

## The Big Story Lesson #3 Believing without Seeing

Remember to pick and choose what parts of this lesson will apply best for your family. This is designed as a resource that you can add to, subtract from, or modify.

**Activity:** Take a drive (or walk or bike ride) with the family. One person can have a destination in mind (could be a grocery store, an overlook of the lake, or a favorite take out spot for dinner). No one else knows where they are going. Start by saying that you have a plan and you'd like everyone to join you in the car. Then, only give one instruction at a time (example, "pull out of the driveway" "turn left here" etc). When you arrive at your destination, pick up a treat (or ooh and ahh of the scenery) and go through the debrief questions.

### Debrief Questions:

- How was everyone feeling during the activity/drive? Was there any anxiety? Fear? Excitement? Did anyone try to figure out where they were going?
- Why do you think it is so difficult for us to be at peace when we don't know what's going on?
- Have you ever had a time when God asked you to do something that you didn't know how it was going to end? What happened? Did you do it? How DID it end?

## Grab your Bibles

Read Genesis 12:1-4

God comes to Abram and asks him to give up his country, his people, and everything he knew to go to an undisclosed location that God would show him. What a command! Yet, he then explains that his intention is to bless. And I love the progression of this blessing because it just gets deeper and wider as time goes on.

"I will make you into a great nation"

"I will make your name great"

"I will bless those who bless you"

**"All peoples on earth** will be blessed through you"

All peoples on earth!

Other translations describe this phrase as "every single family, tribe, or nation of the whole inhabited earth"

Can you think of anything that is a blessing to every single family on the entire earth?

Read Genesis 15:1-6

Already God has asked Abraham to leave his country and follow him to another. Now, he promises that he will bless him through a son of his own flesh and blood. Abraham is credited as being a man of faith because he took God at his word. He believed that what God said would become true, even though he couldn't see it.

Look up "Faith" in the dictionary

**BLESSING**

Blessed-*barak* (*bar-awch*)- to bless, to kneel

Remember that Hebrew words are written right to left.

 "B" and is a symbol of a house, tent, and family since Hebrews were families who lived in tents.

 "R" and represents the head of a man, think head of the household.

 "K" and is a symbol of the open palm of a hand.

This represents giving or receiving. So, when you put it all together from a Hebrew view, this word means: to give or receive an inheritance (a house, family, land, or other natural resource of value)

In the Bible Faith is defined as:

Hebrews 11:1 *"Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"*

What is a promise(s) of God that you cannot see right now?

Are there any reasons why it is sometimes difficult to believe in what we cannot see?

Are there any reasons that make it worth it to believe in what we cannot see?

How can you take a step to choose to believe what God says is/will be true, even when you cannot see it?

### God's Promise:

Genesis 12:3 All peoples on \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ through you

### Big Questions

Within the very word "blessing" is also the word "to kneel" how are these two things connected? How has God's blessings come on your family when you were on your knees?

How does God's Covenant Promise with Abraham fit into the bigger story of the Bible? The story of Jesus?

Who is someone you know who you'd describe as a man or woman of Faith? Write them a thank you note or send them a text encouraging them in their walk.