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study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



INTRODUCTION

Everyone would like a purpose to live for, a compelling reason to get out of bed in the morning, and a reason to move forward. In fact most of us, if we could be honest with ourselves, would love some assurance that, if we continue to go into the future living the way we are now, it will be a good future.

That kind of assurance is what the Bible calls "hope" (Hebrews 11:1). Today we find ourselves in a hopeless society. Suicide rates are the highest they have been since the early 1970's. Many people live from cause to cause, and get some temporary inspiration, but the truth is such a life is not what anyone would call "compelling" or "inspiring." Even Jesus-followers fall into the malaise. Many describe their faith as *stuck* or *sporadic*.

But this is not what God intended. From the beginning, his plan has been to light up your life, and to have that energy be sustainable energy! That's why he revealed his plan and promise to Abram. It's the hinge of that which makes the whole narrative of Genesis work. The adventure of being a part of what he's up to isn't over; It's just beginning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being "flat", 10 being "I can hardly wait to see..."), how would you describe your life of faith with God? What factors play in?
2. Read the whole narrative, starting with where Abram came from – Genesis 11:27-12:9.
 - a. Abram's name (he's not called "Abraham" until chapter 17... but we'll get there) means "exalter of Father" or "the Exalted One is my father." Names were meant to tell a person's characteristics. What does this tell you about Abram's name, and why is would that be important?
 - b. Abram lived a far from perfect life of faith. Why do you think he was compelled to do what God asked? Are there any clues in the text as to why?
 - c. What are the 4 "I wills" of **12:2-3**? What do each of them mean for Abram? What do each of them say to us/you?
 - d. **Genesis 12:3** is considered the link or hinge around which the whole story of Genesis works. Why do you think that is? How does this make the book fit together?
 - e. In **v.7** God promises another "I will." What is the significance of this promise for God's plan for our salvation?
3. **Using the Bible as it's own commentary, read Hebrews 11:8-10 together.**
 - a. According to **v. 8**, what did Abraham know, and what didn't he know? Why is this significant for us?
 - b. What is that "city" Abraham is looking for (**v.10**)?
4. God tells Abram to "Go" (**Genesis 12:1**). Is there some direction you know God has told you, by his Spirit to go, but you need help and encouragement to get moving? Ask your brothers and sisters in your group to pray that God would renew his compelling call in your life.

MOVING FORWARD

We don't get anywhere sitting around wondering where God is, what happened, or looking for a buzz in our life we don't currently enjoy. Take the next month to daily seek the Spirit's wisdom on where your life is heading, and asking him for an inspired faith.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." Gal. 3:9