



GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Review Gospel Appointment documents and distribute people to follow-up with from planning center.**
- 2. Volunteering** — You can make a difference in the lives of others by sharing your gifts and talents here at Soma. Each week volunteers minister to others with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Whatever your interests are, there is a place for you to serve with Soma's Volunteer Ministries.
 - SomaKids
 - Setup and Teardown
 - WhizKids
 - First Impressions
 - Audio/ Visual
 - Music
- 3. Planning Center Online** — As Jake transitions out of his ministry position and we look towards the future we are going to be deleting the "Sunday Morning Volunteers" GroupMe. PLEASE setup your Planning Center account ASAP so we can best communicate with and honor you as our volunteers. Go to planningcenteronline.com, connect to our church, and sign up for text alerts.
- 4. VBS** - Due to recent overwhelming damage that has been done to our area, and surrounding community we are choosing to postpone our VBS for this year until further notice. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but we want to focus our efforts on helping our neighbors recover.
- 5. Baptism** - Baptism is a clear command of the Lord Jesus Christ for all believers. This is why it is one of the ordinances of the Christian Church (the Lord's Supper being the other). Believer baptism in water reflects a prior inward cleansing (1 Pet. 3:21) when the person was born again (Jn. 3:3, 5), made a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), and offers an opportunity for this new believer to profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ publicly. If you want to be baptized please go to somajc.org/membership/baptism/

- **Sunday August 18th during the Sunday gathering**

Read Genesis 12:10-20

Upon reading this passage you might be left with more questions than answers.

Why would Abram suddenly think it is ok to offer up his trophy wife to Pharaoh?

How dare he save his own life at the possible permanent expense of Sarai?

And what must have gone through Sarai's mind as Abram explained what he wanted to do (can you imagine the conversation they must have had- how would this conversation go with your spouse)?

There isn't a husband today that would think he could get away with such an act. If the law didn't stop him, his wife sure would see to it!

But in fact, this passage is a look at Abrams obedient journey to achieve Gods plan for his life. We see his faith (lack of faith at times) and his overall desire to follow Gods will for his life. Abram was far from perfect. He struggled in keeping his faith. But God made his plan for Abram clear. There was to be a future and a legacy from Abrams life. Abram willingly without question left his "familiar" behind to follow Gods instruction.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Abram arrived in Canaan to find it already occupied. Puzzling thoughts had to go through his mind-

I thought this was my land!?! Did we miss a turn back there? But I had a reservation! Then God appears to Abram to further explain what is going on- "To your offspring I will give this land."

Notice that Abrams next step is to build an altar and worship God. He didn't seem to be angry or pout. There was no confusion to Abram as to who had appeared to him. He had a clear understanding of what God was up to. To him it was simple. It was time to Stop, drop & worship!

1. How willing are you to walk away from your life as you know it in order to find what God has in store for you?
2. Do you have enough focus to see beyond the speed bumps that come between you and Gods plan for your future?

God will remove us from where we currently are in order for us to clearly understand what his plan is for us. “Gods goal is to bring us to a point where there is nothing to hold onto but him.”- Jon Nelson

In this passage as well as others in Genesis we see mistakes and poor judgement from Abram (Gen. 16:3-6 Abram has baby with Hagar, Gen. 17:17-27 he laughs at God when told Saria would have a child at her old age) Yet God puts him back on track in order to fulfill his plan.

Compare the story of Abram at this point to the story of your life.

3. Do YOU make fewer mistakes than Abram did?
4. Are you learning from your mistakes?
5. What has this passage taught you about faith?

Notice that Although Abram made decisions that did not include Gods direction, he was forgiven and the plan for Abram continued.

We should not be too judgmental of others in their journey- or our own. James 1:19 warns to be quick to hear and slow to speak. The trip that each of us is on is probably a long one. We are fumbling through life to reach Gods plan for us.

Some of Gods plans take a while to complete. From the time of Abrams calling to the birth of Isaac 25 years had passed. Abram obviously had things to work out before Gods plan could become evident in his life.

Tony Evans puts like this: “God is doing two things at the same time- He’s preparing a promise for you while preparing you for the promise.”