



Session 4

Title: Origin of faith generations – Family of Abraham and Sarah

As we glanced through the tapestry of Adam and Eve's family, we saw the knots created by the enemy through deception as this first human couple lost sight of God's beautiful purpose for them. They fell into the trap of the lens of the deceiver, which skewed their understanding about themselves and God. Today, another deceptive lens the enemy has tried on God's children is an understanding that God's work and blessings are confined to the here and now or just for us and our children. Let us look into the tapestry of Abraham and Sarah's family to learn how they became a blessing for generations to come till today, through faith.

Summary of the Video:

In Genesis 12:1, Abraham was commanded by God to leave his house in Haran with the promise to make him a nation, in whom all peoples of the earth will be blessed and more. Abraham was called a "**man of faith**" and his faith was credited to him as righteousness. However, as we look into his family closely, we will discover that Abraham's credential as a man of faith happened through a journey that God took him through.

Let us learn some principles from the life journey of Abraham.

God is a multigenerational God, and he works in multiple generations to fulfill His plan and purpose. In chapter 11, we see that the story of Abraham starts from his father Terah, who moved from their native Ur of the Chaldean to go to the land of Canaan. Many a times God's work in our lives may not start from us but much before us from our parents or ancestors, who start a journey and we just carry on. God in His divine wisdom works in these ways to accomplish His plan and purpose through generations.

God's call over our lives is as a family. Terah and Abraham both had a call as a "Family" from God. It was their household that God called to move to this foreign land called Canaan where God promised to bless them and multiply them. God's call in all our lives comes to us as a family and it affects the whole household in different ways. Had it been a case with the family of Terah or Abraham, where their spouses and families refused to obey the call of God, they may not have made their way into the pages of the bible for us to read. Sarai and their household obeyed to follow the call of God, although it was only Abraham who heard from God. Today sadly many homes are divided over the matter of the call of God. Husbands, wives, and children are inclined at times to think and pursue their own separate calls and are not able to come together at all. As family members we may have different focus, but it is especially important to

respect each other's vocation, and move in the same direction guided by the Lord as family, in serving him.

God's call does not guarantee us a "famine proof" journey: When Abraham obeyed the call of God, the bible tells us in Genesis 12:10 that as a family they were confronted with severe famine. We may tend to think that because it is God who is directing us as we follow the call of God, the journey will be smooth and prosperous. Jesus's incarnation itself was not a smooth one, in fact he admonished us in the gospels that if we want to follow Him, we need to deny ourselves and follow Him taking up our cross. Following God's call is going to be a walk on a difficult terrain.

This is only because God is accomplishing greater purposes in our lives, so that through us generations can be blessed. We can say that Abraham through the difficult situations of his life learnt to depend on God rather than his own self, household or wealth. So, if you are following the call of God as a family and are faced by famines do not be discouraged because through it all God has a plan.

Abraham's obedience to leave caused him to lean on God. Even today God in His divine plan scatters and moves His people from one place to another. He does it with a grand purpose and predominantly through it He is at work in building and establishing His kingdom. In Abraham's case the journey of moving out from his hometown of Ur of Chaldea enabled him to become a man of faith, as he depended on God for everything. We can see this very clearly in Abraham's life that he depended on God alone for all his provisions and blessings including his son Isaac, this was only possible by God's blessing in his life (Genesis 14:23 and Genesis 22:14). So likewise, as we continue to hear the Lord's voice, obey, and keep moving in the direction of God's plan for our lives, we will receive His blessings. The Lord will use our lives to accomplish His plan and kingdom purpose. In this process He will make us a people of faith.

Gain Insight & Apply:

1. What do you think is God's intention in moving people today from one place to another, sometimes from their place of origin to unfamiliar places?
2. Why does God allow His children as families to go through trials and challenges when they are pursuing His call in their lives as a family?

Multi-generational God

In our world today where people cannot see anything beyond here and now, we rarely remember that God who created us thinks in terms of generations. He looks at our lives in the context of the big picture of His eternal purposes. So, we as God's children many times may not be able to appreciate all that God is doing in the present. Also, what we do today can impact generations to come.

Let us deliberate to see how we can be intentional about aligning ourselves and living out our lives with the understanding that God is multigenerational as he works out His purposes in this world.

1. What are some of the things (although important) that take us away from seeing the bigger picture and we just focus on the here and now, for e.g., career, our positions, our wealth etc.
2. One thing we can apply from this insight is to be intentional about investing into the lives of our coming generation. So, what are some changes you would like to make in your lives to be able to raise up a godly generation? Read Genesis 18: 19, Joshua 4:19-24, Psalm 22: 30-31, Deuteronomy 6: 1-6, 2 Timothy 1:5.

God's calling for us is a family calling:

We learnt that God's calling for our lives, includes our family and impacts even the generations to come. In the video we learnt that many families even today wrestle with the lack of oneness, mutual consent when it comes to the call of God as a family. Let us deliberate on some questions mentioned below to learn how we can deal with these challenges and can obey the call of God as a family.

1. What are some of the reasons you think that can put families on the back foot when it comes to obeying the call of God as a family? Discuss.
2. How can you compliment and come alongside each other to serve the Lord in oneness as a family even when you may have different professions or approaches to serve the Lord?

God's call does not guarantee us a "famine proof" journey:

Following the call of God in our lives as an individual and as families takes us through many trials and challenges. We learnt from the video that Abraham learnt to depend on God completely as he journeyed in fulfilling the call of God in his life as a family. Likewise, challenges are inevitable, and these difficulties build our relationship, dependence and trust in God which makes the journey worthwhile. Also read 1 Peter 4:12-13, James 1:2-3, 2 Corinthians 1:4.

Let us deliberate to learn how we can respond and depend on God in the process of fulfilling His call for us as a family.

1. What are some of the things you had to leave in your life in order to increase your dependency on God? Or are there things that you have been holding on as your security instead of depending on the Lord?
2. From the journey of Abraham and Sarah fulfilling their God given call, what are some of the mistakes they made? What are some lessons for us today? Discuss as a family.
3. What are the principles we can learn from the acts of obedience of Abraham and Sarah in their life journey to fulfill their God given call?
4. Pursuing and obeying the call of God as a family at times can be costly. (Matthew 16:24).
 - Take time to reflect: Are we willing to pay the cost to be obedient to God as we follow His call for us as a family?

I WILL:

Fulfilling the call of God as a family, keeping in mind God's eternal purposes which He accomplishes by working through every generation making us a part of His plan, will require intentionality from our end to follow and obey. Write down as many "I will" statements to correspond to the actions you have decided to take as a family from the above reflections.

1. I Will _____

Prayer:

Father, thank you for helping us learn in this study that even when we do not understand what you ask us to do, you are still achieving something of a grander purpose for our lives. Thank you that you are a multigenerational God, who works beyond us. Lord help us to recognize this in our lives and understand our part in becoming a blessing to many generations to come. Lord help us to leave and lean on you, so that you will be glorified through our lives. In Jesus's name we pray.

Amen!