

# BY FAITH

## SEEING THE UNSEEN

### LIFE'S DETOURS

Genesis 12:10-20

*After reading the passage together, discuss the following questions:*

1. In verse 10, we are told that, soon after Abraham had obeyed God and traveled to Canaan, a severe famine occurred in the land. If you had been in Abraham's situation, would you have accepted the circumstances in faith, or would it have raised questions in your mind about God? Please explain.
2. Have you ever experienced a "life-detour" as Abraham did (that is, winding up in unwanted circumstances you didn't plan for or envision for yourself)? Describe that time in your life.
3. Abraham left Canaan for Egypt because of the famine (v. 10). Pastor Tom said that common sense is often a good guide to finding God's will for our lives. Some people would argue that Abraham should have stayed in Canaan where God had commanded him to go. What do you think? How should we go about finding God's will for our lives?
4. In this story, Abraham's faith fails under pressure. If he had trusted God fully, how would he have acted differently in the circumstances? Do you find it hard to trust God during difficult times? Please explain.
5. Despite Abraham's lack of faith, God stepped in to insure that His purposes for Abraham would be fulfilled (v. 17). In Romans 8:32, Paul tells us that God is equally committed to us today: "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?". Do you live in the comfort of this? Please explain. Describe a time when you were particularly aware of, and grateful for, God's grace and faithfulness to you.
6. How do you react to this quote from the poem "God Knows" by Minnie Louise Haskins?

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  
And he replied:  
"Go out into the darkness  
And put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light  
And safer than a known way."