

Sermon-Based Small Group Leader Guide

For the week of September 21, 2014

"Out"

Sermon Series: *From Here to There* (week 3 of 3)

Genesis 12:1-3

Getting Started

10 minutes

- 1) What was your favorite Dr. Seuss book (or other book) as a child?

Key Concept

God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to other people.

Into the Bible

20 minutes

Read Genesis 12:1-3

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² 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. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (NIV1984)

- 2) Abraham had to leave his comfortable surroundings to follow God. What might leaving one's comfort zone to follow God look like to you?
- 3) God did not tell Abraham where he was going, but he did tell Abraham that he would bless him. Why do you think this is important? Have you ever known anyone who felt God's leading and obeyed, without having all the answers up front?

Digging Deeper

40 minutes

- 4) Pastor Harrington stated that blessing people is central to God's plan on earth.
 - a. Do you think that most people believe God wants to bless them? Please explain.
 - b. How can the church more effectively communicate this message to people outside the church?
Alternately worded: What does Northwest do that conveys to the people in our neighborhood God's desire to bless them?
- 5) In order for us to be a blessing to other people, it is often necessary to recognize the ways that God has blessed us.
 - a. Do you find "counting your blessings" easy or difficult to do?
 - b. What habits have you formed to help you count your blessings?
 - c. How has "counting your blessings" helped you to be a blessing to others?
Alternately worded: When you feel God's blessings in your life, is it easier to live in obedience?

