

# Altared

## *Scripture and Background Information for September 10-16.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Abraham is known as one of the fathers of our faith, but his faith was not perfect. At moments, he believed in God wholeheartedly and was willing to be incredibly obedient to God while, in others, he let fear and selfishness drive his actions. In this series, we will study the life of Abraham, all the successes and failures, to see how we may relate to his relationship with God. Ultimately, we hope to learn how each of us can direct the devotion of our lives to God, so that we allow Him to determine the destination of our journeys.

### **Background for Genesis 12:1-9:**

The first part of our passage for today encompasses God's call and promises to Abram (who will later be referred to as Abraham). In verses 1-3, God came to Abram and told him to leave the place he was living in and to go to a land that God would reveal to him in the future. He would have to leave behind what he had known and been comfortable with, but the Lord promised that He would give Abram the land that he would show him, descendants to continue his lineage, and to bless him along the way. But then God ends with a broader statement by promising that He would bless the world through Abram which we know is a promise that is fulfilled in Jesus Christ Himself.

The second part of this passage, verses 4-9, show us Abram's response to the call and promises that God gives to him. It says that Abram obeyed God and left where he was living to go to the place that God was leading him to go. Once He gets there and the Lord reveals that Abram is in the promised land, he sets up two different altars to the lord and two separate occasions. Even though Abram was still traveling around in tents ready to pick up and leave wherever God might call him, he creates these permanent altars to worship the Lord. These altars are meant to be a reminder of the Lord's faithfulness to Abram.

### Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What stands out about the promises God makes to Abram? How can God bring blessing to the world through this one person and his descendants?
2. How do these promises to Abram impact us today? What are some things you can take away from Abram's response to God's promises?
3. Knowing God's mission in these promises is to bless the world through His people, how can you consistently bless people around you?

\*Check back in with your groups about the rhythm of silence and solitude. Ask how their times in silence and solitude have been and what God has been showing them in those moments.