

When God Says “Change” (Genesis 12) **Seasons of Change sermon series** **By Pastor David Hillis, 08.20.17**

BIG IDEA: When God gives us opportunities to change, there is never a better response than careful and complete obedience.

- 1. Life change begins best with a clear calling.** (Genesis 12:1-3, 7) To navigate major change well, we should always start from a calling; a clear understanding from God of what He wants. His wants, His plans, His desires for us are the best, regardless of how difficult they are. Sometimes the change that God wants for us is clear at first, sometimes it isn't. Knowing that is so important, to have the confidence to move forward and take that step of faith into the unknown.
- 2. Life change requires courage.** (Genesis 12:4-9; Joshua 1:8-9) Courage that enables us to put our feet to our faith and trust that the change we are jumping into is nothing to fear or run from.
- 3. Navigating life change requires consistency.** (Genesis 12:10-20; Luke 9:62) We can derail the work that God is doing in a season of change in our lives if we are not consistent, if we are not faithful in our walk with God. God expects consistency as a sign of our faithfulness and trust in Him and His plan.

MY NEXT STEP: *How is God calling you to faithfully navigate the changes in your life? Do you need clarity in God's calling? Do you need courage, consistency?*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Reread Genesis 12, where Abram's story begins with God's call to follow Him. In what ways was Abram faithful to that call? In what ways has God directed your life thus far, and how have you been (or not been) faithful? How is he calling you to be faithful today?
2. Notice verses 2-3. God gave Abram an incredible promise, a promise almost too good to be true. Do you find it hard to trust that God has your best interests at heart? How has your life been blessed when you followed God? What are some promises God has given you? Your family? Our extended family at Grace?
3. Notice verses 10-13. Abram and Sarai chose to lie to Pharaoh when they entered Egypt. When have you disregarded God's provision and took matters into your own hands? Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced God's faithfulness despite decisions you made?
4. God called Abram to leave his identity, his means of survival, his means of livelihood, and his comfort. Are you ready to follow God wherever he leads you? What would keep us from following God?
5. Next week we will be continuing this series on change by looking at how change changes other people in our lives. Feel free to read ahead in Genesis 13-14, noticing how relationships changed in Abram's life and what we can learn from that. Consider how the changes you might face or are facing now might impact the people around you, and how God wants you to respond to them with courage and consistency. Share your discoveries with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Hello" card online during the week at myGrace.church!

PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Muslim World/1040 Window and our missionaries serving in 10/40 Window, including Madrigals

Pray for those who do not know, nor have the heard, about a life-changing relationship with Christ, particularly those who live in the 10/40 window (an area in the eastern hemisphere between 10 and 40 degrees longitude north of the equator). Nearly 4 billion people live in the 10/40 window, including 90% of the world's poorest of the poor, and about 1.6 billion of them have never had the chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ - not even once! We pray that God's Word and His life-changing love will flow freely in all parts of the world. Amen (For more information about the 10/40 window, go to win1040.com)