

# THE MISSIONARY HEART OF GOD

## The Missionary Heart of God

### Key idea:

We become the most like Jesus when we join the missionary heart of God to move out, into the unknown, to be a blessing to Bay Ridge and beyond.

### Key text:

Genesis 11:27-12:3 (ESV)

“Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran. Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.””

### Key points:

1. God's sovereign call can change everything, even in seemingly hopeless situations.
2. We become most like Jesus when we join God's missionary heart to bless others.
3. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham to bless all nations.
4. Our mission is to be the "fragrance of Christ" to those around us.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. The sermon discussed "Terah's tragedy" in Genesis 11. How does understanding the context of hopelessness make God's call to Abram more significant?
2. Reflect on the phrase "Move out into the unknown to be a blessing." What emotions or thoughts does this stir in you? What might be holding you back from embracing this call?
3. The speaker mentioned the concept of "divine shoehorns." Can you share an experience where God used unexpected circumstances to move you in a new direction?
4. How does understanding Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham change your perspective on your own role in God's mission?
5. The sermon emphasized that this is not primarily a story about Abraham's faithfulness, but God's faithfulness. How does this shift in focus impact your view of your own spiritual journey?
6. Discuss the concept of being "blessed to be a blessing." How might this change the way you view the blessings in your life?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Identify: Take a few minutes to write down the names of 4-5 people in your life who don't know Jesus. Share with the group if you're comfortable.
2. Pray: Commit to praying for these individuals daily for the next week.
3. Invite: Choose one person from your list to invite for a meal or coffee in the next two weeks. Focus on listening to their story.
4. Share: Discuss as a group how you might take a "bold move" to explicitly share about Jesus with someone in your life.
5. Reflect: Throughout the week, meditate on 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. How can you be the "aroma of Christ" in your daily interactions?