

12 October

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 19



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the apostolic mandate of the church is according to Genesis 12?
2. What was God's call to Abraham in Genesis 12:1? (**Go from your country and your kindred your father's house to the land that I will show you.**)
3. What was God's promise in v.2? (**And 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.**)
4. Who will be blessed by Abraham's obedience to God in v.3b? (**...And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**)



Let's go deeper

5. How did Abraham respond to God in v.4a? (**So, Abram went, as the Lord had told him...**)
6. How old was Abram when God called him according to v.4c? (**Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran.**)
7. Who went with Abram in v.5? (**And Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran.**)
8. What does Matthew 28:19a tell us? (**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...**)



Let's apply this

9. Genesis 12:1 – 3; 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. And 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. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- How can you use your talents, gifts and resources to reach out to others with the Gospel of Jesus?
- Do you see yourself as a pioneer or a settler / maintainer?
- How can the Gospel continue and multiply in you and through you?

SUMMARY:

Week 19 – Our apostolic mandate

Read: 1 Cor. 10:23 – 33 & Gen.12:1 – 9

It has always been God's intent to bless the world through a group of people that are His own. In Genesis 12 it started with Abraham, then the nation of Israel, and Jesus the Messiah and Saviour came from this bloodline to bless the whole world.

Genesis 3 – 11, records the fall of man and Genesis 12 is God declaring His purpose, He is going to find a nation, and He is going to reveal Himself to that nation and they are going to impact the world. God's answer is salvation through those who seek Him and is willing to take His Gospel to reach others – that is the apostolic mandate on the church. Too often we reduce or limit the gospel to something I only receive, but if we understand the apostolic mandate that I receive so that I can reach out to others. God saved me so that through me He can reach others. The Kingdom of God advances in Genesis 12 through a people going, giving, sowing, sending, looking outward and realising that there is a world to be impacted.

vv.1 – 3; God created, chose and called Abraham, when he was not looking for God and as Abraham walks with God, he would learn God's salvation and ways. God blessed Abraham so that Abraham could be a blessing to others. Abraham has a revelation of God, and he responds willing in obedience to God's call to be a blessing to others. God does something in our lives, so that we can bless others. Freely you have received, freely you can give – what are the gifts, talents, resources God has blessed you with? It is not to become comfortable, but to bless others.

God has always intended through **continuity** (our growing revelation of God and reaching out to others), and **multiplication** (discipling and investing in generations – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.) that the gospel will go from one man Abraham to a nation that will impact the nations of the world that was God's plan.

As a church are we pioneers reaching out and blessing others, or have we become settlers only maintaining what God has blessed us with? God chose Abraham and build a nation through him not for him to say this is my holy nation look at me, but that he can impact the world through that nation. Often the apostolic is seen as a project, or something we add on to the calendar, but God has called every believer and every local church to be apostolic – going, giving and sending. What was the answer to the sin and rebellion in Genesis 3 – 11, to become a blessing to all nations

vv.4 – 9; Abraham's response was I will go, and he went taking a team with him and all his possessions. Our faith and obedience will stir others to go with us. We are pioneers taking ground for God, not maintainers. Every believer is sent to their neighbour, nation and nations of the world. We all had someone reach out to us with the Gospel. God's desire is for every church to be apostolic, and all is involved.