



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

“Are we there yet?” These words echoed in the back seat of the family Plymouth Valiant, the world’s smallest station wagon of its day. Mom and Dad had put down a foam rubber pad for us four siblings so as to sleep through the night. We had just moved to Louisiana, and were on vacation back to North Carolina, our birth place. The morning brought a fresh coolness to our senses, a far different feel from the sultry, stifling, June humidity of Shreveport. We were on a road trip far, far away.

Abram and his family took a road trip of their own, only they were not coming back. His pappy had started out with the same intentions, to the Promised Land of Canaan, but only got half way. Interestingly, God called the family from Ur, where Abram’s dad had started, but it was Abram who went all the way to Canaan, where his journey with God was only beginning.

I think God calls all of us on a road trip. It may literally take us away from home and familiar surroundings. God may call us to travel a long, long way while staying in the same town. The thing is...when we are willing to go - on whatever road we are on - it’s never the same again. Either the place we left has changed, or we have, or both. I believe this is why God calls us to go, to stretch beyond the envelope of who we’ve been, to the horizon of who we can become, whether that’s in a distant land or smack dab in our own back yard. As long as we are obedient to the Voice that calls us beyond ourselves and into God’s future, we will be blessed, even as Abram, who became Abraham, was blessed.

— Rev. Van Dickens, Retired Clergy-in-Residence

A Family Affair

Today is Father’s Day, a special day dedicated to honoring our Dads, and all men in our lives who raise us and have fathers’ strong hearts. Spend some time thinking about a man in your life who has spent more time helping you than anyone else. What are some of the things you have learned from that person? Did he teach you to tie your shoes, swim, or to pray at the dinner table? List all of the things you have learned from the man you are honoring today.

Together, read Proverbs 22:6. Teaching children to know God is a big job. We seek God’s guidance to be a good Christian parent. Raising a child starts with the Bible. Children learn the scriptures and stories to withstand whatever comes their way as they grow. Lots of times children do special things for their Dads, or other special men in their lives on Father’s Day. I am sure you do too.

How can you extend Father’s Day throughout the coming week? How many different ways can you think of to reward your Dad every day?

Dear God, thanks for our dads, and all those who help us, play with us, teach us and love us. Please show us how to honor and love them daily. Amen.

— Tammy Parks, Elementary Coordinator

**Consider
the Source
Genesis 12:1-4**

Monday: Genesis 12:1

Abram left his country, his kinfolk, and his father’s house. That was pretty much everything dear to Abram back then. He perceived not a request, or a suggestion, but a divine command.

- Do you think there were those who told Abram he should not go? What reasons might his friends and family have given for him to stay? Do you suppose some wondered, “Oh, he’ll be back after a while”? Sound familiar?
- Have you ever felt the tug, the urge, or even a voice calling you to make a bold change in your life? How did you respond? How did it change you?

Tuesday: Genesis 12:2

God promises Abram a great future with blessings. Sound too good to be true?

- What risks did Abram take in leaving? What risks have you taken in response to God?
- Abram will be richly blessed “so that you will be a blessing.” In what ways is your life a blessing for others?

Wednesday: Genesis 12:3

God will bless those who bless Abram, and curse those who curse Abram. In other words, God will show favor on those who embrace Abram and God’s calling on his life. To those who abuse Abram, and try to thwart God’s promises on his life, there will be divine consequences.

- The life dream of a person may seem like a foolish idea to others. Words can encourage or discourage a deeper voice someone may be hearing. How do you discern God’s voice in your life? In the lives of others?
- How does God strengthen you in your call to serve, even when others oppose you?

Thursday: Genesis 12:3

The blessing extends to all families of the earth. Abram will not be around to see this, but the promise is given through him.

- Have you ever worked for God, not seeing the fruit of your labors? What’s that like?
- Hebrews defines faith as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” When did you last step out in faith, trusting that God will show you the way?

Friday: Genesis 12:4

Abram goes and takes his nephew Lot and wife Sarai. Gee, I wonder how excited they were to go with him!

- When all is said and pondered, Abram does the one thing God tells him to do, and the one thing so many of us fail to do. He obeys and goes. With God’s help, will you?
- What does going forth as a family mean to you?
- Abram’s promise is ultimately fulfilled through Jesus. That’s looking forward! Our promise of salvation is fulfilled through Jesus. That’s looking backward in order to look forward! Links in the chain, how great is God’s promise!
- Abram was seventy-five years old when he went forth. Are you ever too old to follow God’s calling?