



— INTERNATIONAL —
ORALITY INSTITUTE

International Orality Institute

3026 Virginia Ave N.

Crystal, MN 55427

952-412-1366

kevino@oralityinstitute.org

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5. The Call of Abram

Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6

Genesis 12

¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

² 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.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.

⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ After traveling through the land

⁷ the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.”

So Abram built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him ...
⁸ and called on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 15

¹ After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward.”

² But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”

³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.”

⁵ God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them. So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ *Abram believed that what the Lord had promised would come true, and because of his faith the Lord saw him as righteous.*

Study Questions: The Call of Abram

Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6

Introduction:

Many years after the worldwide flood of Noah's time, there was a man whose name was Abram. He had moved from Ur to stay in Haran. Abram and his wife Sarai were both very old, but they had no children of their own because Sarai was barren. One day, the Lord called Abram to leave his homeland and go to a place that God would show him. That call would forever change the life of Abram and his family. Through that call the Lord began to reveal more clearly His plan for a coming Messiah.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand that the Lord promised that all of the people of the earth would be blessed through Abram's seed, Jesus. To recognize that the blessing of the Lord carries a privilege and a responsibility. The privilege is the Lord's promised offspring; the responsibility is to carry that Blessing to the whole earth.

Attitude – To believe that the Lord alone, through His promise, is the only thing that qualifies you for anything. To trust the Lord's plan even when you cannot see all of it.

Actions – To obey the Lord and worship Him without questioning His reasons for what He asks. To go where the Lord tells us to go without hesitation. To pass on the blessing that we have been given.

Memory Verses:

Exodus 4:12 "Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith, Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Genesis 15:13-15; 17:1-22; Job 42:1-2; Hebrews 11:8-13;
Romans 4:1-25

Questions about the Story:

1. Who gave the call to Abram? (Genesis 12:1. The Lord called Abram.)

2. What were the Lord's instructions to Abram? (Genesis 12:1. The Lord God commanded Abram to leave his country and to go to a place that He would show him.)
3. What did the Lord command Abram to leave? (Genesis 12:1. His country, his people, and his father's household.)
4. Where was Abram to go to after leaving all that he knew so well? (Genesis 12:1. Abram was to go to a land that the Lord would show him.)
5. What did the Lord promise Abram? (Genesis 12:2-3. God promised to make Abram a great nation and bless him, making his name great and making him a blessing. All the peoples of the earth would be blessed through him.)
6. How old was Abram when he set out from Haran? (Genesis 12:4. Abram was seventy-five years old.)
7. Who were Abram's traveling companions? (Genesis 12:4-5. His wife Sarai, nephew Lot, and all the people (servants) he had gotten while living in Haran.)
8. When did the Lord appear to Abram again? (Genesis 12:6-7. and refer to verse 5: The Lord appeared after Abram had been traveling through the land of Canaan.)
9. What did the Lord promise Abram about the land that they are traveling through? (Genesis 12:7. That it would be the inheritance for his offspring.)
10. What did Abram do after God promised to give this land to his descendants? (Genesis 12:7-8. Abram built an altar at Shechem, and another near Bethel, and he called on the name of the Lord.)
11. What did the Lord promise Abram in a vision? (Genesis 15:1. The Lord promised to be his shield and his great reward.)
12. What was Abram's concern? (Genesis 15:2-3. Abram's concern was that he and Sarai had no children and so they would not have any child to inherit all that the Lord had promised.)
13. Who did Abram believe was responsible for his lack of children? (Genesis 15:3. He accused the Lord: Abram said to the Lord, "You have given me no children.")
14. To remove Abram's doubts and seal His promise, what did God tell Abram? (Genesis 15:4. God confirmed to Abram that a son would come from Abram's own body to be his heir.)
15. God took Abram outside to look up at the sky. What did He compare Abram's future descendants to? (Genesis 15:5. The Lord said that the descendants of Abram would someday be as many as the stars in the sky.)

16. Why did God consider Abram to be a righteous man? (Genesis 15:6. Abraham believed the promise of God would come true and God called that righteousness.)

Discussion Questions:

1. In what way does the Lord call to us today? (Genesis 12:1) [The Lord calls us through the preaching, teaching, reading of His Word, and through the Holy Spirit.]
2. How must we respond when the Lord calls us to do something? (Genesis 12:1-4) [We must go where He tells us to go and do what He commands us to do.]
3. The Lord commanded Abram to leave the comforts of Haran. What does He ask us to leave behind in order to follow Him? (Genesis 12:1) [The Lord asks us to leave everything behind including our sinful way of living.]
4. What is the blessing that we have been given? What responsibility goes with that blessing? (Genesis 12:1-3) [The blessing is Abraham's future offspring, Jesus. The responsibility is the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20.]
5. When God calls us, do we always know where God will be leading us? (Genesis 12:1) [No, but we can trust that He will show us when the time is right for us to know.]
6. What does this story teach us about God's provision when He calls us? (Genesis 12:2-3, 7) [We can be sure that when the Lord calls us and we obey Him, He will bless us and provide for us.]
7. Abram was seventy-five years old when God called him to leave his home. What qualifies us, like Abram, to be God's chosen one. (Genesis 12:1-8) [Nothing in ourselves, only the Promise of God. The new land and the alter point to the only sacrifice that would qualify Abram.]
8. What does this show us about who God is able to call and use for His glory? (Genesis 12:4) [God is able to call anyone He desires. When God uses someone who is not strong to do great things, this gives Him much glory, because it is clear to everyone that God is the One who is doing the great things.]
9. How should we respond to the Lord when He is leading us? (Genesis 12:7-8) [We should always worship God and give Him glory. We must ask Him to lead us in every decision.]
10. What does it mean that God said He would be Abram's "shield and very great reward?" (Genesis 15:1) [God is like a shield that surrounds us and protects us from the devil, the world, and our flesh. God is our reward because Jesus makes it

possible to know Him and having fellowship with Him. He also provides for all that we need for life and godliness through the glorious riches in Jesus Christ our Lord. See 2 Peter 1:3 and Philippians 4:19.]

11. What makes God look upon us as righteous? (Genesis 15:6) [God looks at us as righteous when we have faith in His Word and we trust in His promises. If we believe Him, we will obey what He tells us to do. Romans 4:1-5, 18-25; 5:1]
12. What is faith? (Genesis 15:6) [Faith is trusting God at His Word. It is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1, 8-10]