



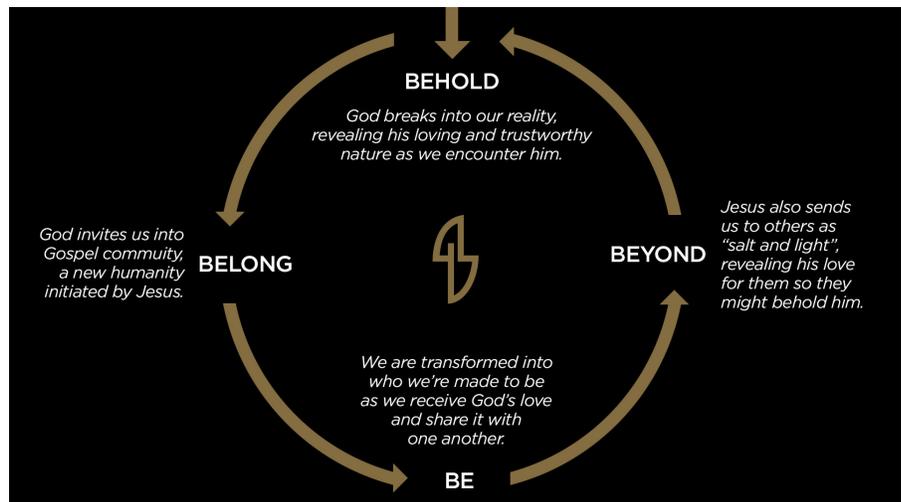
SERIES: ALL THINGS NEW
MESSAGE: "BEYOND"

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: NOV 15, 2020

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY: GENESIS 12:1-4, JEREMIAH 29:4-7, HEBREWS 11:8-10

In the final sermon of this four part series, we see how the life of Abraham helps illustrate the purpose of the Church. He was promised land and a legacy so that he might be a blessing to all people. His legacy came through a promised son, Isaac, who he and Sarah birthed. However, much like exiles everywhere, Abraham remained a foreigner in the land where he lived.

Christians today can also feel like foreigners or guest in their own homelands. That's why this message also unpacks Jeremiah's letter to the exiled Israelites in Babylon as a blueprint for Beyond. The letter points to God's desire for his blessing to go beyond his people. It helps us understand how Christians should seek wholeness, or the shalom, of the Gospel, in their relationships, communities, and cities, despite feeling like strangers in a strange land.



Pastor Brad also shared this illustration during the message which shows how the 4 Bs work together to accomplish the mission of the Gospel through the Church.

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. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

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

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
2. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?
3. Where do you feel particularly at home? Where do you feel like a stranger?
4. What is one way God has blessed you in this season?

CONTINUED:

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 are the promises that God makes in Genesis 12:1-3?
2. What part of Genesis 12:1-3 is the most important for us to understand?
3. Based on the context, why did God choose to utilize Abraham in his plan?
4. Why did Pastor Brad say that Jeremiah 29:7 is so important in the biblical narrative?
5. What was unique about Abraham's obedience as outlined in Hebrews 11:8?

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

1. What do you see people living for in the world today?
2. To what do people most often attribute the blessing in their lives?
3. Have you seen anyone "pay it forward" lately? Who have you seen extend kindness to others motivated by the kindness shown to them?
4. How do the people you work with view obedience?
5. In our society, where do you see people seek answers to questions regarding purpose?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What motivates you on a daily basis? What do you wish motivated you?
2. How do you respond to the various blessings in your life?
3. What is one of the kindest things anyone has ever done for you?
4. What is your definition of obedience?
5. When you feel a lack of purpose, how do you respond?

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. What can you do this week to seek shalom in our city?
2. Who in your life needs to be blessed by the wholeness offered in the way of Jesus? How are you going to show them the love of Christ?
3. How can you partner with God to extend blessing BEYOND yourself?