

## **Blessed to be a Blessing**

### **Genesis 11:27–12:9**

Each major section of Genesis begins with the same formula ('This is the account of X' or 'These are the generations/descendants of X'). So we know that Genesis 11:27 marks a new section as we turn from the introductory history – an outline of the world's *problems* – to the individual families of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – the next major step in God's *solutions*.

Read 11:27–32

1. Who are the main characters named here? Do you recall which of these recur in the coming chapters of Genesis (and where and why)?

Look ahead to 12:4–9

2. Can you find a map (perhaps in the back of your Bible) of the ancient Middle East? Where has Abram come from, and where does he visit in these verses?
3. Abram spends months in Canaan at this stage, probably years. What events does Genesis choose to highlight in these verses? Can you think why *these* are the events chosen to be recorded?

Look at the intervening paragraph: 12:1–3

4. What does God command Abram?
5. What does God promise Abram?
6. What does God promise the wider world?
7. How do these promises to the wider world play out as the story of the Bible continues?
  - How were/are God's promises fulfilled?
  - Who constitutes Abram (Abraham's) family today?

If you want further exploration, consider how the themes of this passage are relevant to later Bible texts such as Psalm 67; Matthew 28:16–20; Galatians 3:7–9 (elaborated in Romans 4).

Consider your own life

8. Catalogue some of the many blessings God has lavished on you. (Enjoy finding opportunities to boast to others about God's kindness.)
9. Do you share these blessings with others? Who and how?