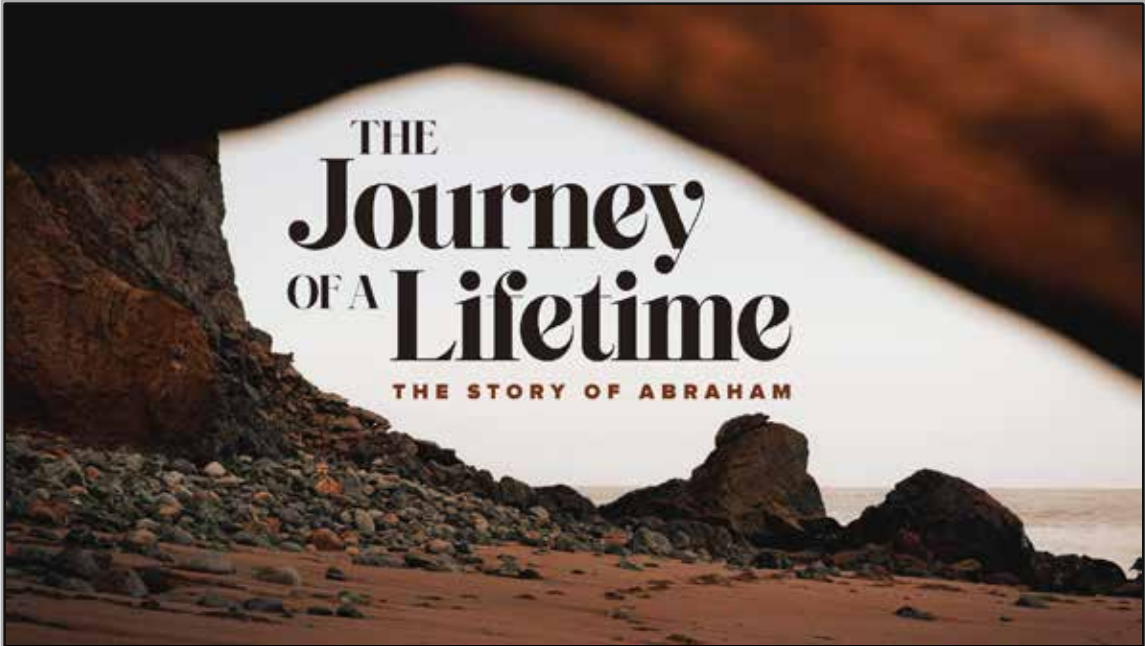



05-17-2026 Message



**THE**  
**Journey**  
**OF A**  
**Lifetime**  
**THE STORY OF ABRAHAM**

1 Group Start Theme Slide



2



3



4

The Bible does not "edit out" the mistakes in the stories of great people of faith, like Abraham.

5

Abraham is considered a model of faith in God.

6

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

7

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup>What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:3 (NIV)

8

Romans 4:3 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup>And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.

Romans 4:11 (NIV)

9

Romans 4:11 (NIV)

Abraham's detour in following God:

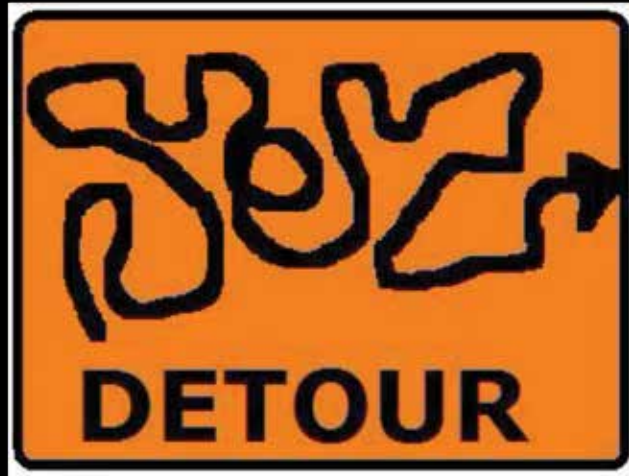
10



11



12



13

<sup>1</sup>The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

14

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV) 1 of 2

<sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

15

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV) Last of 2



16



17

<sup>6</sup>Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.                      Genesis 12:6-9 (NIV)

18

Genesis 12:6-9 (NIV) 1 of 2

<sup>8</sup>From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Genesis 12:6-9 (NIV)

19

Genesis 12:6-9 (NIV) Last of 2



20



Abraham's Detour to Egypt

21

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

<sup>11</sup>As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are.

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV)

22

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV) 1 of 2

<sup>12</sup>When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live.

<sup>13</sup>Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV)

23

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV) Last of 2

1. What triggered Abraham's detour?  
Famine!

24



25



26

## FAMINE IS A METAPHOR FOR:

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- Seasons of hardship
- Difficulty
- Pain
- Loss
- Uncertainty about the future

27



How do you respond to the  
seasons of famine in your life?

- Deception
- Worry
- Anger
- Numbness
- Self-medication
- Escape

28

2. What drove his behavior and decisions? Fear!

29

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

<sup>11</sup>As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are.

<sup>12</sup>When the Egyptians see you,

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV)

30

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV) 1 of 2

They will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live.

<sup>13</sup>Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV)

31

Genesis 12:10-13 (NIV) Last of 2

“  
In the figurative language of scripture, Egypt stands for an alliance with the world. He looked at his difficulties and became paralyzed with fear. He grasped at the first means of deliverance that suggested itself. Without consulting God, he went down to Egypt.

”  
F.B. Meyer, *Genesis*

32

Meyer Quote 1 of 2

“  
How much better would it have been for  
Abraham to have put the responsibility back  
on God and to have said, ‘you brought me  
here, and you must now bear the whole  
weight of providing for me and my family. I will  
stay until I know clearly what You want me to  
do.’  
”  
F.B. Meyer, *Genesis*

33

Meyer Quote Last of 2



<sup>1</sup>“Woe to the obstinate children,”  
declares the Lord,  
“to those who carry out plans that are not  
mine,  
forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit,  
heaping sin upon sin;  
<sup>2</sup>who go down to Egypt  
without consulting me;     Isaiah 30:1-3 (NIV)

34

Isaiah 30:1-3 (NIV) 1 of 2

Who look for help to Pharaoh's protection,  
to Egypt's shade for refuge.

<sup>3</sup>But Pharaoh's protection will be to your  
shame,  
Egypt's shade will bring you disgrace.

Isaiah 30:1-3 (NIV)

35

Isaiah 30:1-3 (NIV) Last of 2

3. | Where is God in Abraham's decision  
making?

36

There is no mention of Abraham building an altar or calling out to God when he makes the decision to go to Egypt. Abraham makes a bad situation worse by not praying or seeking God's direction and help.

37

Detours are often costly: Abraham creates a mess which God rescues him from.

38

<sup>11</sup>As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are.

<sup>12</sup>When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live.

<sup>13</sup>Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.

Genesis 12:11-13 (NIV)

39

Genesis 12:11-13 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup>When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman.

<sup>15</sup>And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace.

<sup>16</sup>He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle,

Genesis 12:14-20 (NIV)

40

Genesis 12:14-20 (NIV) 1 of 3

Male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

<sup>17</sup>But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai.

<sup>18</sup>So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?"

Genesis 12:14-20 (NIV)

41

Genesis 12:14-20 (NIV) 2 of 3

He said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?"

<sup>19</sup>Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!"

<sup>20</sup>Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

Genesis 12:14-20 (NIV)

42

Genesis 12:14-20 (NIV) Last of 3

## WHAT DID ABRAHAM'S DETOUR COST HIM?

- It cost his fellowship with the Lord.
- It cost him his integrity.
- It cost him the trust of his wife.
- It cost him his witness with Pharaoh.
- It cost the example he set for his future sons.

43

<sup>14</sup>When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman.

<sup>15</sup>And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace.

Genesis 12:14-15 (NIV)

44

Genesis 12:14-15 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a famine in the land— besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar.

<sup>2</sup>The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live.

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV)

45

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV) 1 of 6

<sup>3</sup>Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.

<sup>4</sup>I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands,

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV)

46

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV) 2 of 6

And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,  
<sup>5</sup>because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.”  
<sup>6</sup>So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV)

47

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV) 3 of 6

<sup>7</sup>When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”

<sup>8</sup>When Isaac had been there a long time,

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV)

48

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV) 4 of 6

Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.

<sup>9</sup>So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?”

Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.”

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup>Then Abimelek said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.”

<sup>11</sup>So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: “Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

Genesis 26:1-11 (NIV)

What is the way out of the detour?

51

<sup>4</sup>Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

<sup>5</sup>Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV)

52

Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him.

<sup>2</sup>Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

<sup>3</sup>From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel,

Genesis 13:1-4 (NIV)

53

Genesis 13:1-4 (NIV) 1 of 2

To the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier

<sup>4</sup>and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 13:1-4 (NIV)

54

Genesis 13:1-4 (NIV) Last of 2

**ABRAHAM DOES THREE THINGS IN  
GETTING BACK ON TRACK WITH GOD:**

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- He recognized where he went wrong.
- He repented.
- He returned to Bethel and to God.

55



56

“You can't go back and  
change the beginning,  
but you can start  
where you are and  
change the ending.”

— C.S. Lewis

57

<sup>19</sup>Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your  
sins may be wiped out, that times of  
refreshing may come from the Lord,

Acts 3:19 (NIV)

58

Acts 3:19 (NIV)