

ROADTRIP BEWARE...HAZARDS AHEAD

GENESIS 12:9-20

1. FOLLOWING GOD IN FAITH DOES NOT MEAN LIFE IS GOING TO BE EASY.

DISCUSSION: Where in your relationship with God do you still expect that following God will mean that life is going to be easy? What is your typical and initial reaction when you are faced with trials?

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering... 1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT

Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev. At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. Genesis 12:9-10 NLT

2. WHEN DIFFICULTIES COME, WE MUST FOCUS ON TRUSTING GOD RATHER THAN TRYING TO FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THE TRIAL GOD HAS ALLOWED IN OUR LIVES.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us... Romans 5:3-5 NLT

As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him; then we can have her!' So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you." And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone spoke of Sarai's beauty. When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into his palace. Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. Genesis 12:11-16 NLT

DISCUSSION: When you typically experience a trial of some sort, what is your approach to looking at and understanding the transformation that God is attempting to do in your life?

DISCUSSION: Do you really believe that you will truly become stronger and build character through trials? Why or why not? Do you think God really has your best interest in mind? If so, why are you trying to get out of circumstances that could promote growth in your life?

DISCUSSION: Where in your life are you overlooking your need for God? In what way has God brought or tried to bring it to your attention? How are you trying to cover your need for transformation?

DISCUSSION: What is one trial (small or large) you are currently going through? What do you think is something God possibly wants to teach you through this? How are you allowing God to transform you instead of fixing your problems and to become more like Him?

3. WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON GOD TO BE FAITHFUL IN A CRISIS, EVEN WHEN WE ARE NOT.

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is. 2 Timothy 2:13 NLT

But the LORD sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife. So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. "What have you done to me?" he demanded. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!" Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions. Genesis 12:17-20 NLT

DISCUSSION: Can you recall a time when God was faithful to you even when you were unfaithful to Him?

PRAYER PROJECT: Take 5-7 minutes and think back to a time when you went through a trial of some kind AND where your focus was on getting out of the circumstance instead of trusting God and allowing Him to transform you. As you reflect back upon that time ask God if there was a lesson or gift from Him that you may have missed. What happened and what did you learn from it? Discuss it with your group.