injustice, we can remember that God is a God of justice who endured the punishment for sin Himself on the cross. All who look to Him can be spared, and He will punish those who fail to repent. No sin will remain unaddressed!

application

Why do we sometimes obey God slowly or only partially? How can we encourage one another in our obedience?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students will begin to see that while we are often unfaithful, God is faithful. However, the way God keeps His promises can motivate us to worship Him and shape our lives in alignment with His promises.

FOR THE LEADER: Help students view Abram properly: as an example of both faith and faithlessness. God is the only one who is always faithful! Use his story to encourage students to cling to God's promises.

WINTER
2023-24