



MEET ME IN THE BIBLE

THE STORY OF  
ABRAHAM

AN 8-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

COLLEEN D. SEARCY

*Foreword by Jen Wilkin*

“Simple and straightforward, Meet Me in the Bible is a wonderful resource to gain foundational skills in studying the Bible. If you want to feel confident in mining Scripture for God’s truths and applying it to your life, this is an incredible guide.”

**Laura Wifler**, Cofounder, Risen Motherhood; coauthor, *Risen Motherhood: Gospel Hope for Everyday Moments*

“I was greeted by the bright smile of Colleen Searcy over thirty years ago when I walked into a youth group in West Texas as a freckle-faced, curly headed, unbelieving teenager. Over the last three decades, I have watched Colleen cling to God’s word, teach God’s word, sing God’s word, and live God’s word. If you are looking to *meet* God in the Scriptures, I can think of no better guide than my friend Colleen. She will help you taste and see that the Lord is good!”

**Shane Barnard**, singer-songwriter, Shane and Shane

“Colleen Searcy is one of my favorite Bible teachers. You will sense her open-armed ministry within the framework of her Meet Me in the Bible series, in which she’s thoughtfully prepared a table for women to feast on God’s word. Whether you are an individual hungry to know God more, a small group desiring an accessible way to study together, or a women’s ministry leader looking for a foundational resource for your teaching team, the Meet Me in the Bible series is a trustworthy guide.”

**Caroline Saunders**, author, *Come Home: Tracing God’s Promise of Home through Scripture*

“I’ve benefited from Colleen’s wisdom, teaching, and partnership in ministry for a number of years. She is a gifted Bible teacher who uses her skills to invite others into biblical literacy. In the Meet Me in the Bible series, she provides what few studies do—an opportunity for women to gather for both in-person teaching and discussion. You will be equipped to not only study for yourself but also cultivate teaching gifts in the lives of the women in your church. I can’t wait to recommend this to my ministry friends.”

**Courtney Reissig**, author, *Teach Me to Feel: Worshiping through the Psalms in Every Season of Life*

“As the CEO of a worldwide mission agency, I highly recommend Colleen Searcy’s Meet Me in the Bible series for anyone interested in going deeper in their study of the Bible. Colleen uses a structured approach with guiding prompts that are fully interactive and enhance your reflection on Scripture. These books are helpful resources for pursuing individual study or leading a Bible study group, and these studies are culturally relevant for all groups of people. Meet Me in the Bible is an excellent and well-rounded framework that can make studying the Bible a more engaging and enriching experience for anyone.”

**Kurt Nelson**, CEO, East-West Ministries

“I have seen firsthand the fruit of Meet Me in the Bible. Colleen’s accessible framework for studying the Scripture has had a large and lasting impact on our church. Many in our congregation are still reaping the benefits of her investment in our women’s ministry. If you are a seasoned student of the Scripture or are just getting started, Meet Me in the Bible will launch you into a greater exploration of the Bible and a deeper enjoyment of the God it reveals.”

**JR Vassar**, Lead Pastor, Church at the Cross, Grapevine, Texas; author,  
*Glory Hunger*

THE STORY OF  
ABRAHAM

## **Meet Me in the Bible Studies**

Colossians and Philemon

The Story of Abraham

MEET ME IN THE BIBLE

THE STORY OF  
ABRAHAM

AN 8-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

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## FOREWORD

For the past twenty-five years, my primary place of ministry has been the local church, and my primary aim has been to build Bible literacy among women. So, naturally, any time I'm asked to endorse a resource, I ask myself how it will serve that context. That's why I'm particularly excited to bring to your attention the Meet Me in the Bible series.

When evaluating a resource, I hold two important questions in view: (1) Is this from a trustworthy voice? and (2) Does this challenge those who use it to grow in their ability to read and understand the Scriptures? I want to help answer both of those questions for you as you consider how the Meet Me in the Bible series might help you personally, or those you serve in your church.

In terms of the trustworthiness of the author, I can speak with confidence that Colleen Searcy is an excellent guide. I first met Colleen in 2008, about a year after moving to Dallas and joining a new church. I was looking for other women in the church who shared my desire to see women equipped with solid discipleship opportunities. Colleen and I went to coffee, and I knew I had found a like-minded partner. Since that time, we have together taught, written curriculum, led teams, and prayed—all from that desire to see God's daughters grounded in the Scriptures. Colleen is not only theologically and biblically solid; she is a gifted teacher, humble and kind, and a faithful friend.

In terms of the usefulness of the resource, Meet Me in the Bible so closely aligns with my own philosophy of teaching that I can recommend it eagerly. It's a brilliant combination of a Scripture journal and a guide for growing in Bible literacy. It encourages the user to practice the time-tested method of "observe, interpret, apply" in a way that allows understanding to grow gradually. It presses us to be active learners rather than passive consumers, not rushing to commentaries, but sitting with the text, patiently waiting for our own understanding to begin to emerge. For those who know my method and Bible studies, Meet Me in the Bible will feel familiar in the best ways.

It is a streamlined approach suitable for personal study as well as an excellent foundation for group discussion and teaching environments.

The skills taught in each Meet Me in the Bible study will help you understand a particular book of the Bible better. But they will also help you understand *any* book of the Bible better as you grow in your ability to use those skills. And because application focuses on relationship—with God, self, and others—these skills will help you to live and love like a Christ follower.

So it is my pleasure to commend to you both a trusted guide and a trustworthy resource. My guess is that if you had come to coffee with Colleen and me on that day some years ago, you would have shared our excitement to see women growing in their love of the Scriptures and of the God they proclaim. What we want for you is to be able to serve your local church, whether in a classroom or a living room, with good tools and the confidence to use them. My prayer is that you would take what Colleen has created and combine it with an invitation to the women God has placed in your sphere of influence—a simple invitation: Meet me in the Bible! No sweeter fellowship is found than in that meeting place. May your time spent there yield the richest of treasures.

JEN WILKIN

Bible teacher; author, *Women of the Word*;  
*None Like Him*; and *In His Image*

# MEET ME IN THE BIBLE

## A Simple Framework for Reading the Bible and Enjoying God

God delights in revealing himself, and one of the primary ways he reveals himself is through the Bible. My deep desire is for people to know and enjoy God through the study of his word. I want people with all kinds of personalities and learning styles to grow in confidence that they can read and study their Bibles. This framework of Bible study was designed to provide helpful structure and a lot of freedom for the studier.

### **The *Why* behind Meet Me in the Bible**

Meet Me in the Bible is a simple, five-step framework designed to help you read your Bible. It is not a fill-in-the-blank study. After numerous conversations with women over many years of ministry, I've found that countless women do Bible studies, yet few feel confident opening the Bible and reading it on their own. And although many women desire to lead a Bible study, few feel equipped to do so. Meet Me in the Bible offers a method to help you do both.

### **How to Use Meet Me in the Bible**

This framework was designed for either individual or group Bible study, and it incorporates the time-tested stages of Bible reading: observation, interpretation, and application. Prompts are provided on your bookmark to help you observe, interpret, and apply the Scriptures. You will also be prompted to use simple and accessible tools as you study. You will grow in confidence and find your pace as you practice observing, interpreting, and applying the Scriptures again and again. You can use this framework to study any book of the Bible.

### *For Group Study*

If you are doing this study as part of a group, you will want to complete each lesson before you meet. Each lesson is divided into five doable steps rather

than five assigned days, to allow flexibility. You can work through one step each day or the whole lesson in one sitting. Find the pace that works best for you. No matter how much of the lesson you are able to complete, please don't skip gathering with your Bible study group. You will benefit from your group, and your group will be encouraged by your presence.

Meet Me in the Bible studies are meant to be flexible. Group studies can opt to meet in small groups for discussion and a time of teaching or simply meet for discussion only.

#### TIPS FOR GROUPS THAT OPT TO MEET FOR BOTH A TIME OF DISCUSSION AND A TIME OF TEACHING

- If this is your group's first Meet Me in the Bible study, be sure each participant is familiar with how to use the Meet Me in the Bible framework before you meet. You can find my video on how to use the Meet Me in the Bible framework at [colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching](http://colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching). In this video, I demonstrate how to cross-reference, quickly check other translations, and more, using simple and free digital tools.
- For the first meeting, teachers will want to cover the Getting Started section before discussion. One of the greatest Bible study tools available is the historical context of the Bible book you are studying. To have the best chance of interpreting the Scriptures correctly, you need to know who the author was, whom he was writing to, the literary style he used, and what was happening in the world when he wrote it. I cover the answers to these questions in my "Getting Started" video, which you will find at [colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching](http://colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching).
- After answering those preliminary questions, move to small-group discussion. Spend some time getting to know one another by asking questions like, What brought you to this study? Why are you excited to study this content? What piqued your curiosity from the Getting Started questions?
- For all future meetings, you can gather for discussion before or after the teaching. I suggest that you gather *before* the teaching. You will

be amazed at the insights gained as each participant shares what was discovered during personal study. Confidence will grow as you learn from one another's discoveries. Tips for discussion:

- The prompts on your bookmark make good points of discussion. (What did you learn from the repeated words? What was hard to understand? What did you learn about people?)
- Content-specific discussion questions for each lesson can be found in Tool 7 of the Tool Kit.
- Additional historical context is given in the questions in Tool 7 of the Tool Kit.
- The bounce questions in Tool 7 of the Tool Kit are intended to jumpstart discussion and provide an easy transition to the content.
- Discussion leaders may use as many or as few discussion questions from Tool 7 as they'd like. These questions were written to help you think deeply about the text. Many of the questions do not have one right answer and are meant to encourage further thought and robust discussion. Questions with one correct answer (e.g., What did Paul say about sin in verse 12?) can feel like a quiz rather than an invitation into conversation.
- Discussion leaders *do* want to plan which questions they will cover and think through their own answers before the group meets. They *do not* need to feel pressure to answer every question that surfaces during Bible study. The purpose of Bible study is not to impress with our knowledge; it is to grow in our knowledge of and love for God as we get to know him better through the study of his word. Enjoy being a colearner with those you are studying alongside. If the questions that surface are not answered in the teaching time, you can circle back with your group after you've had time to think further about them.

- Use the prayer pages in Tool 6 of the Tool Kit to record personal prayer requests and the prayers of those you are studying alongside.

#### TIPS FOR GROUPS THAT OPT TO MEET FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

- If this is your group’s first Meet Me in the Bible study, be sure each participant watches my video on how to use the Meet Me in the Bible framework before you meet. You can find it at [colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching](http://colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching). In this video, I demonstrate how to cross-reference, quickly check other translations, and more, using simple and free digital tools.
- For the first meeting, be prepared to discuss the Getting Started section. One of the greatest Bible study tools available is the historical context of the Bible book you are studying. To have the best chance of interpreting the Scriptures correctly, you need to know who the author was, whom he was writing to, the literary style he used, and what was happening in the world when he wrote it. I answer these questions in my “Getting Started” video at [colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching](http://colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching).
- Spend some time getting to know one another by asking questions like, What brought you to this study? Why are you excited to study this content? What piqued your curiosity from the Getting Started questions?
- For all future meetings:
  - The prompts on your bookmark make good points of discussion: What did you learn from the repeated words? What was hard to understand? What did you learn about people?
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  - The bounce questions in Tool 7 of the Tool Kit are intended to jumpstart discussion and provide an easy transition to the content.

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- Discussion leaders *do* want to plan on which questions they will cover and think through their own answers before the group meets. They *do not* need to feel pressure to answer every question that surfaces during Bible study. The purpose of Bible study is not to impress with our knowledge; it is to grow in our knowledge of and love for God as we get to know him better through the study of his word. When stumped by a question, you can say something like, "That is a great question! I'd like to give that more thought and circle back next time we meet." Then have fun studying! Enjoy being a colearner with those you are studying alongside. Ask God to help you with the questions that surface. He is delighted to meet you in the Bible. What a great discussion you will have the next time you meet!
- Use the prayer pages in Tool 6 of the Tool Kit to record personal prayer requests and the prayers of those you are studying alongside.

### *For Individual Study*

- If you are doing this study on your own, you will want to begin by watching my video on how to use the Meet Me in the Bible framework. You can find it at [colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching](http://colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching). In this video, I demonstrate how to cross-reference, quickly check other translations, and more, using simple and free digital tools.

- Be sure to complete the Getting Started section before diving in to study the passages of Scripture. One of the greatest Bible study tools available is the historical context of the Bible book you are studying. When you study a passage that is hard to understand, overlay the passage with the context. To have the best chance of interpreting the Scriptures correctly, we need to know who the author was, whom he was writing to, the literary style he used, and what was happening in the world when he wrote it. I answer these questions in my “Getting Started” video at [colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching](http://colleensearcy.com/mmibteaching).
- After completing the Getting Started section, each lesson is divided into five doable steps rather than five assigned days, to allow flexibility. You can work through one step each day or work through the whole lesson in one sitting. Find the pace that works best for you.
- For a deeper dive, use the questions in Tool 7 of the Tool Kit. Additional historical context is also given within the questions. These questions were written to help you think deeply about the text.
- Use the prayer pages in Tool 6 of the Tool Kit to record your prayers while you study.

## **What’s Included in This Study**

### *Bible Study Bookmark*

All Meet Me in the Bible studies include a bookmark with the time-tested stages of Bible reading (Observe, Interpret, and Apply) on the front. You will see the five-step framework for reading the Bible on the back of the bookmark, including prompts to help you observe, interpret, and apply the Scriptures. You will also be prompted to pause in your study to listen to and enjoy God. He wants to meet you in your study of the Bible! Although the Bible study bookmark and the Bible study book were designed to work together, your bookmark can also be used alone. It was designed to help you study any book of the Bible, and my hope is that you will use your bookmark again and again.

### *Bible Study Book*

The book includes word-for-word Bible text. Mark it up! If you love highlighters, highlight away! If you prefer to draw symbols, grab colored pencils and go for it. Or simply underline with your favorite pen. Your Bible study book also includes titles and designated spaces that correspond with the titles and prompts on your bookmark. Additionally, you will find blank note pages throughout your book to use as you wish. Draw a chart, sketch an image, or write the lyrics to a song. Each lesson concludes with an important wrap-up question to prompt you to consider what you discovered in the Scriptures.

### *Meet Me in the Bible Tool Kit*

Tool 1: *Bible Timeline*. Place an *X* on the simple timeline of the Bible to indicate where the scriptures you are studying land in the whole story of the Bible.

Tool 2: *Map*. Referencing a map while studying is a helpful reminder that these are stories of real people in real places.

Tool 3: *Bible Genres*. Knowing the literary style of the book of the Bible you are studying is key to correct interpretation. Just as you would approach the poems of Wordsworth differently than you would approach a history book about World War II, there are nuances to different literary styles in the Bible that must be kept in mind while interpreting and applying the Scriptures. Use this resource to identify the literary style of the book you are studying.

Tool 4: *Attributes of God*. You will be prompted to use this tool each week. You may want to mark it with a paper clip so you can turn there easily. The ultimate goal of Bible study is to know and love God, and my prayer is that your hope will be further anchored in him as you are reminded of his attributes.

Tool 5: *Bookmark Content*. All the information on your bookmark is included here for your convenience.

Tool 6: *Prayer Pages*. Use these pages to record personal prayers and prayer requests of those studying alongside you.

Tool 7: *Questions for Further Thought and Discussion*. Use as many or as few of these questions as you'd like in your individual or group study. Additional historical context is included in the questions. The bounce questions are intended to jumpstart discussion and provide an easy transition to the content. The remaining questions were written to help you think deeply about the text.

### **Additional Tools for Your Study**

1. *Different Bible translations*. Reading Scripture verses in different Bible translations can give helpful insight as you study. This book includes the ESV translation. Other translations I recommend are the New International Version (NIV), the New Living Translation (NLT), the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), and the New American Standard Bible (NASB). I use *The Message* as a commentary when I study.
2. *Dictionary and thesaurus*. Look up unfamiliar words as well as “church” words such as *atonement*, *propitiation*, and *covenant*. You will be surprised how much clarity can be gained by reading simple definitions and synonyms in a dictionary or thesaurus.<sup>1</sup>
3. *Cross-references*. Cross-references are included in study Bibles, usually in the middle or at the bottom of a page. A cross-reference is a marker in the Bible pointing to other passages of Scripture with related words and themes. It is usually designated with a superscript (tiny, raised) letter. Cross-referencing is a way to use Scripture to rightly interpret Scripture. You can also use digital tools to cross-reference.<sup>2</sup>
4. *Study Bible footnotes*. If you have a study Bible, the provided footnotes give helpful insights.<sup>3</sup> Wait to check footnotes until after you've observed the text and attempted interpretation using other translations, a dictionary, and cross-references. Resist the temptation to jump to someone else's thoughts before observing and interpreting on your own. Enjoy being curious and see what you discover!

5. *Commentaries.* Commentaries can be helpful in Bible study, but wait to use commentaries until after you've observed the text and attempted interpretation using other translations, a dictionary, and cross-references. Ask God for insight as you study, and be willing to wait to hear from him. Again, resist the temptation to jump to someone else's thoughts before observing and interpreting on your own. For help choosing commentaries, begin by asking trusted leaders about their favorites.<sup>4</sup>

The ultimate goal of Bible study is to know and love God. So observe, interpret, apply, and enjoy God! Stay in conversation with him, asking him to help you understand the Scriptures. Ask him your hard questions. Listen to him. He wants to meet you in your study of the Bible!



## WHY STUDY THE STORY OF ABRAHAM?

Twelve chapters of the Bible are dedicated to the story of Abraham and his family. And Abraham is mentioned more than seventy times in the New Testament. He is certainly a key figure in the history of the Christian faith. His story helps us understand the rest of the Bible.

The account of Abraham and his family is found in the book of Genesis. Genesis is the book of beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of people, the beginning of family, the beginning of sin, the beginning of languages—and in this book of beginnings, we see the plan for redemption begin to unfold. Genesis also includes the record of the beginning of the Hebrew people, the people through whom God will show all other people groups what he is like. God begins the Hebrew people with Abram and Sarai (later called Abraham and Sarah), a childless couple from Ur.

Throughout the rest of the Bible, we see their story broaden to include all those who place their faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:11-12). If you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ, the story of Abraham is the story of your family. You will find your ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, to be very relatable.

Both will fail. And both will demonstrate great faith.

Both will shoulder great heartache. And both will experience miracles from God.

Both will feel forgotten by God. And both will be reminded that he always does what he says he will do.

Both are called to a life of faith, believing the impossible.

Both will give rise to the chosen people of God, their descendants outnumbering the stars. One of those descendants will be Jesus Christ, the bright morning star.

Enjoy getting to know God better and better as you study the story of Abraham.

Joyfully,  
COLLEEN SEARCY



## GETTING STARTED IN THE STORY OF ABRAHAM

We have our best chance of understanding the story of Abraham if we overlay the text in Genesis with important context. Below are context questions to address before you begin the study.<sup>5</sup>

1. Who wrote the story of Abraham, recorded in the book of Genesis?

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2. When was the book of Genesis written?

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3. To whom was it written and for what purpose?

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4. In what style was the book of Genesis written? Turn to Tool 3 in the Tool Kit for help identifying the genre.<sup>6</sup>

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5. What are the central themes of the book of Genesis?

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6. Turn to Tool 1 in the Tool Kit. Place an *X* on the timeline to determine where the story of Abraham lands in the whole story of the Bible.

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1

# THE CALL OF ABRAM AND THE JOURNEY TO EGYPT

Genesis 11:27-13:1

## THE CALL OF ABRAM AND THE JOURNEY TO EGYPT

### Genesis 11:27–13:1

<sup>27</sup>Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. <sup>28</sup>Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

<sup>12:1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the

hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. <sup>11</sup> When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, <sup>12</sup> and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. <sup>13</sup> Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.” <sup>14</sup> When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. <sup>15</sup> And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. <sup>16</sup> And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

<sup>17</sup> But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. <sup>18</sup> So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? <sup>19</sup> Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go.” <sup>20</sup> And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

<sup>13:1</sup> So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.



## OBSERVE: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

### Step 1: Setting and Summary

#### *Key Characters and Locations*

##### CHARACTERS:

- *Abram*. Son of Terah, husband of Sarai. He heard from God and obeyed.
- *Sarai*. Wife of Abram. The author is clear that she was barren.
- *The Lord*. Spoke to Abram and promised him land, blessing, a great name, and many descendants.
- *Pharaoh*. Ruler of Egypt.

##### LOCATIONS:

- *Ur*. Abram and Sarai's homeland before the Lord called them to go.
- *Haran*. Abram's family stopped here rather than traveling all the way to Canaan.
- *Canaan*. Abram's destination. The land God gave to Abram's offspring.
- *The Negeb*. The region between Canaan and Egypt, south of the region that will eventually become Judah.
- *Egypt*. Where Abram sojourned when famine struck Canaan.

#### *Summary of the Passage*

#### *What Stood Out to You or Piqued Your Curiosity?*

### Step 2: Key Words and Phrases

Remember to look at the prompts on your Bible study bookmark as you observe the text.

- "I will" (6 times!)
- bless/blessing (5 times). Dictionary definition: "to invoke divine care for."<sup>7</sup>

Remember to enjoy God and listen as you study. Move to a time of prayer after you observe, recording your prayer on the prayer pages in Tool 6 of the Tool Kit.



## INTERPRET: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

### Step 3: What Was Hard to Understand?

#### Questions

- *Why did Abram's family settle in Haran? Why didn't they go all the way to Canaan instead?*
- *Why was Pharaoh afflicted when Abram sinned? And why did Abram get to leave Egypt as a wealthy man? It seems like Abram is rewarded for his sin.*

#### *Insights from Cross-References, Other Translations, and/or the Context*

Remember that historical context is one of the greatest Bible study tools available. Keep asking the questions: Who wrote this? When did he write it? Where does this land in the whole story of the Bible? How would these words land on the ears of the original hearers?

- *Why did Abram's family settle in Haran? Why didn't they go all the way to Canaan instead? In a cross-reference, Acts 7:2–4, we read that after Abram's father died, God removed him (NIV has "sent him") from Haran to Canaan. It sounds like the stop in Haran had something to do with Abram's father, Terah. We don't know for sure why Abram stopped in Haran, but we know that God did not let him stay there.*
- *Why was Pharaoh afflicted when Abram sinned? And why did Abram get to leave Egypt as a wealthy man? It seems like Abram is rewarded for his sin. Hint: Look back at the context on page 13 to gain insight. Who wrote the book of Genesis? To whom was he writing? Where had they just come from? How might the story of Abram being ordered to leave by Pharaoh, then leaving Egypt with riches, encourage them?*

Remember to turn to the Questions for Further Thought and Discussion in Tool 7 for a deeper dive. Additional historical context is also given within the questions.

### Step 4: What Did You Learn about God?

*Refer to the attributes of God in Tool 4 if needed.*

Remember to enjoy God and listen as you study. Move to a time of prayer after you interpret, recording your prayer on the prayer pages in Tool 6.



## APPLY: HOW WILL YOU APPLY THE PASSAGE?

### Step 5: What Did You Learn about People?

*Others*

Remember to look at the prompts on your Bible study bookmark as you apply the text.

*Yourself*

- *Is there a command to obey? An example to follow? A sin to confess? A warning to heed? An encouragement to receive?*
- *What action step will you take?*

### Wrap Up: What Did You Discover in the Scriptures That Was Important to You?

Remember to enjoy God and listen as you study. Move to a time of prayer after you apply, recording your prayer on the prayer pages in Tool 6.