

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Genesis 12:1-9

Sunday, December 4, 2011

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion** and **Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

1. Have you ever had to move away from your homeland or father's home? How secure did you feel? How did your faith in God influence your move?

Some people move to different towns, states, or countries; some often, and some only a few times. The difference between where you move from to where you move to may make the move more or less exciting or difficult, especially if there is a marked difference in culture and language between where you move from and where you move to. The more uncertain you are about what you will experience when you move the more insecure you may feel. Sometimes God will influence you to move and other times, based upon the results of your move, He may show you that the move was made because He influenced you to move. Your move or your staying will have an effect on your future and the people you will meet and become acquainted with; perhaps make the difference in whom your children will meet and choose to marry.

2. Today, when you read about events that can create fear and uncertainty, how does your faith in God help you?

By faith I know that God created all things, including me. I know that God loves me. I know that God loves me, because I follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and I am a child of God, my heavenly Father. I know that nothing can separate me from the love of God and that the teaching in the Twenty-third Psalm is truth I can trust. Finally, I know that Jesus Christ has gone to heaven to prepare a place for me and when it is ready He will come and take me to where He is.

3. What are some of the things Abram did to strengthen his faith in God? What are some of the things you can do to strengthen your faith in God?

Usually, wherever Abram went he built an altar to worship God instead of the idols that the people worshiped where he went. We have no evidence that he ever worshiped a false god. He always obeyed God immediately when he knew what God wanted him to do. It seems that he did not build an altar in Egypt or consult God before he decided to travel to Egypt; that may be the reason he made some wrong choices in Egypt.

We need to worship the true God and study the Bible with the decision to trust and obey everything that God teaches us in the Bible as led by the Holy Spirit. Through obedience, study, prayer, and worship God can strengthen our faith in every experience.

4. Abram moved a lot of times in the Promised Land. How can moving often have an effect on people?

They might feel they have never had a settled home. They may feel they do not know where to call home. It seems that Abram never looked back or regretted his move to Canaan, as did most of the Hebrews immediately after they left Egypt with Moses (and they suffered in the wilderness for their disobedience). If people believe in God, they may feel that their true home is where God is and being with His people. Some feel that their church is their home, and those in the church are their family. Some move and immediately seek a good church home to feel at home. Some may feel that someday they will feel at home, but perhaps not before they get to heaven and the place Jesus has prepared for them.

5. Have you ever thought that God wanted you to move? What did you do? What was the result of what you did?

God may give someone the sense that they need to change jobs and move, or go back to their old home (perhaps to care for an ill loved-one). Some may have chosen to stay where they were, even though they had a sense that they needed to move. What happened? Looking back, do some think they should have moved or that staying where they were was the right or best thing to do? Were situations better or worse after moving or choosing not to move? After a move, looking back, do you think God influenced you to move at the right time? Perhaps God influenced you to move before your company closed later on, and your move protected you from being unemployed, though you did not know it at the time.

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