

**Sermon: God Builds A Nation Through A Friend**

– Genesis 12:1-4, James 2:22-23, John 13:13-15

*If we know what it means to be a friend of God, we can have faith to obey our calling. Abraham shows us the way!*

**I. “He Was Called A Friend Of God”** – James 2:22-24His **faith** in this friendship meant he **trusted** GodHis **works** in this friendship meant he **obeyed** GodA great friendship is anchored to **great love!** - John 15:13-15**II. A Relationship Built On Faith & Promises** – Genesis 12:1-4**A. God’s first call to faith** – “GO leave your world behind and follow me!”

Then God gives Abram three personal promises:

1. “I will make you a great nation” meaning God designs our purpose
2. “I will bless you” – meaning God gives us favor and help as we follow him.
3. “I will make your name great” – meaning God gives us our significance, we do not strive to make our own.

**B. God’s second call to faith** – “BE a blessing!”

Then God gives Abram three missional promises:

1. “I will bless those who bless you”
2. “I will curse him who dishonors you”
3. “In you all families of the earth shall be blessed”
  - Hebrews 11:8

**III. Journeys Of Faith Get Tested And Grow** –(Genesis 12-22)

- A. Abram worships while he wanders in a time of famine and a country he does not know.
- B. Sarai tries to help God by proposing a different solution – (Genesis 16)
- C. God chooses unlikely people for an impossible mission
- D. Abram and Saria’s names are changed and they are promised their own child – (Genesis 17-18)
  - Genesis 17:5-6, 15-16
- E. God asks Abraham to sacrifice his own son –(Genesis 22)
  - Genesis 22:1-2, 11-14

**IV. God Has An Upper Story**

- Hebrews 11:17-19, Romans 4:18-20, John 3:16; 15:15