GENESIS PRACTICAL THEOLOGY | STUDENT HANDOUT

LESSON 10

CALLED TO BLESS, KEPT BY PROVIDENCE

Abram's Family, Faith, Failure, and the God Who Guards His Promise

MAIN IDEA **God calls Abram's family to live by promise and to bless the nations, and God's faithful providence preserves that promise even when fear distorts faith and prosperity obscures obedience.**

Lesson Objectives

- Trace the movement from Babel's scattered families to Abram's called family.
- Explain the promises of offspring, land, name, protection, and worldwide blessing.
- Distinguish biblical faith from self-protective calculation.
- Evaluate wealth and apparent success without assuming that every gain signals divine approval.
- Connect Genesis 12 responsibly to Hebrews 11 and Galatians 3.
- Apply the passage to personal, family, church, and ministry life.

Teaching Overview

Genesis 12 opens the patriarchal history. God calls Abram away from familiar securities, joins command to sweeping promise, confirms land and offspring in Canaan, and receives Abram's worship. A severe famine then exposes Abram's fear. The Egypt episode asks whether blessing is secured by human calculation or by God's faithful providence.

Key Scripture Passages

- Genesis 11:27–32 | Terah's family and Sarai's barrenness
- Genesis 12:1–20 | Primary passage
- Genesis 13–14 | Next movement: land, Lot, wealth, and the source of blessing
- Hebrews 11:8–10 | Abram's call interpreted as faith
- Galatians 3:6–16 | Gospel, nations, faith, and the promised offspring
- Acts 7:2–5 | The call and land promise in Stephen's speech

I. GOD CALLS ABRAM OUT FROM HIS FATHER'S HOUSE (12:1)

- Record the main movement and the family relationships at stake.
- List the repeated words, contrasts, or promises that control this section.
- What does this section reveal about God's character and action?
- Note the difference between faithful providence and merely profitable outcomes.

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DISCUSSION QUESTION What must Abram leave, and why does the wording make the call increasingly personal?

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE Where is God calling you to trust his word above familiar security?

II. GOD PROMISES A FAMILY, A NAME, AND BLESSING FOR THE NATIONS (12:2–3)

- Record the main movement and the family relationships at stake.
- List the seven promise clauses and identify the pivotal vocation.
- What does this section reveal about God's character and action?
- Note the difference between faithful providence and merely profitable outcomes.

DISCUSSION QUESTION How does Genesis 12:2–3 answer the pride and scattering of Babel?

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE How should received blessing become service to others?

III. ABRAM OBEYS WITH HIS HOUSEHOLD AND POSSESSIONS (12:4–5)

- Record the main movement and the family relationships at stake.
- List the repeated words, contrasts, or promises that control this section.
- What does this section reveal about God's character and action?
- Note the difference between faithful providence and merely profitable outcomes.

DISCUSSION QUESTION What details show that Abram's obedience involved an entire household?

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE What household responsibility is involved in your present obedience?

IV. GOD SHOWS THE LAND, AND ABRAM BUILDS ALTARS (12:6–9)

- Record the main movement and the family relationships at stake.
- List the repeated words, contrasts, or promises that control this section.
- What does this section reveal about God's character and action?
- How do tents, altars, land, and offspring fit together?

DISCUSSION QUESTION How does the presence of the Canaanites intensify the land promise?

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE What would worship before visible fulfillment look like?

V. FAMINE EXPOSES FEAR, AND ABRAM USES SARAI FOR SECURITY (12:10–16)

- Record the main movement and the family relationships at stake.
- List the repeated words, contrasts, or promises that control this section.
- What does this section reveal about God's character and action?
- Record the evidence that wealth here is not called divine blessing.

DISCUSSION QUESTION Why does the text focus moral concern on Abram's plan rather than explicitly condemning the trip to Egypt?

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE Which test would expose whether a profitable choice is faithful?

VI. GOD PROTECTS THE PROMISE AND SENDS ABRAM OUT OF EGYPT (12:17–20)

- Record the main movement and the family relationships at stake.
- List the repeated words, contrasts, or promises that control this section.
- What does this section reveal about God's character and action?
- Note the difference between faithful providence and merely profitable outcomes.

DISCUSSION QUESTION What does God preserve in this scene, and what does he expose?

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE How should God's preserving grace lead to repentance and mission?

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE

SPHERE	APPLICATION NOTES

Personal	Where must promise govern fear or ambition?
Family	How should God's call reshape loyalty, protection, and stewardship?
Church	How can received blessing serve the nations?
Ministry	How will we refuse to measure faithfulness by visible prosperity alone?

Questions for Reflection

- How does Abram answer Babel's pursuit of a self-made name?
- Why does the promise focus on one family for the sake of all families?
- Where does Abram display faith, and where does fear distort it?
- What does the chapter teach about family responsibility?
- Why can wealth not interpret itself as blessing?
- How does God's providence preserve the promise without approving Abram's strategy?
- How do Hebrews 11:8 and Galatians 3:8, 16 guide a Christ-centered reading?

Personal Notes

Key Takeaways

One truth about God:

One truth about humanity:

One key interpretive insight:

One connection to Christ or the gospel:

One remaining question:

One response of faith or obedience:

Final Summary

Complete after the session: Genesis 12 teaches that __.

Resources Used

- Kenneth A. Mathews, chapter-specific commentary on Genesis 12.
- Victor P. Hamilton, The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1–17, commentary on Genesis 12.
- No additional outside source was used.