

STBC IMPACT Bible Study:

“I’D RATHER BE DYSFUNCTIONAL THAN DEAD”

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, Dr. Chris Williamson

OPENING THOUGHTS: The Bible tells the truth about everything it addresses. We see this demonstrated in the stories we read about the men and women we classify as “heroes and heroines” of our faith. Not only do we see the positive things these men and women accomplished for God, but we also read of their shortcomings, sins, and mistakes.

The truth is, God never calls the qualified to serve Him. Instead, God qualifies every person that He calls. **Let’s face it:** We are more of a mess than we think we are. **But cheer up:** We are more blessed than we can ever comprehend! Both realities are true for Christians: We are ratchet and righteous at the same time (**Romans 7:21 – 25, 8:1!**)

God’s grace superabounds over our ineptness (**Romans 5:20**), causing us to have **hope** while facing our various kinds of personal and familial dysfunctions. God’s grace allows us to be wounded healers who walk with a limp, and who can also jump for joy! Let’s look at **the call of Abram** to see how God’s grace operated through Abram and all his dysfunctions are actually what qualified him to be used by God to be **“the father of our faith.”**

THE TEXT: **Genesis 11:27 – 32,** ²⁷ *This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. ²⁸ And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. ³⁰ But Sarai was barren; she had no child. ³¹ And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. ³² So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.*

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Since God used Abram despite his family and personal dysfunctions, He can surely use us. If you are alive and reading this, you ought to have hope because God is not finished with you yet! Pain and shame in our lives can be overcome and used for the glory of God!

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you are comfortable sharing, what is one of your family dysfunctions?
2. If you feel safe in sharing, what is your current struggle or reason for having “shame.” The Bible says, *“But Sarai was barren.”* Answer the question below with someone you trust:
What is your “But _____ was/is _____.”
3. On a scale from 1 to 10, how much hope do you currently possess? Explain.