

What’s Your Focus?

Focus on Obeying God

Leaving Ur

*God’s word to Abram*

*Ur was one of the most advanced cities in the ancient world at this time, a true center of civilization.*

Leaving the old, embracing the new

How do you know God’s will for *you*?

MacArthur: “Be saved. Be sanctified. Be Spirit-filled. Be submissive. Be suffering (if needed). Be thankful. If you’re doing that, go and do whatever you want!”

Focus on the Blessing

Christmas in Genesis

*Abram is given a promised blessing through the seed.*

Genesis 12:7 “Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your **offspring** I will give this land.’”

Genesis 22:17-18 “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your **offspring** as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your **offspring** shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your **offspring** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Galatians 3:16 “Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his **offspring**. It does not say, ‘And to **offsprings**,’ referring to many, but referring to one, ‘And to your **offspring**,’ who is Christ.”

*Jesus is the promised “offspring” (literally seed) through whom the blessing comes to the nations.*

Blessing and curse in Genesis 1-12

Abraham’s life of faith

Famine

Losing of wife (2x)

Battles with kings

No child for 25 years after the promise

Loss of first son, Ishmael

Isaac commanded to be sacrificed

Riches

Wife returned (2x)

Victory in battle

Son is born in old age

Ishmael is blessed and protected

Isaac lives by God’s grace

Heeding the call is worth it, but comes with a cost

Lucy asks, "Is He safe?"

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver." Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

Mr. Tumnus also says, "He's wild, you know. Not a tame lion."

**Focus On Others**

Blessing for the nations

*Genesis 12:3 "... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

How will you focus on others?

*Is there someone who needs your good deeds?*

Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

*Is there someone who needs the Gospel?*

Colossians 3:6 "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

**Questions for Personal Study**

1. What did Abram give up in order to follow God’s call?
2. How did Christ fulfill the promise and bring the blessing to the nations?
3. How is Abram’s journey a picture of our life of faith? What are your victories and trials?
4. Where are you going to be a blessing to others this Christmas? How?