

JOURNEY OF A BELIEVER

genesis 12:1-4



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Keith preached on the different seasons of Abraham's life. When looking at the life of Abraham, we find that faith begins with leaving. God asks us to leave our familiarity and comfort so that we can learn how to trust an unchanging God in the midst of a changing world. And as we change, our change also impacts our surroundings.

Most of the time that God asks us to move, it doesn't make sense to us right away, but we have to understand it from a spiritual dimension. Sometimes, even when we move in faith, we don't see the fruit of that faith right away. We land in a season of famine (just as Abraham did as he left his home). But "famine" is a required course, because prophets are made in the wilderness. Even in the negative moments of our lives, we can be shaped into the likeness of Christ.

Second of all, Abraham may have wanted a son, but God wanted to make Abraham a father of faith. The goal was that all families would be blessed through them.

But Abraham didn't become a leader without a hitch - there were many moments that Abraham struggled and even disobeyed. Nevertheless, God turned Abraham into a man of faith, and he was ultimately blessed to be a blessing.



OUTLINE

1

FAITH BEGINS WITH LEAVING

Leaving our familiarity and comfort is the first step because it's an opportunity to show our tangible trust in God. When we leave to follow God, we may not always see the fruit of that obedience, as sometimes we are led into a place of famine. However, God shapes and forms his people in the place of famine/wilderness. Those who recognize the low places and are still willing to be shaped into the likeness of Christ will be overcomers and become more prophetic (perceptive) of what God is doing.

2

GOD USES OUR FAILURES TO SHAPE US

Through Abraham's many failures (that had consequences in itself), God still used it to form him and shape him into a man of faith. God doesn't just ask us to do things we are able to, but He asks us to do things that we are not capable of doing by our own strength. If we follow him in obedience, through the ups and the downs, through the valleys and the mountaintops, God will shape us and transform us into His likeness, into men and women of great faith.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

We desire to have perspective, but can be stubborn at times. What may be something that you need heaven's perspective on?

2

Have you gone through a season of 'famine' or 'wilderness'? Have you ever felt 'hurt by God'? What did that look like? What do you think God was doing during that time?

3

Do you have a life example where your goal was different than God's goal for your life?

4

What are areas of our lives that we are comfortable with that we don't want God to come and change/shake up? What do we need to surrender in faith to Him?

5

When we consider our current part of our journey, what is the first barrier that comes to mind when considering that we CAN make this shift? Let's pray to begin the process of breaking down those barriers over time and with one another.



BIG IDEA

Through life, we go through many seasons. God will lead us into the valleys, into the desert, to the mountaintops, and to places of rest. We will go through many victories, but we will also go through many struggles in the process. The purpose of our journey is faith and obedience -- so that we can be blessed to be a blessing.