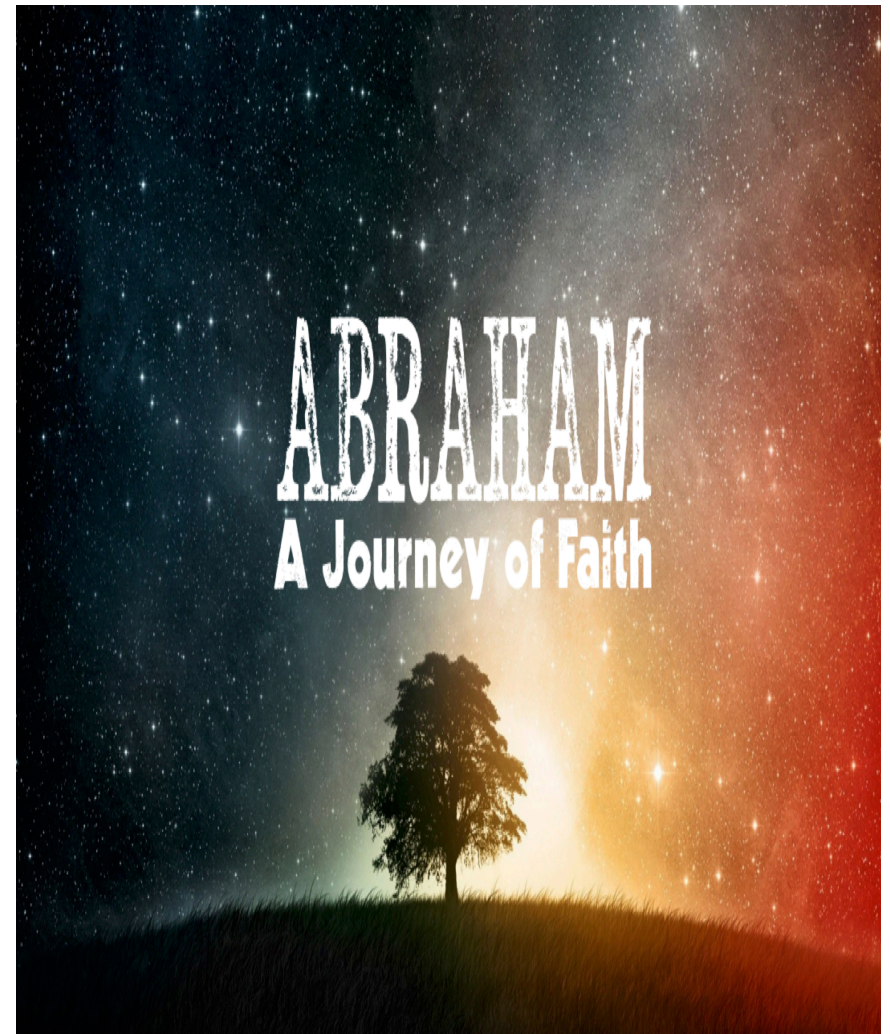


¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Life Group / Reflection Questions

- What is God speaking to me?
- What am I going to do about it?
- Have you ever experienced a course change in life? What were your fears and worry's during that change? What makes course changes in life so intimidating? What are the benefits of a course change in life?
- Have you ever found yourself in a spiritual desert? A Season of Uncertainty? How did this season provide an opportunity for you to exercise faith?
- Abram found himself returning to his beginning spot with God. At the Altar he built in Bethel. At this place he called upon the name of the Lord! What is your typical response when you fail spiritually? What can we learn from Abram's response?
- Conflict with others is one of the greatest tools God uses in our lives to shape us to become more like him. How has conflict in your life provided an opportunity to exercise faith?
- Lot laid his eyes upon the best of the land and in greed took what appeared to be the best. Yet in the land was Sodom, a spiritual landmine. Have you ever chosen a direction of life that looked good at first but had hidden spiritual landmines?
- Abram responded to the conflict with Lot with a spirit of Generosity. How can you respond with Generosity to those you may find yourself in conflict with?
- In every moment of strife we have a choice to defend what is rightfully ours, or to have faith that God is capable of defending us. How might you choose to give away what is yours rather than defend it as an act of faith?



Sunday Sept. 28th , 2014
Abraham: Genesis 13:1-18
Greed & Generosity

Abraham
"Greed & Generosity"
Genesis 13:1-18

Two Tools God Uses to Shape Our Faith:

13 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. ² Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

1. The Desert: A Place of Uncertainty that provides us the opportunity to exercise faith

⁵ And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, ⁶ so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, ⁷ and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

2. Conflict: On every journey we will experience strife with fellow travelers

⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." ¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

¹¹ So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. ¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

Lot's Choice: Greed

- Greed blinds us to spiritual landmines
 - 1 John 2:16
- Greed flows out of our desire to be respected & happy
 - Prov. 20:11
- Ironically, greedy people are despised and never satisfied
 - Prov. 28:25, Eccl. 5:10

Abram's Choice – Faith and Generosity

- The path to respect, satisfaction, and success starts with generosity
 - Proverbs 11:24, John 3:16
- Generosity Solves Strife
 - Romans 12:4
- Generosity is a sign of Faith

James 2:14-17 "…if people say they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing. If you hope for a person to stay warm and get plenty to eat but you don't give what that person needs, your words are worth nothing."

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"