

# PULPIT COMPANION

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**BUILDING A  
GOD-CENTERED  
LIFE**

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**GENESIS 17:5**

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**09:45 AM**

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In this powerful message, we're invited to explore the four A's of building a relationship with God: Awareness, Appetite, Altars, and Abide.

Through the story of Abram (later Abraham), we see how true identity transformation occurs when we become aware of God's presence in our lives. This awareness isn't just about knowing God exists, but about allowing Him to reshape who we are. The message challenges us to examine our appetites - what do we truly hunger for? Are we seeking God's presence above all else? We're reminded that our altars - the places where we meet God - reveal the direction of our spiritual journey. Finally, we're encouraged to abide in God, understanding that this is where true fruitfulness is born.

This message speaks to our deepest longings, urging us to draw near to God with the assurance that as we do so, He draws near to us. It's a call to perseverance, to staying connected to the divine source of our being, even when the fruits of our faith aren't immediately visible.

### SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Genesis 12:1
- John 17:3
- Genesis 17:5
- John 4:6-7, 26, 39
- Isaiah 43:1 (paraphrased)
- Isaiah 49:16
- Psalm 147:3
- Proverbs 3:6
- Ephesians 2:10
- Genesis 15:1
- Psalm 63:1-3
- Exodus 33:15
- Genesis 12:7-8
- James 4:8
- Genesis 21:2
- John 15:4-5





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 1: Awareness of God's Presence

**Reading:** Genesis 12:1-9, John 17:1-5

**Devotional:** Just as God called Abram to leave his familiar surroundings, He calls us to a new awareness of His presence in our lives. This awareness isn't just about knowing God exists, but about experiencing a profound identity shift. When we truly encounter God, like Abram (later Abraham), our very essence is transformed.

Today, reflect on how your identity has been shaped by your relationship with God. Are you living as someone defined by worldly standards, or as a child of God? Ask the Lord to deepen your awareness of His presence and to reshape your identity according to His divine purpose.

### Day 2: Cultivating a Spiritual Appetite

**Reading:** Psalm 63:1-8, Matthew 5:6

**Devotional:** David's cry in Psalm 63 echoes the spiritual hunger we should all cultivate - a deep, insatiable desire for God's presence. In a world full of distractions and temporary satisfactions, we're called to develop an appetite for the things of God. Just as our physical bodies crave nourishment, our spirits should yearn for God's word, His presence, and His righteousness.

Today, examine your spiritual appetite. What do you truly hunger for? Ask God to instill in you a craving for His presence that surpasses all earthly desires. Let your soul thirst for the living water only He can provide.





### **Day 3: Building Altars of Worship Reading: Genesis 12:7-8, Romans 12:1-2**

**Devotional:** Abraham's journey was marked by the altars he built - physical reminders of his encounters with God and his commitment to worship. While we may not build physical altars today, we are called to make our lives living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This involves creating spiritual 'altars' - dedicated times and spaces for worship, prayer, and reconnecting with God. These moments of surrender and adoration realign our hearts with God's purposes.

Today, consider how you can build an 'altar' in your daily life. It might be a specific prayer time, a dedicated space for Bible study, or a regular act of service. Let these practices become signposts of your journey with God.

### **Day 4: Abiding in God's Love**

**Reading: John 15:1-11, 1 John 4:13-21**

**Devotional:** Jesus used the metaphor of a vine and branches to illustrate the importance of abiding in Him. This isn't a passive state, but an active, intentional connection to the source of all life and love. Abiding in God's love is the key to bearing spiritual fruit and experiencing the fullness of joy Christ promises. It's in this place of intimate connection that we find our true purpose and power.

Today, reflect on what it means to truly abide in Christ. Are there areas of your life where you're trying to bear fruit on your own strength? Surrender those areas to God and ask Him to teach you how to remain constantly connected to His love and power.







## Day 5: Persevering in Faith

### Reading: Hebrews 11:8-19, James 1:2-8

**Devotional:** Abraham's life is a testament to persevering faith. He waited decades for God's promise of a son to be fulfilled, yet he continued to trust and obey. This kind of faith isn't built overnight - it's forged through trials, waiting, and continually choosing to believe God's promises even when circumstances seem hopeless. Our own journey of faith will likely involve periods of waiting and testing.

Today, consider the areas of your life where you're waiting on God. How can you actively trust Him in the midst of uncertainty? Remember, God is faithful to fulfill His promises in His perfect timing. Let Abraham's example inspire you to hold fast to your faith, knowing that God is working even when you can't see it.





## SMALL GROUP GUIDE :

# "Blueprint for Belonging - Building a Relationship with God"

### Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God for wisdom and open hearts as you discuss building family according to His design.

### Key Scripture:

### Discussion Questions:

1. Identity Transformation (Awareness)
  - a. How has your understanding of "eternal life" changed after hearing this sermon?
  - b. Share an experience where an encounter with God shifted your identity or perspective.
2. Spiritual Appetite
  - a. What are you currently "hungry" for in your spiritual life?
  - b. How can we cultivate a deeper desire for God's presence rather than just His blessings?
3. Building Altars
  - a. What does it mean to you to "build an altar" in your daily life?
  - b. How can we create spaces or moments of reset and realignment with God?
4. Abiding in God
  - a. What challenges do you face in "abiding" or remaining consistent in your relationship with God?
  - b. How has patience in waiting on God's timing produced fruit in your life?
5. Drawing Near to God
  - a. What area of your life do you need to "draw near" to God in right now?
  - b. How can we support each other in consistently moving closer to God?





### **Practical Applications:**

1. Identity Check: Write down 3-5 ways your identity has been shaped by knowing God. Share with a partner.
2. Appetite Assessment: Keep a "spiritual hunger" journal for a week, noting what you truly long for each day.
3. Altar Moments: Create a daily "altar time" - even just 5 minutes - to reset and realign with God.
4. Abiding Challenge: Choose one area of your life where you need to practice patient abiding. Share your commitment with the group.
5. Drawing Near Action: Identify one concrete step you can take this week to draw nearer to God. Make a plan to follow through.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Awareness: Our identity is transformed through knowing God intimately.
2. Appetite: Our desires reveal what we truly long for spiritually.
3. Altars: Places of reset and realignment with God's direction.
4. Abiding: Remaining in God's presence leads to fruitfulness.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Thank God for His desire to transform our identities, satisfy our deepest longings, provide direction, and produce fruit in our lives as we abide in Him.

