

SCC Small Group Discussion & Outline

Letting Go of Expectations – Genesis 12:1-4a

Derived from a sermon on February 15, 2026 by Rick Dietzman, Associate Pastor

Getting Started:

Recall a time when your life was disrupted with a new opportunity. What were some of the motivations that led you to step out into a new direction instead of keeping things the same?

Searching the Scriptures:

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.” Genesis 12:1–4a.

A. God loves to realign our expectations

1. What do you think was exciting about this call from God? What might have given Abraham pause?

B. We obey, trusting God to show what’s next

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. Hebrews 11:8

2. With God, what kind of rewards await those who obey without knowing all the details?

C. We learn to let go of self-reliance

Sarah said to Abram, “The LORD has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.” And Abram agreed with Sarah’s proposal. Genesis 16:2

3. How did Abraham and Sarah try to “help” fulfill the promise? What was the result?
4. How would you advise someone who is tempted to take shortcuts when their expectations are not met?

D. We embrace a fulfillment that looks different and takes longer

Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. Romans 4:18 (also see Genesis 21:6-7)

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him... Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. Hebrews 11:17-19

Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. Romans 4:20-22

5. God tested Abraham in various ways, making him wait twenty-five years for a Sarah to give birth, and then later asking him to give up his son Isaac as a sacrifice. What do these passages show about that Abraham learned in the process?

E. We realize God's purpose is bigger than us

And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents... Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. Hebrews 11:9-10

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:8-9

6. When you think about these verses together, how does it challenge the way you view your own life, plans, and expectations? How is God inviting you to see that his purposes for you are part of something much bigger than you imagined?"

F. Confidence comes from trusting God's outcomes.

Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. Romans 5:2

We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28

Personal Application:

What's an area of your life where you are gaining confidence to give up your expectations and leave the fulfillment to God?

Get discussion questions in word format & link to Bible App plan for this week at www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads