



UNLEASH
RELEASING GOD'S RADIANT LOVE

SESSION 2
FOLLOW

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” Hebrews 11:8

ABOUT THIS SESSION

You are someone's legacy. In fact, you are a result of many people who have stepped out in ways they didn't have to. Start with your parents and grandparents and think for a moment about all the people who have spoken into and impacted your life. No, it hasn't always been in positive ways, but even negative stuff can end up affecting you in good ways. Life's hurts can help us become healers; and hardships can push us toward hope and character. The best way to be grateful for the legacy we've received is to decide and practice the legacy we want to leave those who come after us. The question we want to answer is, “Knowing what I have received, how will I provide the same for others?”

For the next several weeks, we will study Abraham's life. Though he lived over four thousand years ago, his legacy is still touching people around the world because he made a choice to FOLLOW God. He was a man of faith and of failures. He was someone we can identify with if we let ourselves. Abraham had to make a decision about whether or not he would step out and follow God or if he was going to stay put. Abraham decided to go for it, even though he didn't know where he would end up.

But our journey will be more than a few weeks—we're embarking on a 2-year adventure called UNLEASH. We are trusting God to do a great work in bringing us together in ways we've never experienced before as we pursue our high calling of releasing God's radiant love.

COME TOGETHER

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

- Welcome newcomers. Introduce everyone.
- In the past people simply did what their family did. You were born in one area, worked in one area, and had little choice in how your life went. If you had to live the life like your previous generations lived, where would your life be now?

LEARN TOGETHER

God uses stories to guide us. In fact, the Bible is His story! When we read the true stories of Scripture, we learn what God is like and we see His plan unfolding. We also learn principles for our own lives. So how can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His and not just understanding what it means to follow Him, but actually doing it—changing our attitudes and actions to live as He would live.



READ GENESIS 12:1-8

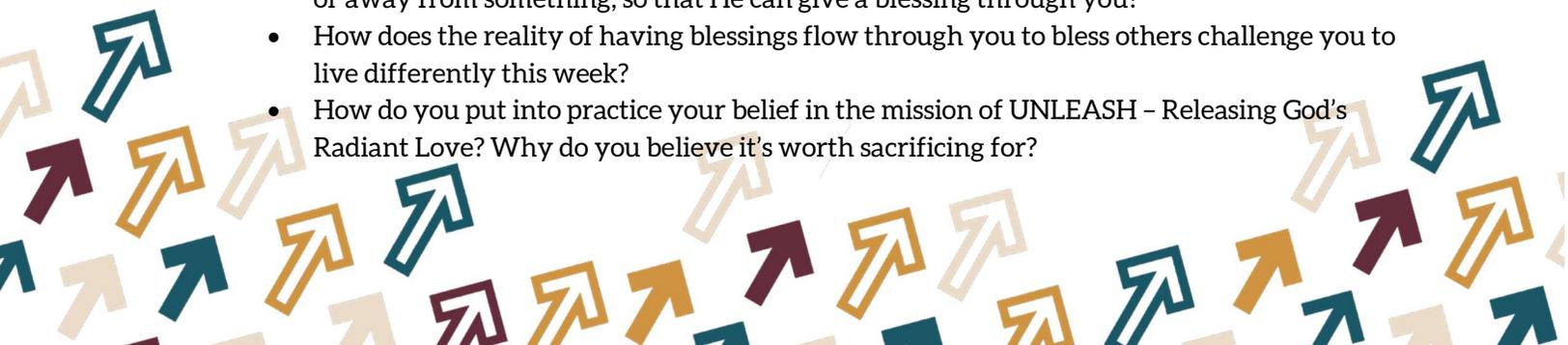
1The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

- Think for a moment about being a member of Abram’s household. He announces at breakfast one morning, “Last night the Lord spoke to me. Today we’re packing up and hitting the road.” What would be some of your questions?
- Following God involves His blessings. In the Bible, “blessing” is a relationship term. We get to know God and are blessed by the benefits of knowing Him. How has your life been blessed by knowing God?
- Why do you think so many people are truly hesitant to follow God even though He promises blessings if you do follow Him?
- The idea of following God has a lot to do with understanding that the blessings of God aren’t supposed to stop with us. Blessings flow through us to others. How should God’s blessings flow through you to impact others?
- Abram was aware of God’s company and leading. But it was more than knowing He was there; he responded with action. He worshipped Him, sacrificed something meaningful to show his commitment and expressed his confidence in Him by moving. How can we use Abram’s response to help us move from being a BELIEVER to truly being a FOLLOWER?
- As we have looked at this scripture and discussed it, let’s take a moment and share what God is saying to you through His Word.

GROW TOGETHER

Our Creator is certainly after more from us than an acknowledgment that He exists. There are plenty of people who are willing to admit there’s a God, but they still don’t want to have anything to do with Him. God wants you to be a part of His Kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change—to go His way rather than your own. This won’t happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By starting with small, simple choices, we begin to change our direction. The Holy Spirit helps us along the way—giving us gifts to serve the body, offering us insights into Scripture, and challenging us to love not only those around us but those far from God.

- As He did with Abram, in what ways do you feel that God is calling you out from something or away from something, so that He can give a blessing through you?
- How does the reality of having blessings flow through you to bless others challenge you to live differently this week?
- How do you put into practice your belief in the mission of UNLEASH - Releasing God’s Radiant Love? Why do you believe it’s worth sacrificing for?



- When it comes to understanding FOLLOWING God, we must realize it will cost us something. When we are blessed to bless others, we have to understand stewardship and generosity means God wants something FOR you, not FROM you? What's the difference between those two perspectives?

(Stewardship may be a new term in your Christian experience. It has long been used to refer to God's entrusting us with the management of the resources He gives us: time, talents, and treasure. These things may seem to be ours, but they ultimately belong to Him. Even what we earn, we have earned using time, strength, and skill God has provided to us.)

- As we look back on what God has spoken to you, now we have to wrestle with the question: What are you going to do about it? What is one thing you will change this week to become more of a follower of God?

PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time praying for each other. Ask everyone to share, "How can we pray for you this week?"

