

2 Places We Need On Every Journey of Faith

A Place of Decision

Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

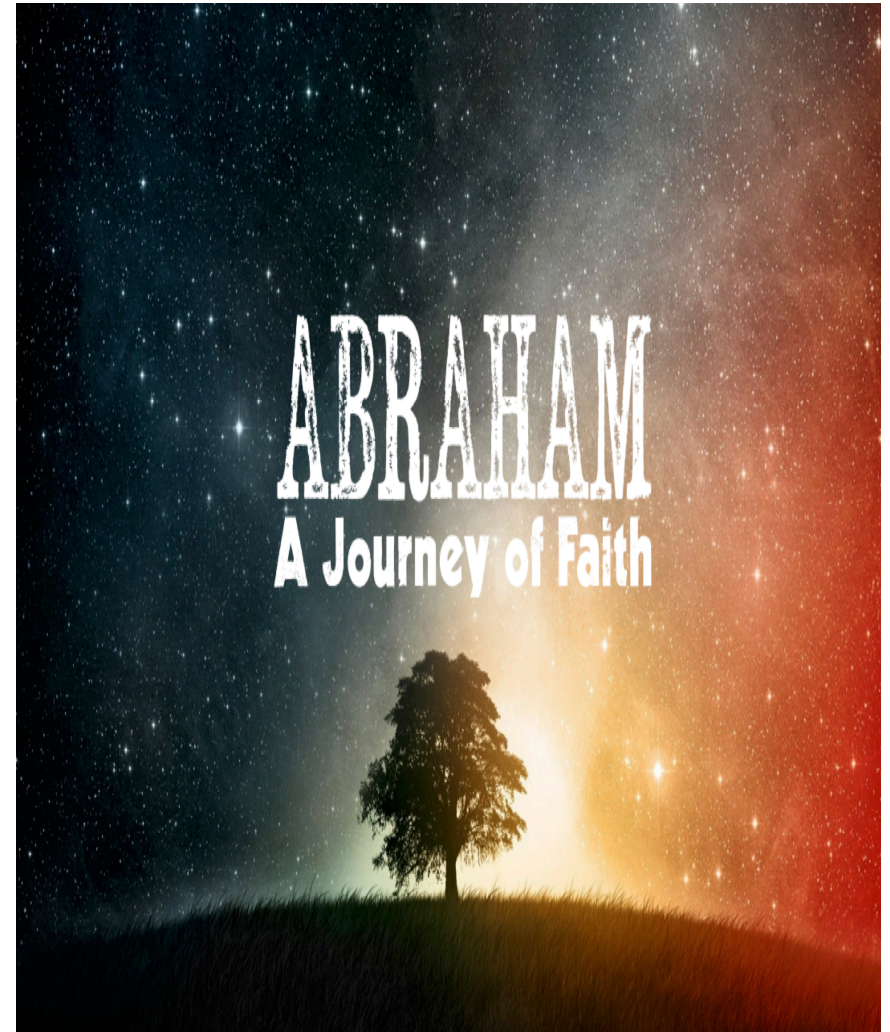
- **Matt 16:24-28**

A Place of Remembrance

⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Life Group / Reflection Questions:

- *What is God speaking to me today?*
- *What am I going to do about it?*
- *Have you ever had to take a step of faith in God? What were your fears, what was the result of that step of faith?*
- *Do you believe that the life God has for you is better than the life you can create for yourself? What areas are you still trying to do life without God?*
- *In what areas of your life do you feel you need to take a step of obedience?*
- *Have you ever taken a step of obedience that defied human logic?*
- *What blessings have you experienced as a result of obedience?*
- *What was your place of decision? The place you went all in for Jesus?*
- *Do you have a place of remembrance? If not how could you go about creating a place to remember the promises and blessings of God?*



Sunday Sept. 14th , 2014
Abraham: Genesis 12:1-9
Blessings of the Journey

Abraham
“Blessings of the Journey”
Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

What is a Covenant?

- “To become One” - Defines a relationship between two people

- Matt 26:26-29; Hebrews 10:16-18

Covenant Relationship With God

Faith + Obedience = Blessing

Faith

Faith is the means by which we gain access to God

Eph. 3:11 -12 *This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.*

The question behind every step of faith: Do I believe that the life God has for me is better than the life I can create for myself?

Obedience

Obedience is the step we take to lay hold of the blessings of God

James 2:21-23 *So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead... ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God*

- ***Obedience comes before blessing***

- ***Obedience defies worldly Logic***

- ***Obedience often results in temporary suffering***

Blessing

God’s blessings are already given to us

- ***We are Blessed to be a Blessing***

- ***God is always faithful to his promise – Deut. 7:9***

- ***Blessings = Anything that is an expression of God’s love and goodness towards us***