## In Transit—Abraham Study Questions Genesis 11:31, 12:1-3, 15:1-21

## Warm-up

1) What's a promise a person made that you never expected they would keep? Why didn't you trust them, and what ended up happening?

What's a promise a person made that you trusted they would keep? Why did you trust them, and what happened?

## A little deeper

- 2) [Genesis 11:31, 12:1-3] God told Abram at the age of 75 (Genesis 12:4) to leave prosperous Ur and head west (...ish). God told Abram his big-picture plan to bless him and eventually all peoples on earth, but no details. How often have you seen a friend or relative decide to follow God and make a big lifechanging decision that goes against conventional wisdom? How has God been working through their lives?
- 3) [Genesis 15:1-8] Prior to this chapter, Abram traveled for a while and found a nice place to settle. His nephew Lot settled elsewhere. When Lot's city was attacked, Lot was taken as a captive. Abram and those in his household rescued Lot. Now God reminds Abram of His promise, but Abram is having doubts. Is Abram right to express doubt? Why or why not?

  What else can lead to doubt, even concerning things we have had strong faith in for a long time?

4) [Genesis 15:9-21] To answer Abram's doubt, God made a covenant with him that emphasized the one-way nature of the vow—He put Abram to sleep so he couldn't pass between the pieces of the sacrifices (as would have been the custom for a 2-party covenant—"may I be cut to pieces like these sacrifices if I don't hold up my end of the agreement."). Abram didn't have any significant responsibility in this covenant, but instead this was all God's plan and God's responsibility. When else did God make a covenant?

Why do you think God chose these promises to be given so much more weight than the rest of the promises He has made?

## **Bringing it home**

- 5) What has God done that has earned your trust? Has this trust allowed you to stretch your faith when God asked something new of you? What happened?
- 6) We each have different ways in which our faith is stronger or weaker at different times. When have doubts crept up and made your faith walk more difficult? What has helped restore your faith when doubts arose?
- 7) Take a moment to consider the "long-view" of what God could do with your life if you were completely faithful. How might generations of people be impacted by the faithful choices you're making now?