

## ***Genesis 12, 15 | Abraham's Call***

**Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-6**

*Based on NLT (2004)*

### **Transition**

*Adam and Eve's disobedience\* separated them from God. Yet God did not forget his special creation. God wanted relationship\* with people. Many years passed. Eventually God chose one man from whom to raise a people that would be his. This is the story of Abraham.*

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

*God said to Abraham, "Leave your native country, your relatives...and go to the land that I will show you. I will make a huge people from your descendants. I will bless\* you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ...All the families on earth will be blessed through you."*

### **Genesis 12:4-6**

*So Abraham left as God had instructed...Abraham was seventy-five years old when he left his homeland. He took his wife, Sarah ...and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household...and headed for the land that God would show him. When they arrived there, Abraham traveled through the land...when he eventually stopped...he set up camp beside a great tree...*

### **Genesis 12:7**

*Then God appeared to Abraham and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abraham worshiped\* God, who had appeared to him.*

*Abraham's new life in the promised land wasn't easy. There was a famine which caused him to leave for awhile. He had a falling out with his nephew whom he had*

*brought with him. He then had to fight to save his nephew from enemy armies. It wasn't always easy...*

### **Genesis 15:1-3**

*Some time later God spoke to Abraham in a vision\* and said to him, "Do not be afraid...I will protect you, and you will receive a great reward."*

*But Abraham replied, "O God, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children...a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."*

### **Genesis 15:4-5**

*Then God said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir." Then God took Abraham outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"*

### **Genesis 15:6**

*And Abraham believed\* God, and God considered him to be in right relationship\* with him because of his trust.*

- *What did you like about this story?*
- *What bothered you?*
- *What did God promise Abraham? What did he do to fulfill his promise? What reminders/signs did he give him?*
- *What did Abraham do in response to God's calling and promise?*
- *How does this story apply to you in leadership?*
  - *Has God given you a calling? What is it?*
  - *What promises has God given you, perhaps concerning your calling?*

- *What reminders of his promise has he given you?*
- *What has been your response to his calling and his promise?*
- *Abraham believed something extravagant that God told him. How do you know that Abraham believed? Do you believe what God has told you? What does 'active belief' look like in your life?*

### **Notes to consider**

- Abraham obeyed and left even though it made little sense. God was calling him to be the father of a nation, but he wasn't the person for it—he had no children! God was calling him to take possession of a land, but the land wasn't his.
- Abraham went, and he worshipped God when he got there—before the promise was fulfilled.
- Hard times came. He left for Egypt, but he came back. He was faithful to help Lot. He was wise.
- He continued to believe, even years later when God re-affirmed his promise. God reassured Abraham with a reference to the stars numbering like his descendants. Then God solemnly promises Abraham that the land will be his descendants'. (This is a unilateral covenant—nothing is required of Abraham)