

WEEK 2: NEXT LEVEL CHARACTER

Soon after Abram moved into the land God gave him, he was faced with a challenge, there was famine. Abram's first recourse was to pack up and leave for Egypt. Here we find how a trial unveils a character flaw that Abram needed to address in his own life.

SCRIPTURE Genesis 12:10-20

OBSERVATION

- Do you think the famine was a test to see if Abram would stay in the land that had been promised to him? Why or why not? In what ways have you found God's promises tested in your life? How have you been tempted to compromise them?
- Many times in the pressure of life's trials and difficulties certain character traits come to the surface. Crisis unveils our true character. What character qualities does Abram display in (Gen 12:10-13)? Have you ever been like Abram here? What character qualities do you display when you are faced with difficult circumstances?
- Have you ever strayed from God's direction because you thought you had to take care of yourself? Read Proverbs 3:5-6.
- How can a person avoid the error of Abram in (Gen. 12:10-13)?
- Abram made a faithless choice to go to Egypt and lie about Sarai. At first glance it seems like he's rewarded for it (Gen. 12:16). Perhaps this caused Abram to justify his actions. Have you ever tried to rationalize your disobedience because you were not experiencing God's immediate discipline?
- Abram became a curse and a source of trouble to the unbelievers around him. Pharaoh and his entire household were afflicted because of Abram's sin. How was Jonah like Abram in this regard?
- What is so striking about the way Abram was caught and rebuked in his sin?
- God's plan was to a great nation out of Abraham. How did God deal with this threat to his plan? Could Abram's failures really defeat God's plan? Look up (Isaiah 14:26) for insight. How is this fact significant for us?
- Did Abram's sin nullify God's promises? Why is this fact important?
- Read 1 Peter 3:3-6. Peter commended Sarah for her submissive obedience to Abraham. Is this a good example of submission?

APPLICATION

- Has God given you any commands or promises? If so, how can you respond to His commands, promises, and character this week?
- Do you have any specific areas where you are facing difficulty or crisis and you have to make some decisions? Would you share them with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you?
- Often, God develops our character first before He takes us onto the next level. Why do you think is this so?
- What godly characteristics are you asking God to develop in you? Read Galatians 5:22-25.

PRAYER



GENESIS 12

10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. 11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

14 When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. 15 And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. 16 He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

17 But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. 18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" 20 Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.