

# STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

GENESIS 11:27-12:9

Sunday, September 8, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

God called **ABRAM** (11:27-12:3)

from the familiar to the unknown 11:27-12:1 Hebrews 11:8; Matthew 4:19; 28:18-20

fuzzy details, big promises 12:1-3

↑ and Abram **FOLLOWED**; (12:4-9)

all walk, no talk Acts 7:2-8; James 2:17-18

faith looking forward Heb. 11:1, 8-10; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 8:24-25; 4:18

↑ the question now is: **WILL YOU?**

have *you* responded in faith?

what's a faith-filled risk you need to take?



Text us at **833-271-8805**.  
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



## Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

### Welcome Back to Life Groups!

This week we kick off our Fall Semester of Life Groups! Each week as we meet we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

**Share with the Group:**

*If you could do something dangerous just once—with no risk—what would you do?*

### Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. **Read Genesis 11:27 thru 12:9.** *Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*  
*Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
  
2. Have you ever felt torn, like Abram, between what you felt God was calling you to do and what your friends, family, or neighbors expected you to do? How did you respond? What types of pressures did you face?
  - Have you ever found yourself in the opposite position—trying to talk friends or loved ones out of what they thought God wanted for them?
  
3. Below are two interpretations the ancient Jewish tradition (and people) held concerning Abram. Discuss them with your group. *What strikes you about them?*
  - The idea that God called Abram simply because he wanted to, apart from Abram's merit, was unfathomable to ancient Jewish readers of the Bible.
  - Ancient Jewish readers focused on Abram's righteousness, not God's faithfulness to Abram.
  - *What are the dangers of these views?*  
*Do you see any similarities with "religion" today?*



BIBLICAL FAITH IS...

**believing** God's Word

and **acting** upon it

**no matter** how I feel

because **God promises** a good result.

*(—and he keeps all his promises!)*

# WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

This is who we hope you grow to become at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

## WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find: Genesis 12:1-4 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>1</sup> The **LORD** had **said** to **Abram**, "**Leave** your **native country**, your **relatives**, and your **father's family**, and go to the **land** that I will **show** you. <sup>2</sup> I will **make** you into a **great nation**.

I will **ble**ss you and **make** you **famous**, and you will be a **ble**ssing to **others**. <sup>3</sup> I will **ble**ss those who **ble**ss you and **cur**se those who **tre**at you with **cont**empt. All the **families** on **earth** will be **ble**ssed through you." <sup>4</sup> So **Abram** **de**parted as the **LORD** had **in**structed, and Lot **w**ent with him. **Abram** was seventy-five years old when he **le**ft **Haran**.

L O R D F A M O U S H C M  
 A I N S T R U C T E D U A  
 N A T I V E Y T N V G R K  
 D B D A S L O T H E R S E  
 K R B C M A D Y R N E E N  
 R A C O N T E M P T A A S  
 R M H U D I P V E Y T R N  
 E N N S V A N R T K  
 G F A T H E R S F E H L  
 A T R P S T C E I A A E  
 M M I Y B L E S S V T R A  
 A I O F E D A H E L A V  
 Y L N K B F O I O M G N E  
 B Y W E N T F D W S R G H

## life groups Study Guide (continued)

• Have you ever struggled to accept God's grace? Did you find it hard to believe that he loves and accepts you as you are? How have you learned to trust God's love for you?

- 4. Pastor Josh mentioned that just as God chose and sent Abram he has also chosen and sent **us**... not just to follow him, but also to be used by him as we love, influence, and encourage others. **Study Colossians 3:12-17 below** and mark it up. Then write down some specific examples of how "putting on" the various character qualities it lists can have an influence at your work, home, or with your friends.
  - a. **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
  - b. **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
  - c. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 (ESV)**

### Taking It Home

- 5. Where might God be calling **you** to step out in faith and take a risk these days? Write it down, pray about it, and share it with someone in your group.

### Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women.** Feel free to share requests; just be sure each person gets prayed for.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from Grigoni, Michael R., et al. Abraham: Following God's Promise. Lexham Press, 2012; as well as a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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# JOURNEY UNCHARTED

Sunday, September 8, 2024

PART 1

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

GENESIS 11:27-12:9



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our App with Bulletin, Connect Card, & more.

<https://wawasee.today>