**1. Motivate**

When have you seen confidence in someone, or something really pay off?

* a business where you ordered something finally got it right
* a student took your advice and succeeded
* you trusted one of your children and they did the right thing
* the product you purchased performed as promised
* someone gave you a warning which you heeded, and you avoided a big mess
* you did what your wife told you and everyone was happy with the results
* you trusted your financial wizard and your portfolio did well
* for once you believed the car salesman and you got a good vehicle

**2. Transition**

In some situations you just don’t know for some time if your confidence was justified.

* Today’s passage speaks to the issue of trusting God
* We can have full confidence when we are trusting God

A video introduction is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_srbxhida> If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/yxnxprzm>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God Calls Us to Follow Him

Listen for God’s command.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV) The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "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. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

What was unusual about *where* was he supposed to go?

⇨ God would show him *as he was going* !!

What/where did God tell Abram to leave?

* leave his own country
* leave his own people
* his father’s household

What kinds of thoughts would you have if God asked to do this?

* what about my job, my church, my grandkids? … my wife ?!?!?
* should I sell the house or rent it?
* how quick are we supposed to do this … days? weeks? months?
* what about the kids’ schools?

What were some *positive* things you have experienced with a move?

* bigger, nicer house
* new friends and neighbors
* often was accompanied by new job, new opportunities

What are the elements of the seven-fold promise the Lord gave to Abram?

* I will make you into a great nation
* I will bless you
* I will make your name great
* you will be a blessing
* I will bless those who bless you
* whoever curses you, I will curse
* all peoples of the earth will be blessed through you

In what ways were all the people of the earth blessed through Abram?

* the eventual coming of the Messiah
* the history of God’s people and the record of God’s working preserved in Scripture
* God used the Jewish people down through history to eventually accomplish His goal of salvation for all men

How might people be blessed through you, your children, grandchildren?

* through our ministries to others
* through our prayers
* through sharing and sending the Gospel message
* as we raise children to know and serve the Lord, they in turn, reach out in ministry to others

What effect can God’s promises have on us when we face God’s call to change?

* God has all wisdom, all power, all authority
* He can carry through on His promises
* contrast to men’s promises which have no guarantee
* God knows what is best for me (easy to say, tougher to put into practice when faced with major changes)

Why should our obedience not depend on our comfort or understanding how all the details of God’s call seem logical to us?

* here’s where obedience and faith are tied together
* if I really trust God, then I should be able to follow Him without full disclosure of the end result
* I know who God is and what He is like
* I am assured of His love for me and His power to provide and to guide

As God directs your life’s journey …

* check out your spiritual road map … the Bible
* use it to find out where you are now
* use it to find out where you are headed and how to get there
* discover that you are not there yet
* note that God wants to bless others through you … just like Abram

3.2 God Calls, We Obey

Listen for how Abram responded to God.

Genesis 12:4-6 (NIV) So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. 6 Abram 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.

How does Abram’s response to the Lord demonstrate the meaning of faith?

* he up and left as God had told him
* no argument
* no debating with God
* straight obedience
* he didn’t have the full plan before he obeyed

What elements of this journey would make it a considerable effort?

* it is on foot – for a *long* way
* Abram and his wife are already what we term senior citizens
* he was traveling with family
* they had all their “stuff” – material possessions and livestock
* Abram did not have a map
* the people he encountered along the way were not always going to be friendly

What are some new directions we might face in our adult years?

* new jobs, a second career
* moving closer to family (our parents, our children)
* going back to school to finish a degree as an “older” student
* caring for aging parents (or *being* an aging parent)
* dealing with loss of a spouse (through death or marital separation)
* becoming a single parent

When have you found it challenging to follow God’s leading?

* when it took me out of my comfort zone
* when I felt I had no skills for the task
* when it was too far, too close, too hard, too easy ….
* I was too young/old to do the job
* I didn’t have time
* I’ve never done that before
* I don’t like that part of town, it’s not safe

Threats of evil existed in the land at this time. Why might God call His people to live in places where evil exists?

* those people need Jesus too, there are people who are hurting and need help
* to be a spiritual light in a spiritually dark place
* God sometimes calls us to “storm the gates of Hell”
* Jesus went where people were in need, so should we

3.3 Trusting God Leads to Worship

Listen for a reason to worship.

Genesis 12:7-8 (NIV) The 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. 8 From 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.

What is the significance of building an altar in Shechem?

* God appeared to him
* God promised that land to his descendants
* he wanted to worship God
* he wanted to memorialize this particular location and time

After Abram left Shechem and moved on into the hill country, what did he do in that place as well?

* built an altar again
* called on the name of the Lord
* communicated with God … praise, worship, declaration of faith

In what ways have you discovered that worship, both personal and corporate, encourages you, equips you, and gives you confidence to step out in faithful service?

* worship is declaring the worth of God … “worth-ship”
* we are recounting and praising the attributes of God … holiness, power, authority, love …
* we remind ourselves of Who God is and what He is like
* we are more ready to trust Him and obey Him and follow His lead in our lives

What are some things people do to "build a monument" to honor *themselves* or *their* memory?

* a business, a building or street
* a foundation, a school
* a sports organization or stadium

How might you memorialize your significant experiences with God? What kind of “monument” could you create to honor God and what He has accomplished at a certain point in your life?

* a picture of a church camp altar where you surrendered your life to Jesus
* when they rebuild that camp tabernacle, acquire an actual tabernacle bench … even just a board from the building
* when God protected you from harm in a bad accident, keep a piece of the car to remind you
* that first Bible you received when you took a new believers’ class as a child
* the gospel pamphlet that first attracted you to Christ

Application

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

These locations must not be “shrines” that we worship

* Rather they are special places or objects that remind us of …
  + God’s speaking to us in the past
  + His ongoing guidance and direction in our lives

Evaluate.

* Be real and take some honest, personal inventory and determine how distant or how close your relationship with God is right now.
* Talk to God about how you truly feel things are going in your relationship.

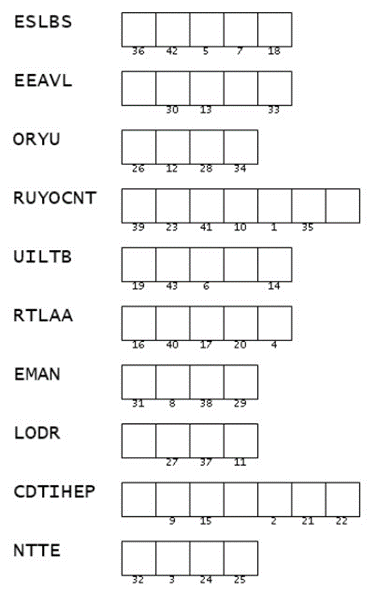
Move.

* Is there some area in your life where God has been stirring in you to make a move, but you just keep ignoring it?
* What move can you make today to start heading in the direction of what He has called you to do?

Write it down.

* Pick up a pen, grab a journal, and begin to write.
* Reflect and remember how God has shown His presence and His promises to you in your life over the past month

Double Puzzle



Here’s the secret message below. It is decoded with the unscrambling of the words on the left. They are words from our Bible Study. Use the numbers of the letters to fill in the blanks of the message. This message is an important concept from our Bible Study. Help is available at <https://tinyurl.com/yxnxprzm> And you may want to check out the Cross Eyed Crossword.

