Opening

Gathering: Give an example of how God reached out to you when you didn't expect it. How did you respond?

Today's Focus: To recognize that God calls us by His grace, just as He called Abram, and we are to respond obediently out of faith, just like Abram.

Key Verses: “I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

By faith Abraham, when called to go … obeyed and went. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:8, 10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Cycle of Sin / Judgment / Grace (Genesis 3-11)

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The Account of Terah (Genesis 11:27-30)

Who concludes the list of ten generations in Genesis 5?
Gen 5:3, 32 = Spans from Adam to Noah
Who concludes the list of ten generations in Genesis 11?
Gen 11:10, 26 = Spans from Shem to Terah
From what descendant of Shem and ancestor of Terah did the Hebrews (eberi) get their name?
Gen 11:14 = Eber - Root word avar, - to go, to cross over (Abram told to go)

What do we learn about the family of Terah?
Gen 11:27-30 = Complete Family Tree on board (except Sarai - Terah line)
How was Abram related to Sarai other than marriage?
Gen 20:12 = His half-sister - Complete tree
The Family Goes  *(Genesis 11:31-12:1)*

Did this family stay in Ur of the Chaldeans after the Tower of Babel incident? =  Show path on map
- Genesis 11:31-32 = Terah, Abram, Lot & Sarai left Ur for Canaan & settled in Haran
- Ur = Center of Sumer, 1st great civilization. Modern, wealthy, advanced city
- Haran = 600 miles from Ur, Different Hebrew spelling (charan) than Abram's brother (haran)

Why did they leave their great life in Ur?
- Genesis 12:1 = God told Abram to go to a land He would show him

Did this call from God come to Abram when he was in Ur or in Haran?
- Acts 7:2-3 = When he was in Ur - *Mesopotamia* is Greek for *between the rivers*

Was God calling Abram to go to Haran or to Canaan?
- Genesis 15:7 = To Canaan - Genesis 15 takes place in Canaan
- Acts 7:4 = Until his father died and Then God sent him further

How old was Abram when he left Haran? =  Haran delay kept Abram from claiming land in Canaan
- Genesis 12:4 = 75 years old; Others had settled in Canaan from the dispersion by this time

The Call  *(Genesis 12:1-3)*

What was God's command to Abram? = Leave home, friends, familiar area, everything he knew
- Genesis 12:1 = Leave everything you know & go where I lead you

How was Abram different than the people of Babel?
- Genesis 11:4 = Tower to *make a name for ourselves and not be scattered* (stay one nation)
- Genesis 12:2 = God said: *I will make you into a great nation* and *I will make your name great*

Why did God ask Abram to go?
- Romans 9:4-5 = His plan for a chosen people through whom to reveal Himself & bring Christ

What else did God promise Abram?
- Genesis 12:2-3 = *I will bless you...so you will be a blessing...all on earth will be blessed thru you*

How were all nations blessed through Abram?
- Matthew 1:1, 17 = Jesus descended from David, who descended from Abraham
- Galatians 3:6-9 = All who have faith are blessed along with Abraham
- Galatians 3:14 = Blessing given to Abraham comes to the Gentiles through Christ

Was Abram selected because he was righteous or devout?
- Joshua 24:2 = No, his family worshipped other gods

Abram's Response  *(Genesis 12:4-8)*

What was Abram's response to God's call?
- Genesis 12:4-5 = Abram left, No questions  (Not Where, When, How or Why), He just obeyed

How could Abram leave his comfortable home and go somewhere he didn't even know?
- Hebrews 11:8-10 = By faith Abram obeyed & went, though he didn't know where he was going

What new promise did God give after Abram obeyed His first command and arrived in Canaan?
- Genesis 12:7a = Promise of land of Canaan to Abram's offspring – no foundations in tent cities

Why was offspring a significant part of God's promise?
- Genesis 11:30 (Acts 7:5) = Sarai was barren  (Genesis 12:4 - Abram was 75 yrs old)

How could Abram even consider this impossible promise?
- Hebrews 11:11-12 = By faith Abraham became the father of multitudes

Was it easier for Abram to have this faith than for us? = Faith credited as righteousness (Gen 15:6)
- Romans 4:18-22 = No, he had hope and faith against all hope, though as good as dead
Abram’s Travels  (Genesis 12:6-10)

Where did Abram go from Haran? = Show on map - Oak of Moreh (Canaan holy place)
   Genesis 12:6 = Shechem (main Palestine NS/EW crossroads)
How did Abram show his faithfulness to God in Shechem?
   Genesis 12:7 = Built altar and worshipped in response to God’s blessing
Where did Abram go from Shechem? = Show on map - Today Beitin
   Genesis 12:8 = Bethel - Ancient name Luz, later became a well-known holy place
   Bethel means house of El, El was Canaanite name for a god - Abram built altar to The God here
Where did Abram go from Bethel? = Show on map - Beersheba is in Negeb region
   Genesis 12:9 = Negeb - Southern dry highland of Palestine
Where did Abram go next, and why? = Show on map
   Genesis 12:10 = Egypt, because of a severe famine

God’s Chosen Ones in Egypt  (Genesis 12:10)

Who else did God send to Egypt?
   Acts 7:11-15 = Jacob & household moved to Egypt from Canaan due to famine
   Matthew 2:13 = Joseph took Mary & Jesus to protect Jesus from Herod
Why did God send each of these chosen ones to Egypt?
   Matthew 2:14-15 = Out of Egypt I called my son (Hosea 11:1)

Abram in Egypt  (Genesis 12:11-20)

What faith and character qualities did Abram display in Egypt?
   Genesis 12:11-13 = Didn’t trust God to protect him, Stretched the truth (Sarai was half-sister)
How well did Abram’s plan work? = Sarai was 65+ at the time (Genesis 17:17)
   Genesis 12:14-16 = Pharaoh took Sarah for his own and gave wealth to Abram
How did Abram’s lack of faith threaten God’s plan?
   Genesis 17:19 = God’s covenant would be through Sarah’s son Isaac
How did God handle this threat to His plan?
   Genesis 17:12-20 = Inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh - returned Sarai, told Abram to leave
Could Abram’s sins nullify God’s promise? = No, God’s promise was unconditional
   Job 42:2 = We cannot screw up God’s plan no matter how hard we try

The Better Choice  (Genesis 13:1-13)

How had things changed for Abram in Egypt?
   Genesis 13:1-2 = He had become very wealthy
Where did Abram go after reaching the desert land of the Negeb?
   Genesis 13:3-4 = Back to Canaan and back to where he had worshipped God at Bethel
What problem arose when they settled around Bethel?
   Genesis 13:5-7 = The land could not support livestock of Abram, Lot and locals
What solution did Abram suggest that showed his faithfulness? = Knew that God would provide
   Genesis 13:8-9 = Suggested that he and Lot separate, Gave Lot the choice where to go
Where did Lot choose and why? = Zoar was at southeast tip of the Salt Sea (Dead Sea)
   Genesis 13:10-11 = The lush and fertile region of the Jordan near Zoar
How did this apparent best choice turn out to be the worst? = Would tempt and threaten his faith
   Genesis 13:12-13 = Lot settled near Sodom & Gomorrah, very wicked cities
God Blesses Abram’s Choice  *(Genesis 13:14-18)*

How did God respond to Abram’s act of faith?  
*Genesis 13:14-15*  =  Promised to give the land that Lot left to him & his descendants  
What was the problem with this blessing and what did God promise to do about it?  
*Genesis 13:16*  =  Abram had no kids. God promised descendants like the dust of the earth  
How did Abram respond to the blessing God gave him?  =  We are to respond the same way  
*Genesis 13:17-18*  =  Only way he could, he obeyed and went and worshipped

Trouble in Siddim  *(Genesis 14:1-16)*

What happened at this time in local politics where Lot went to live?  =  They stopped paying tribute  
*Genesis 14:3-4*  (1-4)  =  Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim & Zoar rebelled against Elam  
What happened as a result of this decision?  
*Genesis 14:8*  (5-9)  =  Armies drew lines against Elam & its 3 allies  
How did this battle in the Valley of Siddim turn out?  
*Genesis 14:10-11*  =  The four Elamite armies defeated the five local armies, took spoils  
How did this affect Lot and his family?  
*Genesis 14:12*  =  They were carried off to become slaves  
How did Abram respond to the news about his nephew being captured?  =  Dan is north of Hazor  
*Genesis 14:13-14*  =  He took some select servants and went after them  
How did Abram fare against the four powerful armies?  
*Genesis 14:15-16*  =  He routed them and recovered everything, including Lot & his family

To God Be the Glory  *(Genesis 14:17-24)*

Who met Abram in the Valley of Shaveh (south of Bethel) on his way back home to Hebron?  
*Genesis 14:17*  =  The king of Sodom (he had run away from the defeat)  
Who else met him there from the nearby town of Salem?  (Salem was later known as Jerusalem)  
*Genesis 14:18-20a*  =  Melchizedek, king of Salem, blessed Abram and gave glory to God  
Besides having a name that means “king of righteousness”, what was special about Melchizedek?  
*Hebrews 6:20-7:3*  (7:1-22)  =  He had been called by God as a priest, not inherited (no Levi yet)  
How did Abram respond to Melchizedek?  
*Genesis 14:20b*  =  He recognized him as God’s servant and gave him a tithe  
How did Abram respond to a reward from the king of Sodom?  
*Genesis 14:21-24*  =  He gave all the glory to God, both for victory and for everything he had

Closing Prayer

**Response**

1. How can I recognize a call from God?  
*(Genesis 12:1-4; 1 Samuel 3; Isaiah 6:8; John 8:47; 1 John 4:1-3; Revelation 3:20)*  
2. Do I respond in faith when God calls me for something I don’t see or know?  *(Hebrews 11;  
   Genesis 12:4; 22:2-3; 1 Samuel 15:22; Matthew 7:21; James 1:22-25; 1 Peter 1:10-12)*  
3. Do I worship God and see His hand at work wherever I go?  *(Psalm 118:15-16; 139;  
4. Do I make choices that are in line with God’s plan, or do I make my own plans ignoring God’s will?  
   *(Genesis 13:10-13; Deuteronomy 18:19-20; 1 Kings 3:9; Luke 10:41-42; Romans 7:15-25)*  
5. How do I respond when God blesses me?  *(Genesis 12:2; 14:20b; Deuteronomy 26:1-10;  
   1 Chronicles 29:14,16; Psalm 116:12-18; Jeremiah 33:10-11; Luke 20:22-25)*