



THE STORY Sermon Study Guide

Week 2: The Forming of Israel - God's Chosen People Sally Agostino

10 August 2025

Visit the [NewHope Teaching](#) page to find this week's sermon

This week we are exploring the formation of Israel as God's chosen people. The deep complexities and pain in the Middle East, especially in light of current events, can raise questions as we come to this part of 'The Story', but God's choice was not about favouritism or exclusion; it was about purpose. Like Abram, we are invited to see ourselves as chosen, not to hoard God's goodness to ourselves, but to share it as channels of blessing to the world.

Read Genesis 12:1-9

When God called Abram (who would later become Abraham), it was not to create an exclusive club, but to begin a story of blessing that would touch every nation. God's choosing is about purpose, not favouritism, and this helps to reframe our understanding of what it means to belong to God's people. It is not about status or privilege, but about being a channel through which God's goodness can flow outward.

To be chosen by God is to be given a mission for the sake of others: to reflect His love, justice, and mercy to the world.

1. What does it mean for God to choose someone "for the sake of others" rather than just for their own benefit?
2. Who in your life today might God be inviting you to bless, so that His love can reach them through you?



Read Genesis 11:1-9 & Genesis 12:10-20

God's blessings are never meant to be hoarded or kept behind walls. From the scattering at Babel to Abram's own journey, the story of Scripture warns against a self-exalting mindset and the temptation to keep God's gifts for ourselves. When we try to contain or control what God gives, we miss the very reason we were blessed in the first place.

Yet God's faithfulness remains steady. Abraham was a man who stumbled, doubted, and sometimes failed, but his weaknesses did not disqualify him from being used by God as a channel of blessing and grace—and neither do ours. The only criteria that is needed is an open heart, willing to answer the Lord's call to "come follow me".

1. Are there areas in your life where you tend to "hoard" God's blessings—whether that's your time, resources, or even your faith? What would it look like to open up those areas to others?
2. Where have you felt disqualified or discouraged by your own shortcomings? How might God be inviting you to trust Him to work through you, even in your weakness, today?

Read 1 Peter 2:9

All of Scripture points to the need for a perfect channel of blessing, which is fulfilled in Jesus. Through His life, death and resurrection, we are invited into a new identity: a chosen people, a royal priesthood, called to both receive and share God's love.

Jesus invites us to join His mission in the world. The question is not whether we are chosen, but how we will respond. Will we be part of 'The Story' and allow God's blessing to flow through us?

1. How does being part of God's people change the way someone experiences faith compared to just having a private relationship with God?
2. Jesus is the perfect channel of God's blessing. How does looking to Jesus change the way you think about your own role in God's story?

Optional Activity

If you are able, consider going for a prayer walk around your neighbourhood and asking God where He wants you to be a channel of His blessing. You may like to consider this invitation as individuals and/or go together as a group.



As you walk, take time to pray slowly and deliberately for your community, your personal relationships, our church family and our world. Ask the Lord: Where can I/we be an Abram this week?

Bible Reading Plan & Resources

As we engage in this sermon series and reflect on 'The Story' of God's redemptive pursuit of humanity, we invite you to practise the discipline of regular Bible reading. You may like to use the [NewHope Bible Reading Plan](#) which has been developed to accompany each sermon over the next 12-weeks. Get a physical copy at church, download a digital copy from our website or follow NewHope in the Bible App for daily updates.

There are also many other wonderful ways to engage with Scripture and you can find a collection of resources, such as books, apps, courses, and more at newhope.net.au/the-story.

Suggested Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for your word and for the reminder that you choose us not to hoard your blessings, but to channel them out into the world. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, who is the perfect channel of your love and grace.

Lord, as we go from here, help us to be brave like Abram, to trust you even when the path is hard, and to be willing to share your blessings with those around us. Show us where you are calling us to be a blessing this week—whether through our words, our actions, or our willingness to serve.

We pray for peace and understanding in the midst of the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. We trust in your sovereignty and love for all people. Renew our commitment to be channels of your blessing in our families, communities, and the world.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.