

Lesson #4 – Sunday, August 23, 2026

BIG IDEA: Obedience leads to blessing.

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Have you ever had a time when you were forced to make an important decision without much information?
 - How did you feel trying to make that decision? How confident were you in your final decision?
- ⇒ This is close to what Abraham must have felt in Genesis 12. God called him to follow, but Abraham faced a decision with limited information. His decision to obey led to blessings for many (including you and me).

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH: God can be **trusted**.

- ⇒ Just like God called Abraham, God calls each of us. He calls us to Himself to receive salvation, but He also calls us to follow Him and surrender everything to Him. At times, it can seem like God is asking a lot.
- ⇒ Read Lamentations 3:22-26. God is faithful (23b) and is good to those that seek Him (25b). It is good (wise) to hope in Him and to wait for His plans to unfold (26).
- ⇒ If we can trust God with our eternal soul, we can trust Him with our daily lives. You must be sure in your faith that God can be trusted, or you will be hesitant to obey.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. God's call demands **dependence** on Him
 - a. Read Genesis 11:27 (just the first part) and point out that this is our first introduction to Abram (later to be Abraham).
 - b. Read verse 28 and point out Abram's family was originally from Ur of the Chaldees.
 - i. Visual: Either have a map or ask your people to turn to the maps in the back of their Bibles and locate Ur of the Chaldees.
 - ii. Read vs. 31 and show the class how they moved to Haran on the map.
 - c. Now read Genesis 12:1-3 and point out what God was asking Abram to do.
 - d. Stop for a moment and have your class consider the scene. Ask the following questions and discuss:
 - i. What was the Lord asking Abram to do? (*to move his family*)
 - ii. Where was the Lord asking Abram to go? (*wasn't clear*)
 - iii. Who was Abram going to have to leave? (*his country & kindred*)
 - e. Ask: *What would you have done if you were Abram?* Most would probably require more information. We naturally want more details before stepping out into the unknown.
 - f. Point out that Abram would not get more information at that time. If he was to follow God, he would have to completely depend on God to provide the information he needed later.
2. God's call demands our **obedience** in the face of the unknown.
 - a. Read Genesis 12:4-5. And ask: *What sticks out to you in these verses?*
 - i. The answer you are looking for: Abram departed!
 - ii. He did exactly what God asked him to do – even without all the details of what might be in store for him. Despite Abram's lack of details, he still chose to obey God.
 - b. This act of obedience provides a glimpse of Abram's character. Remember, Abram didn't go alone.
 - i. Do you think his wife, Sarai, had questions about what they were doing?
 - ii. Do you think his servants ever asked him about his plans?

- iii. How do you think Abram would feel when someone asked him and he did not have an answer? With all the unanswered questions, he chose to obey God.
 - c. Discuss: Are there things God has asked you to do that you find difficult because others around you simply do not understand?
- 3. God's call demands we trust His **promises**.
 - a. Let's go back and look at God's promise to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3. What did God promise He would do? *Abram will found a great nation; God will bless him, make his name great, and cause him to bless others. Those who bless Abram will be blessed; those who curse him will be cursed. Everyone on earth will be blessed through him. (This takes place through Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abram.)*
 - b. When we consider what God asked Abram to do, and what God promised Abram He would do, Abram's obedience seems to come down to a point of trust.
 - i. Would Abram trust God's promises enough to obey what God had asked him to do?
 - ii. Abram's instant obedience implies Abram's complete trust in God's promises.
 - c. Is it safe to conclude that when we disobey God (sin) we are failing to trust God and what He has said?
 - i. Illustrate: In His Word, God commands us to speak the truth. We know that God is all-knowing and that His ways are best. Then one day we find ourselves in a situation where we are tempted to lie.
 - ii. Do we trust God enough to speak the truth even when we want to lie?
 - d. Consider this point: Abram was working off *one encounter* with God. Yet he trusted God enough to obey Him. We, on the other hand, have the entire account of the Scriptures to rely upon. We have a recorded history of God's faithfulness and trustworthiness to increase our faith and trust in Him. It's incredible to think that there would be a time when we would NOT trust Him!
- 4. God's plans are bigger than **you**.
 - a. God's promises to Abram were big! In fact, they were so big that Abram would not physically live long enough to see them all come to fulfillment.
 - b. This reminds us that God is the center of the universe (and not us – remember our first lesson). Sometimes we do not understand God's ways and His plans, but that does not excuse us from being obedient.
 - c. It is always possible that God is working on something much larger than you. His plans are always perfect – even if we don't grasp the entire scope of what He is doing.
 - d. It comes back to the question: Are we willing to trust God no matter what?

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Why is so natural for us to not trust God like we should?
- ⇒ What does our obedience or disobedience reveal to others what we really believe about God?
- ⇒ How can looking back at biblical examples like Abraham strengthen us today as we try to follow the Lord?

LIFE CONNECTION:

- ⇒ Are there circumstances in your life that you don't completely understand (or maybe even like)? Do you have questions about what God may be trying to do?
- ⇒ When you have a difficult time trusting God, stop and write down the things that you know about God are true. Example: He loves you; He has saved you; He sent Jesus to die for you; He created you; He sustains you; every good thing you have comes from Him...
- ⇒ Reminding ourselves of what we know to be true about God reminds us that God is completely trustworthy. He can even be trusted when we don't understand.