GEN. 12:1-9 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

TRUSTING THE PROMISES OF GOD

When God spoke to Abram, He was clear about what he was supposed to leave, but God was a bit vague about where Abram was

sup	pose	to 90.
		Why do you think God didn't tell Abram up front where he would be going?
		Why do you think God didn't extend the invitation to the entire family – Abram's father and brothers included?
		In what ways is this very first experience between God and Abram representative of everyone's experience with God throughout history?
		In what ways can you relate to Abram's calling?
thro	ugh	sis 3, God exiled Adam and Eve from Eden, multiplied the pain of childbirth, cursed the ground so that it would produce food only hard labor, and subjected human beings to death. How do God's promises to Abram in (Gen. 12:1-3) begin to address the components rse in a positive way? How do the promises to Abram begin to foreshadow redemption?
		12:1-9 is packed with promises from God. What an encouragement it must have been for Abram to hear the Word of the Lord ich amazing commitments.
		Can you list 5 promises of God that are precious to you and plan to share them with your study group for encouragement?
		List the promises made to Abram in (Gen. 12:2-3, 7).
		How many of them did Abram get to experience to some degree in his lifetime?
		Did his "waiting" dissolve his faith? Look up (Heb. 11:13; Rom. 4:17-22). What effect has waiting had on your faith in the past? What can we learn from the verses listed above about faith that endures the wait?
		Why is it significant that the Lord gave his promises in (Gen. 12:2-3, 7) without conditions?
your Whe	life. n yo	if you grew up in a city, got a job, and started a family. It isn't the perfect life, but you feel like you could live in that place the rest of Suddenly, God intervenes in your life with an irresistible and growing conviction that you're called to do a greater work somewhere else. ur family asks you what the work is and where you're going, all you can tell them is that you don't know. You only know that you're d to uproot and begin driving in the one direction you've never been before. Only then will God give you more specifics.
		How certain would you be that your conviction is God's voice? Do you think he would really tell you to do something so disruptive and inconvenient? What would you say about the lack of specifics?
		How do you think your friends and family would react to your sense of calling? Would any of them be supportive? Would any of them try to talk you out of it?

In what ways, if any, does this scenario reflect the life of faith for everyone?

When	n Ak	oram arrived in the land that God led him to, who already lived there? Who we	ere they descendants of	?			
	Why do think God didn't give the land to Abram at this time? What does this teach us about God's timing?						
		In what 3 places did Abram build altars? And what was the significance of that? Why do you think Abram built altars instead of using the shrines already present at each spot?					
	How do these locations correlate with the time of conquest later on at the time of Joshua?						
The people destroyed in the Flood were noted in (Gen. 6:4) as "men of renown" (lit. "men of a name"). The people of Babel were destroyed for trying to make a name for themselves (Gen. 11:4). According to God's promise in (Gen. 12:2), how was Abram going to be different?							
	In our culture, how would you describe someone who is trying to make a name for themselves? What are they like? What do they do?						
	Do you rely on God to make your name great, or are you striving to make a name for yourself? What evidences in your life exemplify your answer?						
	How would total reliance on God for honor, legacy, and prosperity affect your current decisions and priorities?						
What can we learn about Abram's character from his actions in (Gen. 12:4-9)? List the qualities you observe and how he shows them (See Hebrews 11:8-10 for examples).							
		CHARACTER QUALITIES HOW	ABRAM SHOWED THEM				
Abram pitched tents, but he built altars. That which he was building for himself was transient (tent). That which he was building for God was permanent (altars). When Abram died, the only architecture that remained from his life were altars.							
		Some of us clutch so tightly to that which is passing away that we have no fingers left to grasp onto the things of God. In what ways do you struggle holding tightly to the things of God and lightly to the things of this earth? Are you pitching what's temporary and building what's eternal? Give an example of each from your own life.					
			Name Prayer	Need			
		Our spiritual pilgrimage can be charted by the altars we build. If your life were charted by altars of worshipful obedience, where on your journey would we find them? What are some significant steps of faith-filled obedience and worship that you have taken along the way? Be prepared to share at least one with your study group.					
How disagr							
		"What God commands, He also enables." – St. Augustine					
("The callings of God never leave a man where they find him. For to stay where he is after God has bidden him to move on, is itself a backward movement though he take no actual steps." -Gram Scroggy					
("There is no ideal place to serve God except the place in which He sets you down." -Alec Alexander					