

Discovering God: Part 2- It's Simple  
Abraham- Genesis 12:1-4 and 15:1-6

**I. ME**

- A. Welcome/Online
- B. One of the best moments of my life- **Last Diaper Pictures- Below**
  - 1. Blowouts... where do you even start?

**II. WE**

- A. Huge Messes- Where do you even start?
  - 1. Blowouts. Spilled paint, sauce, etc. – What do you do?
  - 2. You just pick a spot and get to work.
- B. We have other messes don't we?
  - 1. Our relationships with family/spouses/kids
  - 2. Work/Neighbors
  - 3. Financial/legal/sin?
  - 4. Where do you start with that kind of mess?
- C. All a result of what we talked about last week in Part 1.
  - 1. God created everything perfect for humanity
  - 2. But they didn't trust that God had given them everything they needed and they made a huge mess of everything.
  - 3. Brought sin into the world
  - 4. And it separates us from each other and God.
- D. Then we try to fix it and this happens... **Kevin Dropping the chili.**
  - 1. **Trying to fix the mess of sin just makes it worse**
  - 2. We need help
  - 3. Which is why, when Adam and Eve made the mess of sin... God didn't abandon them and say, "You got yourselves into this now try to get yourselves out."

- 4. He promised to wade in and fix the mess sin created.
  - a. He promised that someone would come destroy the effects of sin and restore the relationship between God and humanity.

E. So where does God start?

- 1. He picked a spot and got to work...
- 2. In one of the messiest chapters of human history... Ancient Bronze Age Mesopotamia.

F. Territorial gods

- 1. Ancient cultures were usually polytheistic and each region/tribe/nation worshipped their own patron god or gods... sometimes in brutal ways.
- 2. This is the religious culture/worldview God decided to start with.
- 3. He decided he would start his clean-up with a nation.
- 4. A group that would display his love and character to the world.
- 5. So first... he had to start a new family.

G. In this culture and world, who would you choose?

- 1. Hero... perfect, strong, young
- 2. God starts with some 75 year old unknown dude and his 65 year old wife who couldn't have kids.
- 3. Abram... a slow 25 yr journey...

H. What we will see...

**I. Discovering God begins with a relationship**

### III. GOD (Genesis 12:1-4)

#### A. V. 1-4

#### B. V. 1

1. Why did God choose Abram?- He wanted to.
2. There is no indication that there was anything special about Abram that let him earn this honor.
3. There was no special feat he had to perform to impress God...
4. He didn't even ask for it
5. God simply chose to pick Abram... b/c he wanted to.
6. God made the first move... it's how he always starts a relationship...
7. **God pursues us and always makes the first move.**

C. So God makes the first move and initiates this relationship in a way we would never expect.

1. We expect... "Abram, I'm picking you to be my guy. So here's what I'm going to need you to do..."

#### D. V. 2-3

1. "Abram, I'm picking you to be my guy. I will give you land, I will make you into a great nation, I'll bless you, you will be one of the most famous people in history, because of the offspring I give you all of humanity will be blessed."
2. Again what did Abram have to **do** to earn this or deserve this? NOTHING.
3. It wasn't... "Abram, you're gonna be my guy... but here's what I'm gonna need you to do first, here's what you're gonna need to stop doing, or start doing..."

4. No- "Follow my rules and I'll bless you."
5. There weren't even any rules yet! (100's of yrs before 10 com's)

#### 6. God bases relationships on his promises not rules.

7. But we always feel it's the other way around.
8. We think before God will pursue us, or want us... we need to clean up first, do something FOR him first....

E. So Abram goes...

1. And it isn't all rosy and happy... Stuff and things happen
2. Gets in trouble in Egypt... lies and says wife is sister...
3. His nephew, Lot, leaves him for better land
4. Lot gets caught up in some territorial wars and he and his family get captured
5. Abram fights a brutal bronze age battle to rescue him
6. After all of this...
7. Abram is probably exhausted. He's old, has no secure home, no family... definitely doesn't feel very blessed.

#### F. Gen 15:1-3

1. Abram- "God I get it. But my wife and I aren't getting any younger, this is a dangerous world, I want to believe you, but there's not much evidence here..."

### G. Gen 15:4-5

1. God said, "I know it might seem crazy but you will have the son I promised you... your offspring is the one I promised to bring."
2. Abram had a choice to make... believe God or believe his feelings, trust only his immediate circumstances
3. He knew he and his wife were well beyond the age to be able to conceive.
4. But despite what his feelings and circumstances told him, he chose to trust that God could be trusted.
5. He chose to trust that God would keep his promise.
6. And then something happened... something that is so crucial that if we miss this we will never really discover who God truly is...
7. If you've ever wondered... What does God want from me, how can I feel at peace with God, how can I know he's happy with me...
8. If you want to truly discover who God is... this verse is crucial.
9. So simple that **ALL** major religions have missed it... including at times xianity...
10. Missing this verse is what might have turned you off of church and religion in the first place.
11. And remember this is 100's of yrs Before 10 commandments... and before any written bible/scripture

### H. Gen 15:6

1. Abram believed God, chose to trust him... and in that moment...b/c of one single choice of trust... God declared him righteous...
2. Meaning God gave him his stamp of approval. Cancelled the debt of Abram's sin, God gave him a perfect standing with him, God said everything you've done and will do is forgiven... Abram had peace with God.
3. Abram had peace with God b/c he chose to trust God.
4. Most important point in discovering God... **Peace with God comes from a single act of trust.**
5. God changed his name to Abraham
  - a. Abram- Exalted Father
  - b. Abraham- Father of Many
- I. Wasn't all sunshine and roses after that.
  1. Still had to wait, messed up a lot trying to hurry God...
  2. His trust wasn't always perfect
  3. Still had a lot to learn about God
  4. And a lot of lessons to learn.
  5. But God never went back on his promise...
  6. Eventually they had a son, Isaac, and through him came the Jewish nation.

7. Even when Abraham doubted, God remembered his promise and Abraham's single act of trust that gave him peace with God.

#### IV. YOU

- A. God still does the same thing.
- B. We live in the mess sin has created... the mess we were born into, messes we have made, the messes others have made, and we want to clean it up.
  1. So we try to fix it and we make it so complicated.
  2. God says, "It's simple. Just trust me."
  3. "I love you and want a relationship with you"
  4. Sin has ruined that and it has separated us.
  5. I fixed it by sending Jesus to die in your place, to take your guilt and pay for it.
  6. He conquered the ultimate separation, death, by rising again
  7. All you have to do is trust me."
- C. But we say, "That's too easy!"
  1. "I have to earn it,"
  2. "No no, God. You're mad at me I know it. You're so harsh and judgmental."
  3. We feel like we have to perform at some level that he never asked for in the first place.

- D. Many of you experienced this either when you were younger or when you first started thinking about God in this way...
  1. God pursued a relationship with you and you simply trusted him and enjoyed him.
  2. But then life got complicated...
  3. People hurt you.
  4. You made choices that you knew weren't loving to Him or others... and you felt like he was now mad at you.
  5. You had doubts and questions and either didn't find good answers or were shut down and not even allowed to ask.
  6. So b/c of what you were taught or what you thought you knew about God... you gave up on ever having that relationship and either got really good at hiding or just walked away.
  7. And now it seems like everything is messed up and you can't fix it and either God is punishing you, has abandoned you, or is just angry with you.
  8. Maybe that's why you're here or watching or listening... you're trying to get back with God...
- E. Listen... **It's not that complicated.**
  1. God is pursuing you.
  2. And he is only asking that you trust him.

## G. Trust really is enough.

### F. Shipwreck and Coast Guard

1. Will you tell them it's too easy and try to swim to shore yourself?
  - a. You might make it further than others, but it still won't be far enough.
2. Or will you trust them and let them do the work for you?
3. One single act of trust will rescue you.

G. This is God's promise- **Acts 16:30-31**

H. Will you trust God's promise... maybe for the first time?

I. Will you continue to rely on that promise?

J. Will you say, "It might sound impossibly easy, and it might not make total sense right now, and even though I still have questions... I'm going to trust that what you say is true and that you will do what you promise you will do."

### V. WE

- A. What if everything you thought you had to do to make God happy really isn't from God?
- B. What if it is so simple that we missed it even though it's been there the whole time?
- C. What if we could clear away all the complicated rules and attempts at soothing our guilt and just enjoy the relationship God is offering each of us?
- D. What if it really only takes one single act of trust?
- E. What if simply saying, "I trust you," is enough?
- F. It was enough for Abraham and God promises it's enough for you.



