



"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." -- Genesis 12:3

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Message: THE PROMISE, PART 1

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Passage: Genesis 10:1-14:24

The Big Idea: Our day to day lives can feel inconsequential. At best, we think we might be making a little difference, but how far can one person's effect really extend? God's great big plan, however, is accomplished through individuals, and if we believe in His spoken promises then we can live daily knowing He's always doing something big in us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 29 (Genesis 11:1-8)

1. What experience do you have with a building project? With foreign languages? What most frustrated you with either of these?
2. Why did they start building this tower?
3. Why is such unity wrong?
4. Why is God concerned that "nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them"?
5. What do we learn here about God's judgment and mercy?
6. In what activities do people engage in order to make a name for themselves?
7. In what sort of activities do you engage in order to increase your sense of self-worth?
8. What institutions, activities, or accomplishments compete for our ultimate attention or allegiance?
9. With what or whom are you sometimes tempted to replace God in your life?
10. What is the lesson here about empire-building?
11. How is unity in Christ different from unity in Babel?
12. Where are you feeling scattered and confused?
13. Have you ever built a tower to yourself only to get scattered by God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 29 (Genesis 12:1-9)

1. Where is home for you? When did you first leave there? With whom? Who or what did you take with you? And leave behind?
2. What do (did) you hope to be doing at age 75?
3. What command or promise does God give Abram? With what qualifications?

4. What do you make of their unconditional nature? Their universal scope? The means of fulfillment? (12:7)
5. Why does God promise to make Abram's name great when he quashed the name-building efforts of others?
6. Describe a time in your life when you made a significant personal sacrifice in response to God's direction.
7. Of the promises to Abram, which are most appealing to you? (Would you rather be blessed or be a blessing?)
8. To what people, place, or priority might God be calling you? What may be your reasons for not going?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 29 (Genesis 13:1-18)

1. Who is your favorite aunt or uncle? Or your spoiled nephew?
2. Where do you like to go for a walk?
3. Why does Abram give this land choice to Lot?
4. In forsaking rich cities and choosing less fertile land, what does this reveal about Abram? (NT commentary in Hebrews 11:8-16)
5. What new promise does God give to Abram? (14:14-17)
6. If faced with the same choice, would you have followed the example of Abram or Lot?
7. Would your relationship with God be more helped or hurt by a more isolated lifestyle? How about a more crowded lifestyle?
8. What one thing might God be asking you to "look up, see, go walk"?
9. What promises of God have you taken to heart? Which ones do you still have difficulty accepting?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 29 (Genesis 14:1-24)

1. When was war most real to you? (a book, a movie, a memorial, combat duty). How did that affect you?
2. How does your family react when one of your family is in trouble?
3. When have you survived a "close call"?
4. What subtle and slippery slope with sin do you see in Lot? ... Traveling with Abram (13:5), quarreling with Abram (13:8), looking toward Zoar (13:10), tenting near Sodom (13:12), living in Sodom (14:12)
5. How does this progression dangerously affect his life? (14:12)
6. What is the point of Abram's victory over the four kings?
7. What part do alliances play in his victory and post-victory negotiations? On what basis does Abram select some allies and reject others?
8. Why does Abram accept the blessing from Melchizedek and tithe to him?
9. Based on how Abram treats the king of Salem vs the king of Sodom, what might we assume about their character and faith?
10. What alliances do you make? And do you make them readily or reluctantly?
11. Have you ever been burned by a partnership that went bad?
12. How about blessed beyond belief by a serendipitous ally?
13. Are your influential friends more like the king of Salem or the king of Sodom?
14. From what "mess" would you like to be rescued?
15. Who is blessing you today? Whom might you bless?
16. When have you refused a gift or reward because of your relationship with God?