

## JOY in the JOURNEY I



### “YOU WANT ME TO GO WHERE?” – Genesis 12:1-9

**Sermon Idea:** *We can trust that God’s detours are his way of leading us into the pure joy that he intends for us and through us to others.*

**Intro:** With GPSs alerting us about delays and detours, maybe we need a reminder of when we ran into an unexpected detour when we were already running late and... Does anyone recall a nightmare/unexpected blessing detour story? Usually we are anxious to reach the destination but sometimes the journey offers the best lessons and the most joy!

Check your Bible map and note the long journey along the Euphrates R. from Ur to Haran (Gen. 11:31), and the road to come in Abram’s push to the Negev (12:9). Where is this in today’s geography? Imagine this over 4000-year-old story being relevant even today! Let’s reflect on Abram’s **journey with God.**

#### **READ Genesis 12:1-9 and DISCUSS:**

- Some interesting things to observe: Who are the main three or more repeated characters in this chapter? (actually tabulate .) What are the main verbs in the story?
- What’s the relationship between the LORD and Abram’s actions?
- What will be the long-term impact of Abram’s journey with God?
- Could Abram have had offspring and been a blessing had he stayed in Haran?
- What is the significance of building an altar to God along the way?
- Review some of the bumps and detours along the way in Abram(Abraham)’s future walk with God. What did those hurdles or delays mean to Abraham?
- Do we sometimes face detours in our pilgrimage with God? Review any experiences. Where have these brought you in your faith? Have detours even proved to be fruitful and brought blessing? (I’ll bet there are some good stories here.)
- Does the year 2020 seem like one giant DETOUR? In what ways? What can God teach us through this? How can we “build an altar,” and focus on the Lord in these times?
- How can we best trust God with our road ahead, know “Joy in the Journey” and bless others?

**JESUS SAID - Our Jesus who invites us to “follow me” also promises joy through the detours and hardships. John 15: 20-24:** <sup>20</sup>Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to **joy**... Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your **joy**. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your **joy** will be complete.

#### **Closing Prayer Time**