

Crossway Life Group, Week of December 30

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Genesis 11:27-12:9

Sermon: "From Brokenness to Beauty"

Reading & Discussing the passage

- Some things, when broken, can be fixed so they are "as good as new". Other things might never be the same again. What do you tell others when these things are broken? What do you tell yourself?
- **Read Genesis 11:27-32.** What indications are there of brokenness in Terah's family?
- **Read Genesis 12:1-3:** What does God command Abram to leave? What does God promise to Abram?
- **Read Genesis 12:4-9:** What does the author tell us about Abram's actions? What barriers stand in the way before God can fulfill His promises to Abram?
- The ultimate fulfillment of the promises to Abram come through Jesus Christ. **Read Galatians 3:7-8.** How does this passage describe the promise in Genesis 12? What is the relationship between Christians and Abram (also known as Abraham)?
- **Read Luke 5:18-21:** In what ways does Jesus describe the blessings of the Lord, blessings that were promised through Abram?

The Big Idea

**God turns our brokenness into blessings for us and others
by His grace in Christ as we trust and obey Him**

Reflection Questions

1. Abram was commanded to leave other things that could have been like gods to him, including the possibility that his family literally worshiped other gods. What or whom are you tempted to treat as a god? In other words, where do you find your identity, value, wholeness, or hope? What do you most fear losing? What do you most regret not having? How might these things, or these people, take the place of God in your life?
2. What steps are needed in order for us to leave other things that might be like gods to us, in order to follow the true God?
3. Abram was commanded to trust God to provide for the deep needs in his life in areas that were broken, such as his deep need for the blessing through family and offspring. What in your life is broken, needing the redeeming work of God to be a blessing for you and others? What will it look like to trust and obey God in those situations?
4. When Abram entered the land that God promised to him, a land that was still occupied by people who worshiped other gods, he built altars to the true God. When he worshiped God in the place of trouble, he claimed that place for God. What might it mean for you to worship God in the place of trouble? What does worship look like in a place of trouble?

Growing in Cultural Understandings

God promised Abram that he would be a blessing to all 'families' or 'clans' of the earth. We also are to be blessings within our own natural associations with people as well as beyond our natural associations.

How have you been blessed or helped by people who are outside of your own 'affinity group,' whether the differences were because of race, or ethnicity, or nationality, or social class, or something else? What brought that about? What were challenges in that experience? What were the blessings?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves? One specific strategy may be to pray for another group of people. And perhaps you could reach out to people in that group and ask them how you might pray.

Genesis 11:27-12:9 - New International Version

Abram's Family

²⁷This is the account of Terah's family line.

Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. ²⁸While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. ²⁹Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. ³⁰Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive.

³¹Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.

³²Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

The Call of Abram

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

¹"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

⁹Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Galatians 3:7-8

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."