## SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- God is not a grandfather in a heavenly rocking chair, nor is he a distant deity that wound the clock of humanity and is letting it spin on its own. He is not a bargaining God, needing something from us to trade for blessings in return. According to Acts 17, God needs nothing. How does that make you feel? How does that adjust your concept of God? What other passages come to mind (or can you find) that confirm God's sufficiency.
- \*\* A relationship with God requires his initiatory self-disclosure, calling and drawing. What affect should that have on our witnessing, prayer life, and praise to God?
- Have you ever thought of revelation, promises, and covenants as displays of God's grace? How do those three categories intersect your life? How has God revealed himself to you? List at least 3 promises God has made to you. What covenant(s) apply to your life today?
- Abraham's faith pushed him to live like a sojourner and pilgrim here on earth. Even when he got to the place God wanted him, he didn't dig down roots. Instead he lived in tents (a temporary dwelling). What are some practical implications of living as a pilgrim? What are some evidences in your life that you are holding loosely to the things of earth?
- The faith to which we are called is not faith in a plan, but faith in a person. We do not rest because we know all the details concerning the unfolding of life. Instead we rest because we know the One who holds life itself. Do you have rest in your soul because of your faith in Jesus, or does your anxiety and worry betray a misplaced faith?
- Someone could say, "I believe that seat belts save lives," but they don't buckle up when they get in the car. If that person is involved in a crash, their "belief" is proven to have been worthless. If you really believe that seat belts save lives, you will buckle up. Buckling up demonstrates the reality of your faith. In like manner, people may claim to believe in God and his word, but the reality of their faith is seen in whether they listen to God and obey his word. Genuine faith obeys God. Is there an area of your life where your faith needs to be expressed in obedience? If you continue to disobey is your faith real? Can you really say you believe God in that area?

## **TODAY'S NOTES**