

**Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9**

1. What 3 parts of life did God tell Abram to leave in order to transition to another land? What would have been significant about each of these 3 to someone during Abram's day?
2. How would you respond to a similar command from God? How would you know that the command came from God? How would you approach such a transition with your family?
3. When you read Genesis 12:1-9, how many times does the phrase "I will" appear? What does this tell you about the covenant and who will see to its fulfillment? How does that make you feel?
4. Abram and his wife had no children but God promised to make a great nation from him. How could he have taken this? Why did God want to build such a people?
5. God promised to bless Abram. What kind of confidence would you have if God promised to bless you? Has God blessed you? Why was God going to bless Abram?
6. Compare Genesis 11:4 with God's promise to make Abram's name great in 12:2. What was the difference in these 2 verses?
7. What was the ultimate end of God's promises to Abram?
8. Did Abram obey the Lord? Presumably, what would have happened had Abram refused to obey? What is the relationship between our obedience and God's blessings?
9. How old was Abram when this happened? Do you think that you are too old to start something new with God?
10. Why did Abram build an altar to the Lord in 12:7?
11. Has God led you in a way that needs greater consideration and dedication? Are you ready to obey? What will be your next step?
12. Though we no longer build physical altars for sacrifices, what might we do to signal a commitment to trust God?

If anyone has not listened to the Week 1 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

**Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19; 33:20; 35:1-3**

1. What had Jacob done in chapter 27 that necessitated his departure from the family in chapter 28? Since Jacob had to leave, why did his father direct him against taking any of the Canaanite women as a wife?
2. Compare Genesis 12:1-3 with Genesis 28:3-4. What parallels do you see?
3. Upon hearing his father's instructions to Jacob, what did Esau do? Why did he do this now and not previously? What might this tell us about Esau?
4. After leaving his father's house, how long was it before Jacob erected an altar in Gen. 33:20? What new family events had shaped his life? What tensions from the past still bothered him? What encounter with God had freshly inspired him?
5. Which best describes man's encounters with God?
  - a. Sudden and during a short period of time
  - b. Gradual and over an extended period of time
  - c. Both- sudden and gradual
6. Were you to construct an altar today as a reminder of the times or places when God most vividly and forcefully dealt with you, what time(s) would you recognize? What did He teach you/command you?
7. Though they were to follow God throughout their lives Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob only built a few altars. In your life, what is the difference between daily walking with God, and an "altar event"?
8. Are there people or responsibilities in your life that distract you from following what you believe God has told you to do? How can you rearrange your time/responsibilities so that you can do what you should be doing?
9. God told Jacob to build an altar in Bethel. What advantage did such an altar potentially have for Jacob and those who would come after him?
10. Jacob instructed those in his household to put away all the foreign gods and purify themselves in preparation for the building of an altar at Bethel. Why is such purification needed? What do you need to put away so that your dedication to God may become what it should be?

If anyone has not listened to the Week 2 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

**Scripture: Joshua 4:1-9, 21-24**

1. As the people of Israel crossed the Jordan, what event in their national history did the crossing replicate?
2. Why do you think it was important that this generation have an experience with God similar to the one their fathers had?
3. We know for a fact that some people who witnessed God's visible and powerful works, even crossing seas or rivers on dry land, forgot those works and pursued things other than God. How does this happen?
4. From where did the people retrieve the stones that would be used to build this altar? Why were those stones important?
5. How many stones made up the altar?
6. As God explained the usefulness of this altar, what was its importance to succeeding generations?
7. This altar commemorated something God did, not just for an individual, but for an entire nation. In what ways is such corporate memory still useful?
8. In view of this altar for the nation, read Judges 2:10. How do you think that kind of generation came to be?
9. How do we prevent the generations after us from becoming ignorant of the works of God?
10. What work of God can your family celebrate as a centerpiece of the family's collective memory of God's good and powerful work?

If anyone has not listened to the Week 3 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.

**Scripture: 1 Kings 18:30-32, 38-39; Romans 12:1-2**

1. At this point in her history, what was Israel's spiritual state?
  - a. They were close to God
  - b. They had drifted partially from God
  - c. They had drifted into idolatry
  
2. Who was the major influence on the nation that caused a spiritual decline that was greater than normal?
  - a. Rehoboam
  - b. Jezebel
  - c. Zedekiah
  
3. Israel was experiencing a drought of 3 ½ years. Who had asked God for this judgment on Israel?
  
4. This chapter takes place during a showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. How many prophets of Baal were there?
  
5. What were the rules in the showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal?
  
6. Why were the prophets of Baal unable to convince their god to respond to their cries with fire?
  
7. What repairs did Elijah make to the altar?
  
8. Why were the people hesitant to answer Elijah?
  - a. They did not hear the question
  - b. They did not believe in God
  - c. They were afraid and confused
  
9. How did the Lord respond to Elijah's prayer?
  
10. Had you been there to see God send fire from the sky, how would that have affected your faith?
  - a. No change
  - b. Might have impressed me
  - c. I would have believed God for the rest of my life
  
11. In Romans 12 Paul urges us to be "living sacrifices." How is this possible? What does it mean?

12. Elijah offered a sacrifice in the presence of much opposition. Do you have that kind of faith? What kind of repairs or changes do you need to experience? Are you willing to ask God to make the needed repairs in your life so that you may be strong in the presence of the enemy?
  
13. Is it harder to offer a lamb to be slaughtered or to give yourself to God as a living sacrifice? Why?

If anyone has not listened to the Week 4 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. You can find links to the Discussion Questions on our website. We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.