

Weekly Devotional

*Material taken from "The Story" curriculum by Randy Frazee and Max Lucado.

Session 2 – God Builds a Nation

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."
Genesis 17:7

Have you ever heard someone say, "The Lord works in mysterious ways?" This line is not from the Bible, but from the opening line of a hymn writing in the eighteenth century by William Cowper. Nonetheless, people still use it because, well, the Lord does work in mysterious ways. The story of the Bible contains all sorts of times that God uses surprising people:

- Who will speak for God? Moses....a man who hated public speaking.
- Who will lead God's people to military victory? Deborah....a woman who was not trained as a warrior.
- Who will be a disciple of Jesus? Matthew....a tax collector and a notorious sinner.
- Who will write half the books of the New Testament? Paul....a man who had destroyed churches and killed Christians.

Read Genesis ch:12:1-9, ch:13-14:1,11-20, ch:15:1-7, ch:16-18:1-15, ch:21:1-21, ch:22:1-18. ch 23:1-2,17-20, ch:25:5,7-8,19-34, ch 27-28:1-5, ch 29:13-30, ch 32:3-32, and ch 33-35 and think about these questions:

1. Who is a person in your life who has been a model of faith and love for God. How have you seen their life impact the lives of others and yours?
2. Abraham and Sarah were called by God and they followed him in faith. Can you recall a time God called you to take a step of faith. How did you respond and how did that step of faith turn out?
3. What step of faith is God calling you to take now, but you are still waiting or even resisting? What can you do to take a trust-filled step and move forward in this area of your life?

Closing Prayer:

As you take time to pray, here are some ideas to get you started:

- Pray for strength to make the next step of faith that God is calling you to take.
- Ask God to grow your patience so you can wait on his will in each area of your life.
- Thank God for the older people he has placed in your life who have been a model of faith for you.

Personal Action:

Abraham took what was most precious to him and surrendered it to God. He would not hold back even his own son. Make a list of five to ten things that mean a great deal to you. One by one, offer them to God. If it is a person, surrender that loved one to the Lord. If it is a material thing, let God know that he has full access to it. If it is a talent or ability, tell God you will use it for him. Take everything and freely offer it back to the One who gave you all you have.