

January 12/13, 2002

Study Questions

By Faith We Live: A Study of the Life of Abraham

Faith and Doubt

Genesis 12:1-20

Opening Discussion

1. What does it mean to you to walk by faith? In practical terms, how does it differ from walking by sight?
2. What spiritual truths do you live by that must be simply taken by faith? Does the faith walk get harder or easier over the years?
3. Have there been times in your faith walk where you lost your courage and suffered negative consequences because you went back to walking by sight? What happened and what were the consequences?

Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 11:26-12:20
2. Notice the contrast between chapter 11 where the people said “we will” and chapter 12 where God said “I will.” In what way do these two chapters define our choices in life?
3. What would it be like to leave your home, country, family and security to travel to an unknown land to become a great nation (with a wife who is past childbearing years and barren)? How great a step of faith did Abraham take?
4. Read Hebrews 11:8-16. What does the writer of Hebrews say about Abraham?
5. According to Paul in Galatians 3:6-9, what did Abraham understand concerning the promise God made to Him in Genesis 12:3?
6. Why do you think the writer of Genesis stated, “Now the Canaanite was then in the land” in 12:6?

When we step out by faith and trust God, do we sometimes find that when we get there the land is already occupied by the Canaanites? Why does God do this?

7. God revealed to Abraham the land He would give him, but as soon as a hardship arises Abraham leaves the land for greener pastures. Most often in the Old Testament Egypt is symbolic of the world system. Abraham lost his courage in the faith walk and drifted back to the world to meet his needs. What were the consequences of Abraham’s failure to trust God?

8. What happens to us when we fail to walk by faith and return to the security of the world system?

What must we do to return from Egypt to the land of promise?

Application

1. Where are you right now in your faith journey? Are you needing to leave Ur? Are you enjoying the land of promise? Are you headed to or dwelling in Egypt?
2. What specific thing do you need to do to take your next step in your faith journey?
3. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal Himself to you in such a way that you will trust Him to help you dwell in the land, even if there are Canaanites and famine.