

## Meditations for your week

What does it mean to me to know that I am chosen by God? What privileges are connected to that honor? What responsibilities are connected to my election? What choices do I need to make in response? Who else has been chosen?

What has God done to come and get me before I decided to receive Him? What happens when I forget that it didn't start with me? What happens if I expect God to do all the work? What are some of God's promises that inspire me most?

How can God work through me to pursue other people? What happens when I fail to live up to my calling? How does it change how I view myself to know that I am God's blessing and message to the world? Who is watching me?

Because I have been chosen, how does that affect how I listen to God and speak to God and spend time with Him? How can my calling as a Christian lead to a deep relationship with God? In what ways has God tried to draw close to me?



Sermon Notes  
January 24, 2021

*"For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you." —1 Thessalonians 1:4*

### Election – Genesis 12-18

Paul, looking through the lens of Jesus,

sees the defining event of the Old Testament

as the election of and promise to Abraham.

What does God display in His choosing of Abraham?

God takes the initiative of grace.

He is interested in the whole world.

He reveals Himself fully to His friend.

Jesus calls us.

He acts first.

He works through us.

He reveals himself fully to his friends.

# Group Discussion Questions

## Open

When you were young, what did people say you were going to become when you grew up? How accurate was their prediction? How did those predictions affect your plans and your passion?

## Dig and Reflect

1. Read Genesis 12. Why does God choose Abram? What are all the implications for Abram when God tells him to go? How does Abram respond? What does Abram's response say about him?
2. What all does God promise Abram? What would happen if part of the promise concerning nation and land was enjoyed to the neglect of the other part concerning the world? How are those promises similar to those made to us, and how have we enjoyed some promises to the neglect of others?
3. What is the significance of building altars? What are ways that we can build reminders or sacred places or markers of renewed commitment?
4. Why does the story of verses 10-20 follow right after Abram's calling? What does the story say about Abram? What does it say about God? What happens when we live unworthily of our calling?
5. What are evidences of your calling by God? How specific is God's calling? How would you define your calling in terms of both what God has done for you and what God wants to do through you?