



HOME GROUP STUDY 22nd February 2026

Sermon – Genesis 11 v27-32 and 12 v1-9 – Personal / Group Study and Reflection

Call of Abraham and its Meaning

Genesis 11 v27-32 and 12 v1-9 (English Standard Version)

Terah's Descendants

²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

The Call of Abram

12 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. 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. ³ 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."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

The following questions relate to the 8.30 and 10.30 services on Sunday 22nd February 2026 (available on the church website).

Feel free to **pick and choose questions / sub-questions as appropriate** for your group's interest, preferred study style and time available. They are simply there to facilitate good discussion / reflection. Do **NOT** feel you need to go through them all.

(1) God's call on Abraham. God tells Abraham to uproot and he is not initially even told the destination.

(a) Why would obeying God's call have seemed so challenging (think of Abraham's upbringing and the culture of his day)?

(b) Although we are not told, what might have enabled Abraham to have such a strong faith in God (in a polytheistic culture) that he seemingly complied with God's command without question? How can we develop an obedient faith like Abraham's? Is it possible to have a disobedient faith?

(c) Think of times when you have obeyed or ignored a call of God? What motivated you to obey or not? What were the consequences of your decision?

(2) Promise – Great Nation. In responding to God's call, Abraham is told that God will make him into a great nation.

(a) Why might this promise have sounded so astonishing to Abraham?

(b) Notwithstanding Abraham's incredulity (see Chapter 16 for how he and Sarah tried to take things into their own hands), God fulfilled his promise through Abraham's descendants starting with Isaac. How do you keep faith in God's promises when life's circumstances or the world's view and pressures make them seem impossible to be realised?

(3) Promise – Great Name. In responding to God's call, Abraham is told that his name will be great. By leaving his country, Abraham gets a new start in life, a new identity, significance and meaning for his life.

(a) What do you think is meant by "I will make your name great"?

(b) Following God's call gave Abraham's life meaning. Where do you derive your identity, significance and meaning from? To what extent is it from following Jesus?

(c) To get this, God uprooted Abraham from his upbringing, culture and all he knew. Are there things and / or people you need to be uprooted from / leave behind in order to embrace the full identity and meaning God intends for your life?

(4) Promise – Land. In responding to God's call, Abraham is told (v7) that his descendants will be given the land God is taking him to. This promise is repeated and elaborated on in other Bible passages (e.g. Gen. 13 v14-17; 15 v18-21; 26 v2-5; 35 v11-12) and confirmed as an everlasting covenant (e.g. Psalm 105 v8-11).

(a) Do you believe it when God says I have made an everlasting covenant about something?

(b) How do you understand this everlasting covenant of the land in Israel today?

(c) How might this promise inform our understanding of the conflicts in the Middle East in our time?

(5) Promise – Be a Blessing to the World. God promises Abraham that he will be a blessing to the whole world (v3).

(a) How is the promise that Abraham will be a blessing to all the families of the earth fulfilled?

(b) In what ways might the fulfilment of this promise be the solution to the seemingly intractable problems in the Middle East and other global conflicts in our time?

(c) Why do you think God also says in v3 that he will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you? Do you think this applies today and if so in what way?