

8. *Obedience.* Is there some area in which God has called you to “go” but hasn’t said which direction? How can your Life Group help you to simply step out in obedience, rather than waiting for more clarity?

9. *Remembrance.* Take some time to think back over your life, looking for ways and times when God has shown up—answered prayers, confidence in uncertainty, comfort in sorrow.... Maybe a friend, spouse, or other family member can help. Write those things down, then find some tangible reminder to help you remember those. For Abram it was stones; for you it might be a stone, a photo, or a journal entry.

At Cold Springs Church, we are passionate about *raising up compassionate followers of Jesus Christ to be risk-takers for God.* Becoming a risk taker is a journey of faith with many stones along the journey. Have a great trip!

Sermon Series: The Journey

This week: Stones Along the Journey
TEXT: Genesis 11:27 – 12:9

CONNECT



Life Changing Community Through Life Groups

- *SERMON NOTES*
- *LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE*

Date: Sunday, June 1, 2014

“We are the sum of every yes that we utter. ... But it’s rare that we see where a yes will take us at the moment we utter it.”

– Dr. Dan Allender, *To Be Told*

◆ **The Stone of Separation**

Where are you finding security apart from God?

◆ **The Stone of Promise**

Rely on the character of the promise giver.

4. The nation of Israel—a people uniquely called by God—would ultimately come through Abram’s grandson. Why is the last phrase of verse 3 (“in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”) so important in understanding that unique calling?

5. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8. How do these verses connect to the concept of blessing in Genesis 12:3?

Taking It Home

On Sunday, Pastor Randy spoke about four “stones” on the journey of faith: separation, promise, obedience, and remembrance. Keep these in mind as you reflect on and answer the following questions.

6. *Separation.* Where in your life do you find security apart from God—home, job, kids, two incomes, ...? Why is it so hard to trust God with those things? How can your Life Group or other friends help you take steps of faith with those?

7. *Promise.* What are some promises God has given to you, either generally through the Bible or specifically to you? Are you struggling with how a promise will be kept? How can you shift your focus from the *promise* to the *Promise Giver*?



1. “Worrying means that we do not think that God can look after the practical details of our lives.” If you agree with that statement, how have you seen its truth in your own life? If you disagree, then how would you define worrying differently?

Digging Deeper

Read Genesis 12:1-9.

2. What do you see Abram being called to give up; what did he need to leave behind—not just physically, but emotionally and relationally, as well?

3. Abram’s wife, Sarai, was barren; that is, she couldn’t have children. How do you think Abram might have imagined God fulfilling his promise to make “a great nation”?

◆ **The Stone of Obedience**

Obey the call...even when it doesn't make sense.

◆ **The Stone of Remembrance**

*Remember where God has shown up.
Remember to call on God.*

Moving from Information to Transformation

Our focus is “To be...”, not just “To do...” Being a Christ follower involves wrestling with three critical questions:

What do I need to KNOW of God’s truth to know Jesus more deeply?

How do I need to EXPERIENCE the Spirit’s power to be more like Jesus?

What do I need to DO – how am I going to think differently and act differently now?

Life Group Study Guide

This guide can be used for deeper study and reflection on your own or in a Life Group with others.

Ice Breaker

What’s the most adventurous journey you’ve ever taken?

Warming Up

Read the following from Oswald Chambers:

Careful infidelity

Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor yet for your body what you shall put on.

Matthew 6:25

Jesus sums up commonsense carefulness in a disciple as infidelity. If we have received the Spirit of God, He will press through and say—‘Now where does God come in in this relationship, in this mapped-out holiday, in these new books?’ He always presses the point until we learn to make Him our first consideration. Whenever we put other things first, there is confusion.

“Take no thought ...”—don’t take the pressure of forethought upon yourself. It is not only wrong to worry, it is infidelity, because worrying means that we do not think that God can look after the practical details of our lives, and it is never anything else that worries us. Have you ever noticed what Jesus said would choke the word He puts in? The devil? No, the cares of this world. It is the little worries always. I will not trust where I cannot see, that is where infidelity begins. The only cure for infidelity is obedience to the Spirit.

The great word of Jesus to His disciples is *abandon*.

Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest: Selections for the Year (May 23)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering, 1986