



SERIES: ACTS - ALL THINGS NEW
MESSAGE TITLE: "BEHOLD"

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-7; 17:1-7*

Pastor Brad teaches from the narrative of Abraham's life to flesh out our four core values (affectionately referred to as the 4 B's). In this first week of the series, we look at the first B: Behold.

Multiple times throughout his life, Abraham was given the chance to behold God, to see, hear, and experience him in a very real way. From these experiences, we see that our God is a God who makes himself known to us. Our God is a God who can replace our fear with trust and faith. Our God is a God who desires a real relationship with us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. When you hear the word "behold" what is the first word or image that comes to mind?
2. Do you have any nicknames? What are they and who gave them to you?
3. Where or when do you feel closest to God (or where have you felt closest to him in the past)?
4. Which would you most appreciate from a friend: a gift, a deep conversation, a hug, a shared fun experience, or a favor (like a meal, them running an errand for you, etc.)?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What do we know about Abram before God appeared to him? Where was he from? What was his family like? You can look in Genesis chapter 11 for some details.
2. Who spoke to Abram in Genesis chapter 12:1-8? What did they say and what did Abram do in response?
3. In Genesis 15:1-7 what problem does Abram bring to God? How does God respond to him? How does Abram respond to God at the end of this exchange?

cont.

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4. In Genesis 17:1-7 what did God ask Abram to do? What did God promise to Abram? What new name did God give him?
5. What similarities and differences do you see in these three accounts of Abraham's encounters with God?

LOOK DOWN

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Think about someone you know (or know of) that has experienced God. What were they like before they knew God? What kinds of transformations happened in their life as a result of beholding the God of the universe?
2. In Genesis 12, God makes the first move and speaks to Abram; he makes himself known. How have you seen or heard of God making the first move to speak to a person or a group in our world or in recent history? How does God make himself known today?
3. In Genesis 15, Abram's encounter with God changes his fear to faith. Where do people in our world generally turn when they are afraid? What do you think it looks like for Christians today to follow Abram's example of trusting God with our fear?
4. What do you think it would look like today to live like Abraham did, being friends with God and actively engaging in a relationship with him?
5. Pastor Brad said "Beholding God results in believing God and believing God results in being who God created you to be." Do you know anyone who lives this out well? How has this way of living impacted their life?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How have your experiences of God changed your life?
2. Where in your life has God made the first move? How has God made himself known to you?
3. Do you naturally turn to God in times of fear? If so, how did you learn to do that? If not, what keeps you from doing that?
4. Do you feel that you are a friend of God? Why or why not?
5. What do you find most challenging or encouraging about Pastor Brad's statement above about beholding, believing, and being who you were created to be?

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LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Do you long to behold God, to experience him in a real and moving way? If you haven't yet experienced this or if it's been a long time since you have, spend some time in prayer asking that God would reveal himself to you. Ask a friend, family member, or a member of your small group to pray for you too. If you would like, you can add your request to our prayer wall here (<https://www.b4church.org/prayer-wall/>) so that our elders and members of our congregation can pray for you too.
2. What's one thing you can do this week to be more aware of God's presence, to behold him in your everyday life?
3. What is one area of your life where you need to hand your fear over to God and trust him? What can you do or pray this week to increase your trust in the God who created you and loves you?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions.