

# **Discussion Guide: Abraham's Return to the Land of Promise**

## **Genesis 13**

Unedited AI-generated document from a sermon preached by Rev John Vermeer

### **Opening Question**

1. What stood out to you from the sermon on Genesis 13? Was there anything that particularly challenged or encouraged you?

### **Abraham's Return (Genesis 13:1-4)**

2. The sermon described Abraham's journey from Egypt back to Bethel as a kind of repentance. What are some signs in your own life that indicate you're moving toward God rather than away from Him?
3. Abraham "called on the name of the Lord" when he returned to Bethel (v.4). How does worship play a role in spiritual renewal and repentance?
4. Have you ever found yourself, like Abraham in Genesis 12, trying to "force things to happen by one's wit and one's own wisdom" rather than relying on God? What was the result?

### **Abraham Remains (Genesis 13:5-13)**

5. The preacher contrasted Abraham's generosity with Lot's self-seeking choice. How does trusting God's promises enable greater generosity in our lives?
6. Lot chose based on appearances - the Jordan Valley "looked good" but led to Sodom. What are some examples

of choices in our culture that might "look good" but lead away from God?

7. The sermon drew parallels between Lot's choice and the patterns of sin in Genesis 3 (Eve) and Genesis 6 (sons of God). How can we guard against making decisions based merely on appearances?

## **God's Renewal (Genesis 13:14-18)**

8. Why do you think God chose to renew and expand His promises to Abraham after Lot had separated from him? What does this tell us about God's character?
9. The sermon mentioned we need "big picture moments" to encourage us when life gets difficult. What are some ways God provides these encouragements to us today?
10. Abraham responded to God's renewed promises by building an altar. What are some appropriate responses when God reminds us of His promises?

## **Application**

11. The preacher said, "We find any pursuits without keeping Christ and his word in mind as vanity." How might this truth reshape some of your current pursuits or priorities?
12. How does seeing Christ as "the great heir, the king of kings, the owner of everything" change the way we view our own possessions and choices?
13. What is one specific promise from God's Word that you need to "retreat into" during this season of your life?