

West View Methodist Church  
DAILY DEVOTIONS: LENT WEEK 2



# ABRAHAM

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## A PROMISE OF NATIONS

Much of this week's devotions' content was sourced from a book by Robb, Susan. *Remember*. Cokesbury, United Methodist Publishing House - CoreSource Plus, 2023.

## MONDAY

### THE PROMISE



**Genesis 17: 1-4** *When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless, that I may make My covenant between Me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.*

Abram was 99 years old when God called him. At that time his wife Sarah was barren and had been so all her life. God sees Abram and tells him that not only will Sarah bear him a son, but that he is to become the father of nations! God tells Abram that He will make a covenant with them and this is what He does.

This covenant is at the heart of the Bible and is the basis upon which God said, "I will be your God and you will be my people, a phrase which is repeated all the way through the Bible until the very last page in Revelation. It tells us that God wants to stick with us.

As we consider the journey and covenant between Abraham and God, we remember that this covenant is for us as well and that Jesus came to show us how to live in a covenantal relationship.

#### ***Pause and pray***

We have a Covenant which we renew with gratitude every year. God does not need to renew His covenant, it is from everlasting to everlasting. We are the people who need to remember, to turn our thoughts back to God, to surrender ourselves anew to His purposes. As we enter 2024, let us hold the words of this Covenant prayer before us.



**Prayer:** God You are the Promise Maker and Promise Keeper. We trust You as we journey towards the cross to reveal Your love to us more and more. AMEN

## TUESDAY

### EXPLORING THE PROMISE



**Genesis 17: 7-8** *And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojourning, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."*

God's promise to Abraham is that He will lead him to a new land, a land which will be their everlasting possession, a place where they will settle and live and most especially, that God will be their GOD.

This family and the nation it becomes, through following the law of life God gives to them, is to be a light that reflects the character and nature of God to all of the nations of the world. In response to God's faithfulness to them, they are to live in such a way that everyone they encounter in their life's journey will be drawn closer to God and desire to live as they do—as those created in the Lord of Life's loving image.

We too are called to journey with God to a new land - a land of peace and opportunity, a land where all will find compassion, care, fulfilling work and justice. God calls us to a land where prejudice and distance are put aside. God calls us to become people who welcome the stranger, who tend the sick, who feed the hungry.

#### ***Pause and pray***

God is calling us to a new land right where we live. He is calling us to live in His promised land as we walk into 2024. He is calling each of us to recall His promise and to be ready to step up to the mark.



**Prayer:** God our country is crying out for You. Help us all to hear Your call to reconciliation, restoration and renewed faith in Your promise.  
AMEN

## WEDNESDAY

### THE JOURNEY TO A NEW LAND - THE CALL OF ABRAM



**Genesis 12: 1 – 3** *The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “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..... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

God calls Abraham to journey to a new land, a country he has probably never imagined. In fact, God does not let him in on the final destination!

When we plan for a journey, even if it is only a holiday, we like to be sure of travel arrangements – we decide on our destination, purchase tickets and apply for visas if needed, we plan our date of departure and arrival at our destination. We leave nothing to chance.

Abraham who has no idea of where the journey will take him, packs up his entire household, gathers his slaves, herds his flocks and moves without so much as a GPS.

God also calls us to journey through life with Him; He does not leave us to flounder along on our own. When Jesus walked this earth, He came to live an everyday life. He modelled what it was like to live with people like us. Jesus showed us the way to live each day. We are not without a map, the life of Jesus shows us how to cope with everyday situations, with life at its finest and at its worst. What better map could we ask for?

#### ***Pause and pray***

What are you facing today? How do you think Jesus would handle any difficulties you are facing? Ask Him for strength and guidance just for today.



**Prayer:** Thank you God that You have sent Your Holy Spirit to guide us on our journey through life. AMEN

## THURSDAY

### PACKING FOR THE JOURNEY



**Matthew 7: 7-8 ESV** *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”*

As we begin to consider the journey to which God calls us, we remember during Lent the journey Jesus began towards the cross.

Imagine that you are getting ready to start this journey with God. What will you take with you? How will you prepare? Are there some things in your life that you will need to discard? Are there perhaps prejudices, disappointments or pain that you need to deal with?

#### ***Pause and pray***

Have you ever been lost? I remember one occasion when we were lost in Zermatt, a strange town, a different language, and we had left our map behind! How thankful we were to find someone who spoke English and could guide us. We will need other

followers of Jesus on this journey so that we don't lose our way.

This is a journey we are embarking on and as with any journey, it may be a while before you arrive at your destination. Be patient as you learn to discard things, sanctification is a process. Ask God every day to show you how to live in grace.

The Lenten journey of self-reflection is one that requires time and patience. God's promise through Abraham to us is that, if we remain committed to following God's lead, we have no need to doubt or fear, for God is trustworthy. God's leading will carry us into a future where we will probably still face difficulties, disappointments, and challenges, but it will also be a future brimming with purpose and fulfillment. One in which we are blessed to be a blessing.



**Prayer:** God I need Your wisdom, Your guidance and Your patience as I learn to trust in the promises You have given. Help me to journey through life with You as my daily companion. AMEN

## Friday FOLLOW



**Hebrews 11: 8** *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

You are a beloved child of God, descendant of Noah and Abraham, heir to the covenant. You are blessed to be a blessing, to share the love of God that is available to every person. During this Lenten season, may you follow the One who can lead you *“to the land that I will show you for that following will lead you to a land of blessing and abundance”*

Jesus’s relationship with His disciples began with a simple, open-ended invitation to Andrew and Simon (Peter) to “come and see.” Beside the Sea of Galilee, Jesus invited prospective disciples to “follow me.” It is strikingly like God’s call to Abraham: Follow me “to the land that I will show you.”

Jesus speaks to us much like God spoke to Abraham. Imagine Jesus speaking these words to you: “Follow me to the land that I will

show you. You may not know where we’re going much of the time, but I do. Trust me. Walk before me. Follow my ways. Learn about my love. Watch me. Do as I do, and I will give you a new identity, one that fits with whom I’ve created you to be, one that equips you to live into the calling to which I have called you. And I will prepare a home for you, a place where you can flourish and belong, a place where you can grow in me and I in you.”

Where has Jesus called you to follow in the past? Where do you think He is calling you now?

### ***Pause and pray***

As we journey we need to be in community where we learn, worship and pray together. And as we do, we will rise and we will become pilgrims on the way to a new and better land.



**Prayer:** God, I want to follow Jesus, help me to be faithful.  
AMEN