



Genesis 12.1-5

So, the world is broken. You get that. I get that. We get it because we live it. Every day we are bombarded with reminders of the brokenness that surrounds us. We breathe in its stench and make our way through the rubble it creates, rubble that consists of lives that could be, should be but are not. It's broken. So what? That's not the issue for me anymore. Not really. That's old news. What is first and foremost in my mind, at least, is how do we fix it? I want life, life that is different than what is. I am not the only one who wants this.

Look around. Lots of people, most people want something different. Who wouldn't? We all have plans for making it better. "Give peace a chance." That's the slogan of some. Others tell us that we could all just get along if we could simply understand our differences. Education and tolerance hold the key to life, life as we know it should be. Capitalism and the free-market are the answer for others. Let natural competition bring the corrections we need. Blow it up and start over? A little extreme maybe, but a proposed solution nonetheless. I have to admit. I have at one time or another felt myself lean toward some of these solutions. Some of them just make sense, at least to me. How can peace and mutual understanding ever be a bad thing? Seems like it should work. Right? Well, maybe. The trouble is the best plans go awry every time we try to implement them. Let me put it another way. The best plans to fix life, to fix people go haywire the moment people get involved. You see the problem with life, with people, seems to be people. We are in large measure the source of the brokenness we experience.

So are we just to throw up our hands in disgust and give up? I did forget to list this as one possible solution. I see one potential solution, but it is a long shot. What if someone or something outside of people were to act? What if God, the very God who made us, decided to act to fix life? He isn't part of the mess like we are so it seems like He could fix it, if He wanted to. What would make Him want to? He would have to be a pretty big God, strong, powerful, loving, and extremely forgiving to want to fix the mess we've made. So when God moves with Abram, moves to promise a path back to life we see that this is exactly who He is, a big, strong, powerful, loving, forgiving God who offers a path back to life, life as it was meant to be. All He asks in return is faith, that we return to Him even as He moves to return us to life, real life. So maybe the solution to fixing life is not in the "what" but the "who." Life is not going to be found in what we do but in the One to whom we return.

A fellow traveler,

Blake
Spiritual Formation Pastor

My Next Step

We encourage you to consider doing the following as a way of handing off faith to your family. . .

- **Turning to God through family rhythms:** It is only in turning to God that we find life as it was meant to be. Very often, our daily routines as a family keep us from turning to God. This week, consider inserting something into your family's routine that intentionally turns you to God. This might be a daily routine such as a family prayer before dinner in which each person states the things they are thankful for and offers things to God for which they are in need. This need not take more than 5-6 minutes. This might also be something like a weekly routine such as the practice of a Sabbath day, an entire day given to resting and turning to God. Whatever it is, try something that reminds your family to pause and turn to God, the sole author and source of life.

We encourage you to take one of the following next steps on your faith journey. . .

- **Turning to God:** The path to life as it was meant to be is only found in God, not in ourselves. In giving our lives completely to Him we find renewal and restoration. Turning to God rather than turning to ourselves is difficult. One way to practice turning to God is through fasting. Fasting is simply depriving oneself of something for the purpose of turning to God to find sufficiency. Often one fasts from food, but one might fast from electronic media or even from certain hobbies. Consider setting aside one day this week to fast from sunset to sunset. As you feel drawn to the object from which you are fasting, simply pray, "God, grant me the grace to find in you all I need."