



Discussion Guide

Date: 7/20/2025

Sermon Title: How can I be blessing?

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

God of journeys and new beginnings, You called Abram to leave behind what was familiar and safe to follow You into a future only You could see. As we gather to reflect on his journey and ours, open our hearts to Your Spirit. Help us listen deeply, share honestly, and trust boldly. May this time together remind us that we are blessed not only for our own sake but so that we might bless others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Question:

1. Have you been on a road trip this summer? Have you ever gone anywhere on a whim?

Digging into the Word:

1. Read Genesis 12:1-9. What stands out to you in God's call to Abram?
2. What might it have felt like to leave everything familiar behind?
3. Have you ever sensed God leading you into the unknown? What did that look like, explain?
4. Genesis 12:4 simply says, "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him." Why do you think obedience is central to faith?
5. In verse 2, God says, "I will bless you... so that you will be a blessing." What does this say about the purpose of God's blessings?
6. How can we discern when a blessing is meant to be shared? Where in your life is God inviting you to "be a blessing"?

Going Deeper:

7. Read Hebrews 11:8–10 (NRSV). What does it mean to "set out, not knowing where you're going" in today's world? How does that challenge your trust in God? What do you think sustained Abraham's faith over time? What sustains you when you feel uncertain or unsettled?
8. Read Romans 4:13–22 (NRSV). How does Paul describe Abraham's faith journey here—as perfect or growing? How might that encourage us in our own imperfect faith? Are there promises of God that you are holding onto in faith right now? What does it look like to "not waver" while still waiting?

Wesleyan Insight:

John Wesley believed in “**practical divinity**”—faith that is lived out in service to others. *The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.*” — **John Wesley**

9. How do you see that echoed in Abram’s life? In what ways is your spiritual journey not just about believing but *becoming*—more generous, more trusting, more open?
10. Reflect on Wesley’s General Rule: “**Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.**” How might these guide us to live as a blessing?

Sermon Questions:

11. Pastor Allison talks about the daunting question of “what is God like”? How would you answer that question?
12. The sermon points out that in Genesis 12:1 we find that God initiates the invitation and shows up in Abraham's life. In the Wesleyan tradition we call this "prevenient grace" - God making the first move. Can you recall a time in your life when you felt God's presence or guidance before you actively sought Him?
13. It is God’s intention that all people will be blessed (see Genesis 12:3). This view of God is counterculture of Abraham’s time; How does the idea of God wanting to bless all people challenge or affirm your understanding of God's character? How does the story of God and Abram challenge common perceptions of deity in our culture today?
14. Pastor Allison reminds us "When we live in God's likeness, we show the world what God is like." What does this mean to you? How are you living this out?

Applying it:

15. How does this story speak to our church’s mission to “welcome, grow, and serve”?
16. What would it mean for your group or class to “bless your community” intentionally this month?
17. Are there areas in your life where God is calling you to step out in faith, even if you don’t yet see the destination?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, Thank You for the story of Abram and his courageous faith. Help us to trust You in the places of uncertainty and to walk forward even when the road ahead is unclear. Remind us that Your blessings are not meant to be hoarded but shared. As we leave this space, may we go with open hands, generous hearts, and spirits ready to bless others, wherever the journey takes us. In the name of Christ, who calls us to follow. Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. This week, make a conscious effort to initiate a positive interaction with someone you normally wouldn't approach (e.g., a difficult coworker, a neighbor you haven't met).
2. Reflect on your own life and identify ways you've been blessed. Choose one way you can use that blessing to benefit others this week.
3. Consider volunteering for a service opportunity at church or community program that serves others, reflecting God's desire to bless all people. Where is God calling you?