

## Fall Sunday School Preview

Genesis 12:1-9

September 11, 2022; 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Rev. Becky Durham, Teacher

### Opening Prayer

A candle is lit to recognize God's presence here with us and the illumination of God's Word among us.

**Warm Up Questions:** Have you ever felt like you were chosen by God for a particular role or task?

The word "Genesis" means "beginning." And it is a book full of beginnings.

- Beginning of the world
- Beginning of God's covenant family
- Beginning of the Holy Writings known as Torah
- Beginning of a sacred story of several world religions
- Beginning of the Loving God's story of salvation and redemption
- Beginning of the story of our faith

### Read Genesis 11:27-32 (The Genealogy of Abram and Lot)

Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran was the father of Lot. <sup>28</sup> Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. <sup>29</sup> Abram and Nahor took wives; the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. <sup>30</sup> Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

<sup>31</sup> Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. <sup>32</sup> The days of Terah were two hundred five years, and Terah died in Haran.

### About Ur of the Chaldeans:

Ur is generally identified with modern Tell Muqayyar in southern Iraq.

<https://www.christianstudylibrary.org/article/ur-chaldeans>

Chief god: the moon god Nanna

Ur had a pantheon of other gods that were worshiped—including by Abram and his family before God called him. (Josh 24:2)

## **Read: Genesis 12:1-9**

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

1. What do you notice about this passage?
2. What seems meaningful about God’s words to Abram in 12:1-3?
3. How do you hear the passage differently after learning a little bit about what life was probably like in Ur?
4. What do you imagine it was like for Abram and family to follow God out of Ur and Haran?
5. How has your own experience of following God been similar or different?

*This Fall, we will be following the story of Abram’s family in Genesis 12-50. The studies will be inductive (observe–interpret–apply) with lots of room for us to dwell in the Word together and learn from one another’s observations.*

## **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

## **Closing Prayer**

