

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## ADVENT SERIES

These questions are for the **December 10, 2017** sermon, "The Beginnings of Christmas 2." Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 11:27-12:9) together out loud.

### SERMON OUTLINE

IN GOD'S MESSIANIC PLAN, NOTE . . .

1. The preparations made by God (11:27-32)
  - a. Using those who do not know him, like Abraham's father, Terah.
  - b. Employing challenging physical limitations, such as barrenness.
    - i. God is sovereign over your hardest family challenges and dysfunctions.
    - ii. God can keep his promises, even when you don't seem to have the resources.
  - c. Helping you overcome difficult temptations, such as staying in Ur.
  - d. Leading you through hard life-and-death valleys, such as the death of a parent.
    - i. God can strengthen you for the adventure of living, if you let him.
    - ii. Nothing is impossible with God.
2. The promise made by God (12:1-9)
  - a. Note the timing of God's promise: after he prepared his servant in hard circumstances.
  - b. God calls his servant to "Go," when conventional wisdom would have said, "Stay."
  - c. Abram went, "Just as the Lord commanded."
  - d. Lot went with him . . .
    - i. Lot will become a future challenge in Abram's life.
    - ii. Even while you obey, there may be challenging people and circumstances.
  - e. Abram builds an altar . . .
    - i. He testifies to God's faithfulness even before God delivered on his promise.
    - ii. When some obey, may will begin to call upon the name of the LORD.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How has God used unbelievers to prepare you to hear Him, trust Him and obey Him? How has he brought good from family challenges?
2. Based on #1, above: Quote from the message: What physical or financial limitations are you facing? Do you believe that God will keep his promises even while you have limitations?
3. Based on #2, above: God prepares his servants (often using hardship and challenges) before he provides his promises. Think about the "now" (Genesis 12:1). What is God doing in your "now"?
4. Based on #2, above: In spite of all the challenges (Genesis 11:27-32), when God asked him to "Go," Abram went just "as the LORD had told him" (12:4). In what way has God been asking you to "Go"? What are your reasons to say "No." When will you say "Yes"?