

BY FAITH

SEEING THE UNSEEN

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

Genesis 12:1-9

After reading the passage together, discuss the following questions:

1. When we take a step of faith, we take a risk that only makes sense in the light of God's promise to be faithful. Our faith-step may be a life-changing moment, but it could be a relatively small incident, as well. Describe a time when you stepped out in faith.
2. If you were in Abraham and Sarah's situation, do you think you would have obeyed God's instruction to leave home and go to an unknown place as they did? How is God's call to each of us like and unlike Abraham and Sarah's call to "Leave all and go..."?
3. What joys have you experienced in your life of faith? What disappointments or challenges have you faced as you have tried to live by faith?
4. Hebrews 11:6 says: "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."
 - a. What does it mean to believe God "rewards those who earnestly seek him?"
 - b. Why is it so important to God that we believe this?
 - c. To what extent do you believe it?
5. To what extent are the promises to Abraham listed in verses 2-3 applicable to us?
6. Pastor Tom made the point that we inevitably act on what we believe, and that our faith is seen in what we actually act on. Is there any area where it is especially difficult for you to act on what you profess to believe (or are supposed to believe) as a Christian?
7. A step of faith can take many forms: Sharing our faith, giving time or money, taking on an assignment, standing against injustice, entering the "mess" of someone's life, and many more. But it always involves sacrificing our comfort in some way. How might God be calling you to take a step of faith, big or small, this week?

When you pray together, include the faith-steps you shared with one another in answer to question 7.