

WARM-UP

- What is your favorite city? Tell us about it.
- What is something you look forward to at the end of a tiring day?
- Have you ever been to a place that you knew nothing about? What happened?

WORD *⁸By 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. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*

HEBREWS 11:8-10

By faith, Abraham left his family and country behind, *not knowing where he was going*. Abraham did not focus on all he would leave behind. Instead, he looked forward to God's promise, which is His people's eternal home, and acted upon it. What can we learn from Abraham's response to God?

1 | Obey and go.

*⁸By 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. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **HEBREWS 11:8,9***

The Lord told Abraham to leave everything and go, promising to make him a *great nation* and bless *all the families of the earth through him* (Genesis 12:2,4). Abraham trusted that God would fulfill His promise. He *went, as the Lord had told him*, on a long journey through what would become the Promised Land (Genesis 12:4). What is God's promise to you? How have you responded to Him?

2 | Look forward to a city built and designed by God.

For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. **HEBREWS 11:10**

On his journey, Abraham faced the kidnapping of his nephew, the barrenness of his wife, and the command to sacrifice his only son. But Abraham was not weighed down by these obstacles. Instead, he looked forward to the city *whose designer and builder is God*. This city is the eternal home of God's people, His kingdom where He rules and reigns. But this eternal city is not just for the Israelites. We have become citizens of this kingdom through Jesus Christ. According to Matthew 6:10, what are we to pray over our city and the earth? How can we bring others into the kingdom of God?

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APPLICATION

- Do you believe in God's promise that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life through Jesus? Ask someone to pray with you to receive Jesus into your life.
- What city has God given you a vision or prayer for? When and how often will you pray for this city?
- As followers of Christ, we look forward to a city built and designed by God: His kingdom. What is our responsibility as part of the kingdom of God?

