



Just Step Out

Exploring the Wild Frontier of Faith

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 2 • 1/20/19

First Impressions

Genesis 12:1-8

Introduction: Your first impression of someone often sets the groundwork for all future interactions with them.

What did Abram learn about God in that First Encounter?

⇒ God likes to RECRUIT.

But what does that mean?

- God always takes the INITIATIVE.
- God doesn't FORCE you to choose Him.

But, why? God wants PARTNERS, not SLAVES.

⇒ God thinks He is in CHARGE.

How can we tell?

- God makes EXTREME DEMANDS.
- God makes EXTREME PROMISES.

⇒ God focuses on the FUTURE.

But, why? God wants us to TRUST Him.

Conclusion: Abram was impressed enough by what he learned about God to make the decision to step out in wild, reckless faith. How about you? You ready?

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS LIFE GROUPS



Debrief Plan: 1/20/2019

Icebreakers:

1. What was your first impression of your spouse or best friend? Did it turn out to be true?
2. Who is someone that you've never met that you perceive to be trustworthy? What is it about that person that makes you feel they are trustworthy?

Sermon Summary: You can't trust someone enough to step out in faith unless you know a little bit about who they are. That's why God revealed himself to Abram (and to us) as the God who likes to recruit us to His team, who is clearly in charge, and who focuses on the future.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the first thing you remember learning about God? Has that impression of God stuck with you throughout your life?
- * **God Likes to Recruit**
2. Can you think of any biblical examples of the idea that God is the one who takes the initiative, not us?
 3. Have you ever wished God would leave you alone? What was going on in your life at the time?
 4. If you had all of God's wisdom and power, how tempting would it be for you to force humans to do the right thing (scale of 1-10)? Explain your answer.
 5. Are you glad that God has given you the freedom to choose Him (or not)? Would life be easier without that freedom?

* **God Thinks He is in Charge**

6. How can the realization that God is in charge be an encouraging thing? Can it be scary sometimes? If so, why?

* **God Focuses on the Future**

7. Why doesn't God give proof of His existence **before** you commit to trust Him?
8. What is a risk you've had to take during your faith-relationship with God?
9. What's something in your "present" that you are trusting God to fix or repair or heal sometime in the future?

Prayer Prompters: (*Consider splitting into small groups of 2 or 4 to pray!*)

-Take the time to praise God for who He has revealed Himself to be in this passage, even if it makes you uncomfortable.

-Ask God for the patience to wait for the fixing/repairing/healing you need!