

Abram: His Family, Call and Deceit

Genesis 11:10-12:20

Read Genesis 11:10-32.

Abram's family line is recorded. *Note: God renamed Abram and Sarai, changing them to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:5, 15).*

- Where did Abram live, and where did he move? Trace Abram's journey on a map.
- When have you thought God could not possibly love you or have a plan for your life?

Principle: God calls imperfect people to be His people.

Read Genesis 12:1-9.

God's call and promises to Abram.

- How would you describe God's character?
- Have you received God's gift of new life? If not, why not?

Principle: God calls His people to receive His gift of new life.

Read Genesis 12:10-20.

Abram betrays Sarai and Pharaoh.

- How did Abram's decision to go to Egypt cause further problems?
- When have you let a problem discourage you from depending on God?

Principle: God calls His people to depend on Him.

Review Genesis 11:10-12:20.

- What have you learned about God through His activity in Abram's life?

Main truth: God calls His people and guides them in a new life.

Scripture Memory Verse

"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you.' " – Genesis 12:1-2a

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Guide

God leads us in the way we should go. His Word teaches us how we are to live and think. Because God gives His children the Holy Spirit, they recognize His voice and follow Him. We can trust God to lead us in the right way. Without God's guidance, we stumble and fall like people in the dark.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

How does the Holy Spirit help God's children?

The Holy Spirit convicts God's children of sin and gives them faith to believe and obey God.¹ He unites them with Christ and assures they are God's children.² The Holy Spirit sanctifies God's children, keeping them safe until they reach heaven.³ He helps them pray and understand God's Word.⁴ He comforts and guides them.

2 Thessalonians 2:13¹; Romans 8:15-16²; Ephesians 1:13-14³; Ephesians 6:17-18⁴

Think About It

If the Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, does that mean God is angry with me?

The Holy Spirit's conviction of sin reveals God's love and goodness. Conviction of sin tells us God is at work in a person's life. God wants us to repent and turn back to Him. Sometimes the Holy Spirit makes us miserable until we repent. If we refuse to repent, we risk making our hearts hard, in which we would not hear God's voice. God tells us not to be discouraged when He convicts us of sin, but to turn back to Him (Hebrews 12:5-9). He promises to forgive those who turn to Him and not to keep a record of our sins (Psalm 130:3-4).

What does it mean that Jesus lives in a person's heart?

Jesus promised His disciples that His Spirit would live within them (John 14:15-19). When the Bible says God gives us a new heart, it means God gives us His Spirit. The Bible describes our hearts as the core of who we are – our thoughts and feelings – not the organ in our body that pumps our blood! When God's Spirit is in our hearts, He gives new desires to love and please God and a new ability to obey Him (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

What does it mean to be united to Christ?

God permanently unites His children to Christ through faith and the Holy Spirit. They are in Christ the way a fruitful branch lives within a living vine (John 15:1-6). Being in Christ is like being part of a body – a body for which Christ Himself is the head (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Colossians 1:18). The Bible also talks about union with Christ as a love union between a bride and groom (Ephesians 5:22-32). God has blessed His children in Christ with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). Whatever we have or need, we will find it in Christ.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.