

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup>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>And 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 him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- Genesis 12:1-3 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

"I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with (the perfect hearer died a year ago)."

- C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms: A Word About Praising* (p. 111)

<sup>1</sup>Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!

<sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,  
life forevermore.

- Psalm 133 (English Standard Version)

# Sermon Outline

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow...** *The Life of Blessing*  
Genesis 12:1-3 Brad Anderson

*All blessings flow from the God who has intervened on behalf of his creation...*  
(Genesis 12:1-3)

**How is God's blessing on behalf of his creation seen through Abram?**

**His blessing is for Abram...** (Genesis 12:1-3)

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**His blessing is for Abram's family...** (Genesis 12:1-3)

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**His blessing is for all the families of the earth...** (Genesis 12:1-3)

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**Reflection Questions** (taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- Why is it difficult to contain a blessing? Why does sharing a blessing, something that has touched you deeply, seem to complete the joy of the blessing itself? What does this dynamic reveal about the God from whom all blessings flow?
- We are living in a time that will not be soon forgotten. How do you think that you will describe this time to your friends and descendants in future times?
- How does Genesis 12:1-3 read to you when compared to the first 11 chapters of Genesis? What stands out about the way God intervenes on behalf of his creation? What is ironic about God's promise to make Abram's name great (Genesis 12:2) in light of the sin at the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:4? What are some other contrasts you see between the call of Abram and the Tower of Babel?
- What are the ways that God promises to bless Abram in Genesis 12:1-3?
- What blessings have you received during this season of quarantine? Has loss made you a more thankful person? Why or why not?
- How have you been a blessing to those around you? How has God enabled that to be the case?