



## Road Trip - Part 1 Sermon Discussion Notes

### Opening Thought

A road trip is when we leave where we are and go to a different place - a trip is about movement - moving from where we are to a different place - to a better place. Another word for a road trip would be a journey. We are all on a journey in life. We can travel physically to a different place – we can also travel emotionally. When we speak of going on a journey - leaving where we are and going to a different, more desirous place - this can mean going to a better place emotionally in our marriage, relationships or in our attitude. Ultimately where we are is not where we have to stay.

*"I will go anywhere as long as it is forward."  
David Livingston, Missionary and Explorer*

### Primary Scriptures

#### Genesis 12:1

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. NIV (See also Genesis 11:27-32)

#### Acts 7:2-3

2 To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. 3'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.' NIV

#### Joshua 24:2-4

2 Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods. 3 But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, 4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. NIV

#### Hebrews 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. NIV

## Discussion Questions

1. God is committed to our spiritual progress. He is taking us from where we are now to the place where he wants us to ultimately be. Where we are is not where we will always be spiritually. What is the promise found in this verse that is so comforting - how does it apply to your life?

*Philippians 1:3-6* 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. NIV

2. According to Joshua 24:2-4 what were the religious and spiritual beliefs of Abram's father Terah and their family?
3. Where was Abram (later called Abraham) when God initially called him and spoke to him? What was his core set of beliefs before he came to faith in the true God? On a scale of 0 - 10 (with 0 = no faith and 10 = perfect faith) where was Abram when God first appeared to him?
4. Discuss how Abraham's encounter with God is an example of how God meets us where we are spiritually and with our lack of faith in him. How does Paul's conversion in Acts 9 also illustrate how a person who does not believe can receive a transformation by an authentic encounter with the Lord?

*Acts 9:3-6* 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." NIV

5. Abram had not turned toward God in his heart when the Lord first appeared to him. Discuss from these scriptures how repentance and coming to faith is like turning to God. (*Acts 3:19, Acts 20:20-21, Acts 26:19-21*)
6. Abraham was called to leave Ur, a very modern city with lots of comfort, that had a population estimated around 360,000 people to go to an unknown land. Why do you think God called Abraham to leave his home city and family connections? Why did Paul also have to go into seclusion for about 3 years to have his new faith established? *Galatians 1:15-17*
7. Discuss this principle "new growth necessitates a new environment." Why is Christian fellowship paramount to further growth spiritually? *Hebrews 10:25*

## Final Thought

Abraham started his journey not knowing where he was going but that was fine - because God knew where he was taking him.