Weekly Bible Study
group – November 5, 2008

This week’s reading assignment: Genesis 12

We’ve arrived at the center! In many ways, this week’s scripture passage forms the heart of Genesis. It is the beginning of “the people of God” – Israel and the Church. Hear these words spoken by God to Abraham:

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:2-3)

Everything up to this point in Genesis has set the stage for this monumental event. We’ve seen that God is the creator of all, and that all is good. But then sin and brokenness become part of the story, and the earth has become terribly flawed. But God will not abandon his creation – he is intent on redeeming it.

And Genesis 12 is the story of the beginning of God’s redemption plan – the same story we’re living today. He chose one particular family/nation, not because he loved them more, but because he wanted to send them on a particular mission. A mission that looks like this: “you will be a blessing...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” That’s the summary of our whole purpose on earth! And the rest of Genesis (and the Bible) will tell the story of how God’s chosen people both succeed and fail in this mission, over and over again.

1) If our lives as Christians have the mission of “being a blessing to the earth,” that means that we’ve got to be a blessing to those we are with every day. Brainstorm some small (and large) ways that you can bring the hope and restoration of Christ to the broken relationships and situations that you encounter in your life – to the specific people that you interact with daily.

2) Immediately after Abram receives this mission to be a blessing, we read the story about his horrible failure to be a blessing in Egypt. Because of his deceit, he actually becomes a curse to that nation. We are like this too, if we’re honest – but God still chooses to love and use broken vessels, regardless of failure. What are some of the ways that you’ve been a curse to the world? What will it take for you to repent of those things?