



## Living In Between

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Genesis 12:1-5; Hebrews 11:8-16

September 16, 2018

### Prayer:

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. **Ephesians 3:14-19**

### Discussion Starter

- Think about some of the people who have been mirrors in your life. Who are some of the people that have most formed your self-image?

## Sermon Summary

Sooner or later we are headed for a crisis. Maybe you were in it now. It's a period where everything familiar to you - everything safe, manageable, or comfortable is gone. You've left what you believe in for something else, that you don't know. You don't know exactly where you're going; you know only that you're supposed to leave. No clear vision. No information. No guarantees. In this place, between what is familiar and what is new, God will show you a bigger, better vision of Himself. He will do things unprecedented, things you could never do in the old place, but you must leave. As you do, you will hear the soul whisper a question that you dare not ask; Who will take care of me? Who will go with me? Who will make sure everything will be all right? From here, two roads diverged and you will probably take one of them. One is the way of control, where you try to do what only God is supposed to do. When you control you try to determine the outcome, the speed, and the performance of everyone involved. You get frustrated, sometimes angry and you blame. You criticize or advise. You counsel, sometimes before you had listened carefully because you need fast, easy closure. The other way is the way of trust, where you venture into the unknown simply because God has signaled the move. You accept what has happened, or what is happening, and you are grateful for God's Presence there. Some people cannot trust until they know God more. But in fact, what Abraham teaches us is that we cannot know God more until we trust.

## Sermon Review Questions

- Only when we fully see Christ will we see our true selves. How do you often think of God and how do you think these thoughts about God influence your view of yourself?
- If you come from a family of faith, when did your faith become your own? What were the circumstances of this time in your life?
- Which aspects of your life do you tend to seek the most security and control? (Finances, family, career, etc.) Why?
- Share about a time when you followed God even though you didn't know how things would work out. What did you learn about God during that time?

## Transformation Questions

1. What is God calling you to leave/risk?
2. What do you fear might happen if you take this risk? (List your worst fears)
3. If you were to risk it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you ask to help you? How will you ask them to help you?

## Habit

Part of being a child is being a *beginner again*: doing new things and--even if you're afraid to look foolish--taking a risk. What's one thing you've felt God is calling you to try that you haven't done yet? Schedule a time with a trusted friend who can help encourage and pray for you as you take this risky step of trust.

## Quote

“Mary responded, ‘I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.’”

*Mary’s response to Gabriel after learning she would have a son.*  
Luke 1:38