

Destin Church of Christ

March 12, 2023

Lesson 2: Abraham: “God Builds a Nation”

Timeless Truth: What sin changes, faith overcomes.

Genesis 12 – 13; 15 – 17; 21 – 22; 32 – 33; 35; Romans 4; Hebrews 11

Timeline: 2200-1800 B.C.

Last week, we learned how Adam and Eve became unrighteous because they disbelieved God’s word. By contrast, this week we will learn how Abraham believed God’s word and was declared righteous.

Through a brand-new nation called Israel, God will reveal his presence, power, and plan to get us back. Every story of Israel will point to the first coming of Jesus—the One who will provide the way back to God.

Lesson Breakdown:

- Abraham Called into God’s Promise (Genesis 12-13, 15; Romans 4; Hebrews 11)
- Abraham Takes Things into His Own Hands (Genesis 16)
- The Covenant of Circumcision (Genesis 17)
- The Promise Fulfilled (Genesis 21)
- The Test (Genesis 22)
- Israel Established (Genesis 32-33, 35)

Plot Points:

- God calls Abraham out of the darkness of pagan idolatry into the light of true fellowship.
- God works through a covenant, making Abraham and his descendants his chosen people, marking out a special land for their inheritance, and promising to bless all nations through Abraham’s family.
- When Abraham and Sarah try to make God’s plan work through their own efforts, things get very messy.
- God keeps his promise, miraculously giving Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age; one generation later Jacob will produce twelve sons of his own and the nation of Israel will be born.

As you watch the video for Lesson 2 of The Story, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ A spiritual virus was born in Adam and Eve.
- ✓ God thinks differently in the upper story.
- ✓ They will see God as the one above the scenes of their lives.
- ✓ Abraham means father of many.
- ✓ Moriah is the place that will later become the city of Jerusalem.

Understand the Story:

1. God asked Abram to do what? (pg. 13) (Genesis 12:1)
 2. What are some of the common excuses people use today when they want to get out of following God's leading for their life?
 3. What made Abram righteous in God's sight? (pg. 14-15) (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:22)
 4. What do we learn about Abraham and Sarah's faith from Hebrews 11:8 – 9?
 5. When Abram was 75 years old God promised him what? (pg. 14) (Genesis 13:16)
 6. Sarai decided to help God with the whole "nation building project," so she gave her handmaid to Abram to bear a child for her. Why is it so hard to be patient and wait on God's will for our lives?
 - Genesis 16:15 – "So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael."
 7. God reminded Abram of His covenant in Genesis 13:16 (pg. 14), but added a stipulation. What was this covenant? (p. 17) (Genesis 17:2).
 8. What was the stipulation of the covenant referred to in Genesis 17:2? (pg. 17) (Genesis 17:10-11)
 9. What did God do to Abram in Genesis 17:5 and Sarai in Genesis 17:15?
 10. How old were Abraham and Sarah when Isaac was born? (pg. 18) (Genesis 17:17; 21:5)
 11. There's a lot of jealousy between Sarah and Hagar. Abraham is caught in the middle. What does God tell Abraham to assure him about Ishmael? (pg. 18) (Gen. 21:12-13)
- FYI ... Galatians 4:21-31 says Abraham's two wives represent two covenants:
- v. 24 ... Paul says Hagar represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them.
 - v. 26 ... Paul says Sarah represents the heavenly Jerusalem.
12. What was the name of the place God led Abraham and Isaac too? (pg. 19) (Genesis 22:2)
 13. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac? (pgs. 19-20) (Genesis 22:3, 8, 13-14; Romans 4:9)

14. Afterward, what did Abraham call that place? (Genesis 22:14) (pg, 20)
15. Why did God choose to spare Isaac’s life from sacrifice? (pg. 20) (Genesis 22:12)
16. What did Abraham, and Isaac, learn from this experience?
- Pages 21-22 (Genesis 25-27):
 - a. Abraham and Sarah die.
 - b. Isaac marries Rebekah. Rebekah gives birth to twins.
 - c. Esau, the elder brother, was Isaac’s favorite. Jacob was Rebekah’s favorite.
 - d. Jacob “sells” a meal to his brother in exchange for Esau’s birthright.
 - e. Rebekah helps trick Isaac into giving Jacob his blessing.
 - f. Esau finds out and becomes angry and plans to kill Jacob.
 - g. Rebekah sent Jacob to live with relatives until Esau’s anger is diminished.
 - h. Tricked by his Uncle Laban into marrying Leah before marrying Rachel.
 - Genesis 32:3 - Jacob sends messengers to Esau asking for forgiveness. (Page 22)
 - Genesis 32:6 - The messengers return and tell Jacob that Esau is coming to meet him, bringing four hundred men are with him.” (Page 22)
17. How did Jacob prepare for his meeting with Esau? (pg. 22) (Genesis 32:7-8)
18. When Jacob wrestled with the man through the night, what did he want from him? (pg. 23) (Genesis 32:24-32)
- This man changed Jacob’s name to Israel. (pgs. 23-24)
 - Jacob sent flocks and herds to his brother Esau. (p 24) (Genesis 33:8)
 - Esau accepted the gifts. (pg. 24) (Genesis 33:11)
 - Later, God tells Jacob that his name will be Israel, to “be fruitful and increase in number,” and that the land previously given to Abraham and Isaac would be given to him and his descendants. (Genesis 35:10-12).
 - Genesis 35:19 (pg. 25) - Rachel dies during childbirth with Benjamin.
 - Jacob has twelve sons with four different women. (Genesis 35:23-26)

Next Week, God’s story of promise and prosperity moves from Jacob to his favorite son Joseph.

Before next week’s class, read Lesson 3 of *The Story*.