

## General question: What keeps you going in difficult situations?

### Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>The LORD had said to Abram,  
"Go from your country, your  
people and your father's household  
to the land I will show you.

<sup>1</sup>耶和华对亚伯兰说：“你要离开本地  
本族、父家，往我所要指示你的地去。

<sup>2</sup>"I will make you into a great nation,  
and will bless you;  
will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>2</sup>我必叫你成为大国  
我必赐福给你，  
叫你的名为大；  
你也要叫别人得福。

<sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.'

<sup>3</sup>为你祝福的，我必赐福与他；  
那咒诅你的，我必咒诅他。  
地上的万族  
都要因你得福。”

**Abram** | Later, God changed Abram's name to Abraham.

**Bless/blessing/blessed** | - *Generously given good things. by God.*

### Watch video Gold Part 2 with Chinese subtitles

Follow the story line in the following bullet points.

- We sometimes think of God as being demanding. But he's overwhelmingly generous.
- God promised that through a man called Abraham, "*all peoples on earth will be blessed*" (Genesis 12:3). In other words, the "garbage" we see in the world would one day be fixed by one of Abraham's descendants.
- God doesn't choose who to bless based on where a person has come from, what they have (or haven't) done, or what they look like.
- As the story of Abraham and Sarah shows, receiving God's blessings doesn't depend on human effort or ability at all.
- By contrast, the "gods" we tend to live for instead are extremely demanding in terms of human effort.
- The promise to Abraham - that all peoples on earth would be blessed - is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

## **Luke 19:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus (撒该) ; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. <sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." <sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

**Jericho** | City near the Jordan river.

**Sinner** | Someone who sins by breaking God's laws.

**Salvation** | Being saved from sin.

**Son of Abraham** | From Abraham's family line (i.e. Jewish).

**Son of Man** | A title Jesus often used for himself. It means "The human being".

<sup>1</sup>耶稣进了耶利哥，正经过的时候，<sup>2</sup>有一个人名叫撒该，作税吏长，是个财主。<sup>3</sup>他要看看耶稣是怎样的人；只因人多，他的身量又矮，所以不得看见，<sup>4</sup>就跑到前头，爬上桑树，要看耶稣，因为耶稣必从那里经过。<sup>5</sup>耶稣到了那里，抬头一看，对他说：“撒该，快下来！今天我必住在你家里。”<sup>6</sup>他就急忙下来，欢欢喜喜地接待耶稣。<sup>7</sup>众人看见，都私下议论说：“他竟到罪人家里去住宿。”<sup>8</sup>撒该站着对主说：“主啊，我把所有的一半给穷人；我若讹诈了谁，就还他四倍。”<sup>9</sup>耶稣说：“今天救恩到了这家，因为他也是亚伯拉罕的子孙。<sup>10</sup>人子来，为要寻找、拯救失丧的人。”

## Discussion questions for the breakout groups

1. Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector who worked for the Romans. People thought of him as a parasite (寄生虫). He was getting rich by working for the enemy. What "god" do you think Zacchaeus was living for (verse 2)?
2. Because of Zacchaeus' bad reputation (名声不好), how did the crowd expect Jesus to treat him? (verse 7) What is the big shock of verse 5?
3. What effect did Jesus's welcome have on Zacchaeus, according to verse 6? What evidence is there that Zacchaeus no longer worships the same "god" he did before he met Jesus? (verse 8)
4. Religion says, "If you're good person, God will accept you." What is remarkable (出色的) about what happens in verses 5-8?
5. In verse 3, Zacchaeus is looking for someone. In verse 10, Jesus ("the Son of Man") says he's looking for someone as well. Who is Jesus looking for and why?
6. If you knew that God related to you the way that Jesus related to Zacchaeus, how would you feel?
7. (If time) What has been most striking for you during this session?