



TEENTEXT GRADES 6-8

Go Deep. Be Real. Let Go.

TEENTEXT Grades 6-8
March 16, 2014
Second Sunday in Lent

I. WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Bible
Candle and matches
Paper
Pens, pencils, and/or markers
Computer + web access (for YouTube videos and to enlarge art/images)

II. TODAY'S TEXT: Genesis 12: 1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you."

Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.

III. BACKGROUND

As the story of creation and the first humans develops, the scope of the story narrows from all of humanity to one family, from whom the people of Israel will emerge. God calls

Abram to leave everything he knows to step out in faith into the promises of God. This story marks the birth of Abram's journey with God and the journey of the people of Israel. We, with the benefit of history and interpretation of these ancient texts, know that the blessings God promises to Abram do unfold. But Abram couldn't have known this without a doubt as he was deciding to step out on faith into the promises of God. Would you have that kind of faith? Faith that trusts God enough to leave everything you've ever known, believing that God will make you a blessing?

IV. SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Remember, these are only suggestions. The most effective questions and activities—the ones that help participants connect their story with God's story each week—are often those that are based on your personal knowledge of the participants and where they are. Listen carefully to their responses; ask follow-up questions that help them reflect on the text and their lives, right now, right where they are.

GO DEEP

(What's happening in the story?)

1. Who is speaking to Abram? What is asked of him? How do you think he might have felt when he was told this?
2. What is promised to him? How does this compare to what he leaves? Are they related?
3. What is Abram's reaction? What do you think of his response?
4. How old was Abram when this took place? Why might this be of importance?

BE REAL

(What connections can you make between the story and the world around you?)

1. What does it mean to have your name respected? Are there people in this world whose name you respect? Who are these people? What did they do to earn such respect?
2. **Activity:** Make a list of all the people throughout history who are recognized by their first name or last name alone (ie. Madonna, Einstein). What makes these names so well known? What does this list tell you about what our country and world find worthy of respect? What about the church? Who does your faith community respect?

LET GO

(Be open to discovering how this story is happening in your own life.)

1. Abram is willing to leave his family and home for the sake of his legacy. What does your legacy mean to you?
2. What does it mean for you "live on" after your life ends? How can you live your life so that you matter beyond your life?
3. God calls Abram from a place of comfort to a place of the unknown. How might God be calling you to move out of your comfort zone for the sake of your faith and your legacy?

V. SUGGESTED LINKS TO OTHER MEDIA RESOURCES

A note about links: when TeenText goes to press all links are live and in working order. Links sometimes move or are renamed. If a link does not work for you try entering the search terms in Google.

The following message was seen on a banner outside a church last week. Perhaps, God's message to Abram in this text is really a message to us. What do you think?



In this week's text God calls Abram from a place of comfort to a place of the unknown. This movie depicts the cost and promise of moving:

<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/the-family-man/the-perfect-life>

VI. BETWEEN SUNDAYS

The stories we learn from the Bible are not only helpful to us at church, but they also can help us live our lives each day. Consider the following question to see how this week's text might be challenging them to live differently as they go about their normal routines (school / sports / social events):

Spend time this week thinking about those whose names you respect. How did they earn your respect? How can you have a name that is respected?