

Hebrews 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Also read:

Genesis 12-15

Community Group Study 24 Jan 2010

Introduction

Abraham was called to a life of dependence on God. His moving out to the land God promised him required a complete change in family ties, social position, possessions, and comfort. He became an exile, a foreigner.

Abraham's response was one of faith – simply obeying God and going out to do what God had asked him to do, holding on confidently to God's promises, which had not yet come true.

Lot, who went with Abraham, is held in contrast. He follows Abraham because they are related, but when he has to choose his land, he chose what looked good to him.

We are this challenged to live a righteous life in the power of Jesus' victory over sin. We are asked to identify with God's world order, which makes us aliens in this world. We are inspired to tell the world that there is a saviour and God, who has built an eternal home for us.

Discussion

>>How does God help us to have faith and respond in faith?
>>What possible responses could Abraham have had to God's commands? What responses do we have when we don't know where God is leading us?
>>Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5. How is our body like a tent?

Explanation

>>What was Abraham's life like before he moved? What was it like after?
>>What does it mean to be an alien/foreigner/stranger?
>>How are we, as Christians, like Abraham?

Application

>>In what ways can we look forward to our heavenly city, whose designer and builder is God?
>>How can we hear more clearly what God is telling us to do?
>>Remind ourselves that we are like Abraham.