



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester

Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

When we face hardship, we often try to drum up boldness or talk ourselves into bravery. God, however, is the one who renews our faith

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

God, I'm often so afraid. And when I am, I'm tempted to rely on my own wits or courage, and that's never enough. Be with me. Give me Your courage

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord

(1 Chron 28:20 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", May 26, 2019)

**Series: God's Exceptional
Choice**

**UNIT 1: God Calls Abraham's
Family**

NEXT WEEK

**God Chooses the
Younger Twin
(Gen 25:19-34)**

The Call of Abraham Gen 12:1-5, 7; 15:1-7

Lesson Background and Introduction

The first 11 chapters of Genesis look at humanity broadly, from their creation and fall (Genesis 1–3), to their acts of violence (4:2–12) and wickedness (6:5–6, 11–12), to their judgment and rescue (6:7–9:17). Despite all this, people still made vain attempts to focus attention on themselves (11:1–9). As Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament, such a broad focus is understandable. This prepares readers of all eras to hear how God worked through humanity generally and specifically through one family. After the flood narrative (Genesis 6–10), the text lists the descendants of Noah's son Shem (11:10–25). This genealogy culminated with Terah, the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran (11:26). Terah outlived Haran, the father of Lot (Genesis 11:27–28). Terah's other sons, Abram and Nahor, were both married. However, Abram and his wife Sarai were unable to conceive (11:29–30). The family lived in Ur of the Chaldeans (Genesis 11:31). Abram had to answer a difficult call with boldness, courage, and faith. God had placed the call, and Abram answered by way of relocating his family. This decision would radically change his life and the lives of others for centuries. There will be times in the life of a believer when the challenge is not to find God's will but to follow God's call. This call may lead to a different job, a new neighborhood, or even to an unknown land. Yet if we remain faithful to God and trust in his steadfast promises, he will bless us deeply.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

God declared that He would bless Abram's descendants, namely, the Jews, and that they would be a blessing to the rest of the world. Much of the world disputes that the Jews are a blessing. They have maligned and loathed the Jews throughout history. Why are the Jews so despised? Why is the tiny land of Israel still in the crosshairs of hatred for much of the world? Being chosen by God makes one the target of the kingdom of darkness. Satan has instigated Jewish oppression because of his opposition to the plan of God for the world. Why would God choose the Jews? Like God's choice of all of us, He chose the Jews by grace, not because of special merit on their part. God delights in showing His power through weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). The real blessing of the Jews to the world has not been through their culture, their historical or scientific achievements, or their politics. The Jews have been a blessing to the world because they were the lineage through whom God sent the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. Scan the Old Testament, and you will pick up a recurring theme. God's chosen people promised to obey Him again and again, but they failed Him and forsook Him just as often. It is no wonder God lamented through the writings of Jeremiah, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (Jer. 2:13). We might respond in one of two different ways to the disobedience of Israel. We could excoriate them and condemn their fickle faith. But when we look at our own lives, it is easy to observe the same failure and faithlessness. There is a second reaction we could have. We could observe that God was faithful to His people regardless of their continued failure. If God is so faithful to love the faithless, surely we can count on Him to love us when we continue to struggle and fall short. It is easy to understand, then, why Jeremiah described God's faithfulness in the very context of Israel's failure: "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him" (Lam. 3:21-24). It is always encouraging to know that God will remain faithful even when we fall short.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

God's Call to Follow (Gen 12:1-3)

God's call to follow always requires a change (1)

- Jonah's plans were changed by a violent storm (Jonah 1:2-4)
- The rich man's plans were changed by death (Luke 12:16-20)
- Sometimes the change is from what we want to do to what God wants us to do (Acts 16:7-10)
- The best thing to do is pray for God's Will to be done (James 4:13-15)

God will always provide blessings for following Him (2)

- Followers of God will have the light of life (John 8:12)
- Followers of God will inherit eternal life (Matt 19:29)
- Followers of God will be blessed (Luke 6:22)
- Followers of God will have the Spirit of God rest upon them (1 Peter 4:14)
- Followers of God have indescribable glory awaiting them (1 Cor 2:9)

God's call includes protection (3)

- Followers have the protection of having God with them wherever they go (Josh 1:6-9)
- Followers have the protection of God strengthening and helping them (Isa 41:10)
- Followers have the protection of having God for them (Rom 8:31)
- Followers have the protection of God's deliverance (2 Thess 3:1-4)
- Followers have protection of God's rescue (Jer 1:17-19)

Following God Requires Obedience (Gen 12:4-7)

Obedience should have no hindrances like age (4)

- Age should be no problem if living a godly example (1 Tim 4:12)
- No one should allow age to hinder following Jesus or stopping others from following Jesus (Matt 18:10)
- Age should be no problem because God promised to be with all age groups (Jer 1:4-8)
- Age should be no problem if seeking and using God's wisdom and discernment (1 Kings 3:6-12)

Obedience should include the whole family (5)

- When God gives commands ALL of the household is bound by them (Gen 19:17, 23-26)
- The family must be united so that prayers will not be hindered (1 Pet 3:7)
- Obedience is for all who are in our dominion (Exod 20:9-10)
- God's commands sometime involves all in the sphere of our influence (Deut 16:11)

Obedience should have no regard to what others are doing (6)

- Regardless of others and their opinions, know God's power and control (Num 13:28-33)
- Regardless of others and their opinions, rely on God as our salvation (Ps 27:1-3)
- When there are people problems, God works with them before we get involved with them (Acts 10:25-29)
- Obedience is required to prove to us that God is the only one we need in our daily battles (Judg 7:2-7)

God always has future blessings for following (7)

- Future blessing of rewards (Matt 10:40-42)
- Future blessing of receiving many times as much as given (Luke 18:28-30)
- Future blessing in this life and the life to come (1 Tim 4:6-8)
- Future blessing of the right to sit with Jesus on His throne (Rev 3:21)

Covenant Promises Misunderstood (Gen 15:1-3)

Misunderstood reward (1)

- Misunderstanding and using human logic to resolve (Gen 16:1-2)
- Misunderstanding the full meaning of a child as a reward (Ps 127:3)
- Misunderstandings and afraid to ask about them (Luke 9:44-45)
- Misunderstanding about the actions of God (John 13:6-9)
- Misunderstanding and worrying versus seeking God (Matt 6:33-34)

Misunderstood timing (2-3)

- God's timing is different because of His superior ways and authority (Isa 55:8-9)
- God's timing is different because He is not limited by time (2 Pet 3:8)
- There is a time for everything, but all of it is up to God (Eccl 3:1)
- God does things when the time has fully come (Gal 4:4)
- It is not for man to know God's timing (Acts 1:7)

Covenant Promises Assurances (Gen 15:4-7)

Promises of heirship (4)

- An heir through God's promises (1 Kings 8:20)
- An heir through succession (1 Chron 17:11)
- An heir through God's covenant (Ps 89:28-29)
- An heir through God's oath (Ps 132:11)
- An heir through prophesied genealogy (Isa 11:1-2)

Promises that are sure (5)

- God's promises are sure because of the proof of His mighty acts (Ps 145:10-13)
- God's promises are sure because by His words the creation was done (2 Peter 3:4-9)
- God's promises are sure because God cannot lie (Heb 6:13-19)
- God's promises are sure because His faithfulness surrounds Him (Ps 89:6-8)
- God's promises are sure because His promises have been thoroughly tested (Ps 119:140)

Promises that can be believed (6-7)

- God's promises can be believed through faith (Rom 4:3-5)
- God's promises can be believed because there is a blessing in having faith in them (Gal 3:6-9)
- God's promises can be believed through faith and action working together (James 2:20-24)
- God's promises can be believed because of His eternal presence (2 Cor 4:13-14)