

The Call to Change – January 5-6, 2019
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Genesis 12:1-9

- What did God tell Abram to do (1)? What did he promise to do for and through Abram (2-3)? How did Abram answer the call (4)? How do you think God's call compared to how Abram expected his life to go? How would you have responded to such a call?
- How old was Abram when this happened (4)? Ponder how the most significant part of Abram's life began at an unexpected time: old age. How does this make you feel? What does it bring to mind about your own life? Maybe something hasn't gone as expected. Lift this up to the Lord, let him fill you with hope.
- Summarize Abram's big move: his companions and possessions, the places they went, what he did, etc. (4-6, 8-9). In Shechem, what did God do (7)? How did Abram respond (7)? What are some ways to acknowledge and commemorate what God is doing in *your* life, especially during times of change? This week, make one of these ideas a reality.

Day Two: Genesis 13

- Set the scene of this story (1-5). After responding to God's call, Abram is now a wealthy tent-dwelling nomad. Picture him in your mind's eye now. What conflict arose (6-7)? If you were Abram, how would you respond to this challenge? Why?
- How *did* Abram respond to the conflict (8-9)? What do you make of his peacemaking and diplomacy skills? He could've perceived this conflict as a threat to realizing God's promise, but he did not. Why do you think so? Describe how Abram and Lot acted on Abram's suggestion (10-12, 18).
- After Lot's departure, what did God say to Abram (14-17)? Which word or phrase stands out to you? Why? God likely sensed that Abram needed this reassurance. What reassurance do *you* need from the Lord? Ask him for it now, and may he prompt you to "look around" and see what he's doing in your life and all around you.

Day Three: Deuteronomy 31:1-8

- Who addressed the Israelites (1)? What did he initially say to them (2)? What's it like to imagine a 120-year-old announcing his retirement? What message did God have just for Moses (2)?
- Summarize the Lord's message to all the people (3-6). There is a lot packed into this announcement! What challenges does it contain (5-6)? And what reassurances (3-6)? Which part do you find yourself focusing on? Speak to the Lord about it.
- What did Moses do next (7)? What did he say to Joshua (7-8)? Again, what challenges and reassurances are found in Moses' words (7-8)? How do you think Moses felt at this time? What about Joshua? And all of the people? In light of our own church's newly-announced plan to hand off senior leadership, how do *you* feel? In this moment, rest in God's promise to never leave you; allow him to make you strong and courageous.

Day Four: 1 Kings 19:9-21

- Set the scene (9). Summarize Elijah's initial encounter with the Lord (9-11). How would you describe Elijah's mood and state of mind? What do you think of God's response to Elijah's lament?
- What seemed like it may have been the Lord "passing by" (11-12)? How did God actually manifest (12)? How did Elijah respond to the "gentle whisper" (13)? In times of despair, or even just in times of change, it can be hard to discern God's voice. During

this time of transition for our church, pray for heightened discernment. May we not fail to hear what God is speaking!

- Summarize Elijah's second encounter with God (13-18). Why do you think Elijah repeated himself? Instead of offering reassurance, God gave Elijah a to-do list. Why do you think he did this?
- Describe Elisha's anointing (19-21). Is this how you imagine the succession of prophets happening? What can you learn from both Elijah and Elisha in this passage?

Day Five: Matthew 14:22-33

- Describe the setting (22). During the night, what transpired (23-24)? And just before dawn (25)? How did the disciples respond (26)? What did Jesus say to them (27)? He spoke out "immediately." When has God been quick to reassure you?
- What did Peter say to Jesus (28)? Why do you think he said this? What was he feeling? What happened next (29)? Describe Peter's return to fear (30). When taking risks, how does God want *you* to handle fear? In 2019, what opportunities do you have to take risks and face fears? Pray God would go ahead of you.
- How did Jesus "immediately" respond to Peter's fear (31)? The answer to Jesus' question is rather universal: when we take our eyes off God, we doubt. What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about this? How did this incident conclude (32-33)? After reading and reflecting on this passage, what "Truly..." statement do you feel compelled to make about Jesus?