

4. Think of someone that you know who has shown exceptional faith. What about them was inspirational to you?

5. Where do you or could you find time to slow down and be present with God?

6. Where is God calling you to experience awe and wonder this season?

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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### **Advent**

“True and Better Abraham”

Hebrews 11:8-16

Jesus is reenacting the stories, making them new, and redeeming them.

“Jesus is the true and better Abraham who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void not knowing whither he went to create a new people of God.” (Tim Keller)

Genesis 12:1-4 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

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.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

### **How do we recapture the wonder?**

1. Welcome the unexpected \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 12:11-20

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



2. Embrace and enjoy your unexpected \_\_\_\_\_.

"The idea that God, if there is a force of Love and Logic in the universe, that it would seek to explain itself is amazing enough. That it would seek to explain itself by becoming a child born in poverty... and straw, a child, I just thought, "Wow!" Just the poetry... I saw the genius of picking a particular point in time and deciding to turn on this... Love needs to find a form, intimacy needs to be whispered... Love has to become an action or something concrete. It would have to happen. There must be an incarnation. Love must be made flesh." (Bono)

3. Slow down and imagine the unexpected \_\_\_\_\_.

"I am so thankful that I have a joy that the world can not rob me of; I have a treasure that the world can not take from me; I have something that is not in the power of man or devil to deprive me of, and that is the joy of the Lord." (D.L. Moody)

We can walk in great wonder when we walk \_\_\_\_\_ the God of wonder.

Abraham abandoned home for God. Jesus abandoned home for \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 4:22-25 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

### **Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions**

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. When have you experienced an unexpected adventure?
3. Read Hebrews 11:8-16. When considering the journey of faith mentioned in these verses, what landmarks or key moments stand out to you?