

Reflection Questions: Genesis 12:1-4

For the message, "Rejoicing in the Promise of Christmas" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church on November 29, 2020

These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the sermon, go to NewCityChurch.ca/sermons

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Genesis 12:1-4

1 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. **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." **4** So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

A summary of the sermon: Long before the person of Jesus appeared on the scene, there was the promise of Jesus. Some 2,000+ years before the birth of Jesus, God made a promise to Abraham that through him, and more specifically, through a descendent, God would bring about worldwide blessing.

Key Points:

- Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God*, "What can God do next? Something that only God could have thought of. He sees an elderly, childless couple in the land of Babel and decides to make them the fountainhead, the launch pad of his whole mission of cosmic redemption...The call of Abraham is the beginning of God's answer to the evil of human heart, the strife of the nations and the groaning brokenness of his whole creation. A new world, ultimately a new creation, begins in this text."
- Matthew 1:1 is telling us with the coming of Jesus, in a very real sense, history is being fulfilled. But even more than that, with the coming of Jesus, an old, old promise is being fulfilled.

Bottom Line:

- Jesus did not come to start a new religion, but to fulfill an old promise—an old, old promise of Christmas.

QUESTIONS

1. How does this text speak to your life?

- How does this text give you a "big picture" of God's plan of redemption—of worldwide blessing?
- Read Galatians 3:16. Who does Paul specific who the promised offspring would be? And how does that help you understand Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham to bring about worldwide blessing?

- Galatians 3:29 says, “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.” What are the implications of this for your life?

2. How does this text speak to us as a church community?

- Would it mean for our community of faith if we were to take seriously the fact that we too as a part of the worldwide spiritual family promised to Abraham (Gal. 3:29) have been blessed to be a blessing?
- How does Acts 3:25-26 amplify your response?

3. How does this text speak to our city?

- How do you think connecting Jesus to the promise of God given to Abraham would help our city understand that Jesus is more than just a good teacher which is what many in our city think?
- What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience? Cf. Revelation 7:9-10.

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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- _____
- _____