

Genesis Series

*Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young. Henry Ford*

*A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel. Proverbs 1:5*

*Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. Philippians 3:17*

**A. LIKE ABRAHAM - GODLINESS PAYS - SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM. 12:1-4; 14:17-24**

**God's Promises to Abraham** - Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3), Land, Seed, & Blessing.

**God's Spiritual Superior to Abraham - Melchizedek** - (Name means *King of Righteousness*)

He was the Godly King and Priest of Salem (Jerusalem)

Abraham paid tithes of the spoils of war to this priest and was blessed by him. Heb.7:6,7

Hebrews 5:6-11; 6:20-7:28 Jesus is a Priest after the Order of Melchizedek. Jesus was from the line of Judah (King's tribe), not Levi (the Priest's tribe 7:14). Two Orders of Priests - Melchizedek & Levi. (Little know about Melchizedek - see the web - *Got Questions*, "Who was Melchizedek")

**God's Promises to Believers** - Eternal Salvation, Holy Spirit indwelling, Peace, Joy, Love, Hope.

**Godliness** - (short version) Salvation through Jesus, Devotion in Action, Life Focused on God. Jerry Bridges

Titus 1:1 What leads to Godliness? - Knowledge of the Truth

Titus 2:11-12 What is the Christian's responsibility? Renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and live self-controlled upright and godly lives in the present age.

2 Peter 3:10-12 How do we compare Godliness with this life? It all gets burned up eventually.

**B. LIKE ABRAHAM - WHEN POSSIBLE, BE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS, EVEN IF IT COSTS. 12:5-13**

To stop the strife, Abraham let his nephew, Lot, have his choice of the best land.

Lot looked to short term gain, but missed the utter devastation his decision would bring.

Lot looked at the opportunities for growth without seeing the opposition to his faith.

1 Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."*

**How is our life affected by the emptiness of media, the influence of questionable friends, and the need to be accepted by those who defy the Living God?**

### C. FIND AN ABRAHAM FOR YOUR LIFE - A MENTOR WHO CAN RESCUE YOU FROM BAD DECISIONS OR HELP YOU AVOID THEM. 14:1-16

Lot had a Godly uncle who exhibited the leadership and care Lot needed.

**Abraham** - courage, committed, competent, character.

**Teachers/Mentors** - Moses for Joshua, Samuel for David, Elijah for Elisha, Jesus for the 12, Paul for Timothy, Titus, Luke, Silas, & more.

**Every Believer's Goal** - 2 Timothy 2:15 *Do your best to **present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.***

No one does this alone. We need others to teach, disciple, counsel, and correct us along the way.

**Who are your teachers / mentors? We have many here at First Baptist who could be this.**

### D. BE AN ABRAHAM FOR OTHERS - MANY NEED WHAT MATURING BELIEVERS CAN OFFER

Matthew 28:19,20 ... *Make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...*

2 Timothy 2:2 *And what you have heard from me ... entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

*It is better to train ten people than to do the work of ten people. But it is harder. D. L. Moody*

**Mentor** - a trusted advisor. Each situation may be different, be interested in the person, be slow to give advice, ask questions, let them know of your mistakes (you're not perfect), celebrate their achievements, share resources (people, ideas, classes), lead by example. <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/mentor-tips-positive-impact>

**Discipler** - (all of the above for Mentor but more.) Requires the Discipler to be a growing Christian. Goal is spiritual maturity for the Disciple. Requires time, prayer, counsel. Focus on becoming like Christ, learning and practicing the spiritual disciplines, dealing with relationships & weaknesses in disciple's life.

Study how Jesus worked with the 12. He taught them and then let them practice. They shared their successes and failures and then He taught them again. After only three years, those 12 men (including Paul) became the foundation of the Church, Ephesians 2:20.

**At the close of life, the question will not be,**

"How much have you gotten?" but "How much have you given?"

Not "How much have you won?" but "How much have you done?"

Not "How much have you saved?" but "How much have you sacrificed?"

It will be "How much have you loved and served," not "How much were you honored?" Nathan C. Schaeffer.