

WARM-UP

- Do you consider yourself adventurous? Why or why not?
- How do you make new friends?
- Tell us about a time you did something that is out of your comfort zone. What happened?

WORD

¹Now 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. ²And 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. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **GENESIS 12:1-3**

Faith is complete trust in something or someone. As we follow Christ, He urges us to *have faith in God* (Mark 11:22). But our faith in God is possible and makes sense only in a thriving relationship with Him. Today, we will look at three ways to describe faith through the life of Abraham, a great man of faith.

1 It takes faith to follow God.

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."

GENESIS 12:1

Abram, more commonly known as Abraham, was a wealthy man who seemed to have everything he needed and wanted in life. But God called Abraham to completely follow and depend on Him, abandoning everything he was familiar and comfortable with for the chance to know God. It takes faith to follow Him. Share about the time God called you to follow and know Him more.

2 Faith is a call to be part of His plan and purpose.

"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." **GENESIS 12:2**

As a wealthy man, Abraham may have already planned how he would manage his wealth, life, and family. But God had better plans in mind for him. He would make Abraham a great nation, bless him, and make his name great. The only appropriate response to the unseen plans and purposes of God is faith. Recall a time God showed you that His plan was different from yours. What happened? How did you respond?

3 Faith is a call beyond ourselves.

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 dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **GENESIS 12:2,3**

Because of Abraham's faith, the plans and purposes of God for him were fulfilled. His faith affected not only himself but also his family, and ultimately *all the families of the earth*. Our faith goes beyond ourselves and affects our relationships with our families, friends, and others. How has your thriving relationship with God affect those around you?

APPLICATION

- Do you have a relationship with God that is founded on faith? Would you want to put your faith in Him starting today?
- What is one thing you can do this week to continue to thrive in your relationship with God?
- Do you have a family member or friend whom God is calling you to encourage with your faith? How can you preach the gospel to him/her this week?

