

## Reflection Questions: Genesis 12:1-4

For the message, "God's Commitment to Blessing Every Nation" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on October 14, 2018\*\*\*

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Scripture text:** Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **4** So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

**A summary of the message:** God so loved the world that he called Abraham to go and be a blessing, and that through him God would bring the blessing of salvation to the nations. And God so loved the world that He gave his Son to be the ultimate blessing, that whoever believe in him might not perish but have eternal life.

### **Key Points:**

- **Gen 1-11 sets up the problem that Genesis 12 through Revelation 22 addresses.** I.e., the story of God's mission to bless the nations of this broken and rebellious world is what occupies the rest of the Bible.

### **Key Quotes:**

- Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God*, "Genesis 1-11 poses a cosmic question to which God must provide a cosmic answer.... What can God do next? Something only God could have thought of. He sees an elder, childless couple in the land of Babel and decides to make them the fountainhead, the launch pad of his whole cosmic redemption.... The call of Abraham is the beginning of God's answer to the evil of the human heart, the strife of the nations, and the groaning brokenness of his whole creation. A new world, ultimately a new creation, begins in this text."
- Galatians 3:8, "And the Scripture...preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.'"
- Revelation 7:9-10, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

### **Bottom Line:**

- In Jesus, we have been blessed to be a blessing. And in him, not only are we caught up in the original promise God made to Abraham, but we're also caught up in the story of Jesus. God desires to use us to bring the blessing of the Good News of Jesus to those around us.

## QUESTIONS

### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption, and in particular, to this announcement of good news that God promised to Abraham?
- In light of God's promise to Abraham, how would you answer the question, "What kind of me is God calling me to be?"

### **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- How is this text inviting us to participate in a community that exists for something greater than our own wants and needs?
- How does this text clarify the kind of lifestyle we are called to live in this world, both in terms of intentionality and motive?

### **3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- Reflect on this quote from Christopher Wright, Wright, "Christians who commit themselves to the mission of God *in* the world have to start with a certain sense of going *out* from the world.... There is a form of leaving and going that is spiritual, mental, and attitudinal—even when it is not physical. For it involves the abandonment of the worldview through which the world tells its own usurped story, adopting, in faith and hope, the worldview of the story we are in—the biblical story of God's mission."
  - What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city?
  - How does this text help us understand God's mission in our city?

## **CONCLUSION QUESTION**

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

## **PRAYER**

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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