

Genesis 12

Opening Question: *What is one pretty big lie that you have told either others or yourself?*

Tell them: This week we looked at Genesis 12. If you remember, it was about Abram and Sarai entering Egypt and meeting Pharaoh. (Read this passage below if you feel the need. If not, then continue on with the questions)

Does anyone remember the story from Genesis 12:10-20?

*“There was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to stay for a while because the famine was severe. As he approached Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “Look, I know that you are a beautiful woman. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will keep you alive. So, tell them you are my sister so that it may go well for me because of you and my life will be spared on account of you.” When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. When Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. So, Abram’s wife was taken into the household of Pharaoh, and he did treat Abram well on account of her. Abram received sheep and cattle, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. But the Lord **struck Pharaoh and his household with severe diseases** because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. So, Pharaoh summoned Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why didn’t you tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her to be my wife? Here is your wife! Take her and go!” Pharaoh gave his men orders about Abram, and so they expelled him, along with his wife and all his possessions.”*
(Genesis 12:10–20)

Tell them: Pastor Michael asked us, “What do we learn about God and humanity from this story?” He gave us 5 things. Let’s talk about those for a minute.

1. **God seeks out people to bless** – **Tell them:** We see this in the story of creation and again in the story of Abram. **Ask them:** *What blessing does God offer Abram in Genesis 12:2-3? What blessings does God offer you?*
2. **Ask them:** *Do you remember what Pastor Michael said God’s purpose in blessing us is? **To help others and bring him glory.*** **Ask them:** *Do you remember what the purpose of Abram’s blessing was? For his descendants to be God’s chosen people. Ask them: How are we as gentiles blessed through Abraham? “in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we could receive the promise of the Spirit by faith.” (Galatians 3:14)*
3. **Our mistakes plague our blessing and other people.** *Do you remember how Abram’s mistake plagued Pharaoh? Pharaoh’s house was struck with ‘severe disease.’ (12:17) Ask them: Have you ever been plagued by someone else’s mistakes, or been a plague on others because of yours?*
4. **God is gracious enough to redeem our mistakes and give us new hope.** **Ask them:** *In what way have you seen God redeem your mistakes and give you hope?*
5. **Ask them:** *Do you remember what Pastor Michael said was God’s purpose for our mistakes? To help others and to bring him glory. Tell them: Pastor Michael read 1 Corinthians 11:10. “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.” Ask them: Does anyone remember what “these things” that happened were? (It’s referring to the mistakes the Israelites made in the desert, which caused an entire generation to die in the desert instead of making it to the*

promised land.) Ask them: So, what do we see was the purpose of their mistakes in the desert?

Tell them: Pastor Michael said, “Asking yourself hard questions can make a mess, like brushing the algae off the walls of the swimming pool, but if we don’t regularly brush the sides of the pool we are going to have a problem.” So let’s brush the pool of our lives, shall we? Who’s ready?

Ask them: *Why do we lie?* (Below is the list Pastor Michael gave.)

1. We want people to think better about us.
2. We want something that’s not ours.
3. We think we have to be our own savior.
4. We lie to protect our reputation.
5. We lie to save our hopes in our future.
6. We forget God’s promises.

Tell them: God is looking to make our mistakes valuable tools in the lives of those around us. James 5:16 says, “*So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness.*”

Tell them: Pastor Michael said, “These are shortcuts around the reality that God is in control.”

Ask them: *What lie in your life is your shortcut to gaining control?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that we participate in our restoration by showing others how good God is. You don’t need to lie to protect yourself because you have God’s protection. You don’t need to lie to have others think better of you because God truly knows you and loves you anyway. Remember, the Christian life is not about our perfection but our failure and His perfection.

Ask them: Can you think of anyone who could benefit from your being transparent about the mistakes of your past? If they have been redeemed by God, then use them for His glory and share them as a witness to His grace.

Tweetable Quotes:

1. God's purpose for our mistakes is to help others and to bring him glory.
2. Clouding our lives with confessed sin is the first step in purifying the waters of our lives.
3. "What interest me so much about the characters of the Bible is that they make mistakes, but God uses them anyway, in important ways. Nobody's perfect, but God can even use our imperfections." - Fred Rogers