

# Sermon-Based Small Group Preparation

For the week of September 21, 2014

**“Out”**

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

Genesis 12:1-3

» Please look over these questions *before* your Small Group meeting «

## 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

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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?
- 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?
- 6) Pastor Harrington stated that this sermon topic, “Out,” correlates to the “Serve” portion of our **Worship, Grow, Serve** church goal statement.
  - a. How do you serve God when you are a blessing to others?

## Sermon Notes

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Pastor Tom Harrington

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- b. This week, is there a way you would consider leaving your comfort zone to bless another person? Please share what that would look like in your life.
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- 7) Pastor Harrington pointed out that Jesus ministered to two main people groups: the poor or vulnerable, and those who were considered far from God.
    - a. How can you better express God’s love to people who are not seen as important in our culture today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. Has God placed on you a concern for a specific group of people or situation in today’s world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - c. Is there someone in your life who is far from God? What steps can you take to show God’s love to that person?

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**Group Prayer**

20 minutes