

Oxford Baptist Church" – September 18, 2016

Pastor Robin W. Pifer

Series: The Story Message #2 "God Builds a Nation"

Scripture Reading - Genesis 12-36 The Story Chapter 2

God always builds (a nation, family, person) through faith.

Genesis 12:1-3 - Abram, Go!.... Abram went. 75 years old.

Hebrews 11:8-20 – Abraham obeyed God By Faith.

Fourfold plan for the New Nation

- God will make the nation great.
- God will make Abraham's name great.
- God will bless those who bless Abraham and curse those who curse the nation and Abraham.
- God will bless all nations through the new nation and reveal his plan to redeem us back.

Remember the Family Tree - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph.

10 Generations from Noah to Abraham.

The Nature of True Faith....

Faith Starts by Hearing God. (Rom 10:17)

Faith is Leaving Your Past and Your Present. (Luke 9:23)

Faith is accepting the Unknown for God's Certain Future. (John 10:27-28)

Faith is proven. Matt 16:24; Romans 12:1

The Example of Abraham.

God Rescues and Builds through people of faith....

- ...who are obedient to a new adventure with God. Genesis 12:1-3

Obedience is not found in nodding your head but in action.

- ...who are patient with detours and setbacks. Gen 14:14-16; 17-24; 15:6
- ...who call themselves and others to greater obedience and sacrifice. The Leader goes first. Genesis 17:23-27

- ... who pray bold prayers. Genesis 18:23-25
- ... who take courageous steps of obedience. Genesis 22:9-14; John 3:16

God builds the nation of Israel through one family. How is God going to use your family to Build His Kingdom?



THE STORY

For Life Groups

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: Share a time when someone important in your life made a promise to you and kept it. Was there a time when someone failed to keep a promise? What was the result? Read Chapter 2 of The Story.

1. Chapter 2 of God's story opens with God calling Abram to make the sacrifice of leaving a comfortable life. Describe an experience when God called you to do step out in faith outside what was familiar (your comfort zone). What did you learn? What were the results?
2. Consider God's interaction with each character in chapter 2 of *The Story*. What patterns (or similarities) can you identify? What do these patterns reveal about the character of God?
3. Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise of a child. Have you waited for a long period of time for God to act in a given situation? Are you waiting on something now? How might this example serve to encourage you? How can the group best pray for you?
4. In Abraham's culture, a name said a lot about someone's character. God makes a covenant with them changing their names to Abraham and Sarah. How has your character changed since your relationship with God began?
5. Review the sermon outline. What is your greatest take away from this message this week? Take time to pray boldly for one another this week.