

DISCERNMENT: A Spiritual Discipline

How do we hear God's call?

Genesis 12 Abram's family moves to Canaan

1 The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you." **4** Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. **5** Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. **7** The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him.

Genesis 15 Abram, look at the stars

Abram said, "LORD God, what can you possibly give me, since I still have no children? The head of my household is Eliezer, a man from Damascus." **3** He continued, "Since you haven't given me any children, the head of my household will be my heir." **4** The LORD's word came immediately to him, "This man will not be your heir. Your heir will definitely be your very own biological child." **5** Then he brought Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you think you can count them. He continued, "This is how many children you will have." **6** Abram trusted the LORD, and the LORD recognized Abram's high moral character. **7** He said to Abram, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession." **8** But Abram said, "LORD God, how do I know that I will actually possess it?"

Genesis 18 Sarah Laughs

They said to him, "Where's your wife Sarah? And he said, "Right here in the tent." **10** Then one of the men said, "I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!" Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. **11** Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I'm no longer able to have children and my husband's old. **13** The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Me give birth? At my age?'" **14** Is anything too difficult for the LORD? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son." **15** Sarah lied and said, "I didn't laugh," because she was frightened. But he said, "No, you laughed."

DISCERNMENT: A Spiritual Discipline
How do we hear God's call?

Discussion Questions

- 1) What does the word "discernment" mean to you?
- 2) How do you discern God's call? Is it only to do with career? Is there a time in your life you felt you were following God's call? Why did you feel that?
- 3) Where do you most clearly see God? Where do you most clearly feel yourself? Are these two related?