

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Are a Global Missions Movement

### 8. BE INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL

YWAM is international and interdenominational in its global scope as well as its local constituency. We believe that ethnic, linguistic and denominational diversity, along with redeemed aspects of culture, are positive factors that contribute to the health and growth of the Mission.

[Gen 12:1-4](#); [Gen 26:2-5](#); [Psa 57:9-10](#); [Jer 32:27](#); [Dan 7:13-14](#);  
[Act 20:4](#); [1Co 12:12-31](#); [Eph 4:1-16](#); [Col 3:11](#); [Rev 7:9](#)

### Value #8 – Be international and interdenominational: Every Every All All

#### Biblical Foundation:

*The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.*  
(Gen 12:1-4)

#### Discovery Starter:

Introductions were – to say the least – awkward, if not downright humiliating. Every time he told someone his name, Abram ("Exalted Father") must have braced for the inevitable question, "So how many children do you have?" He must have heard people snickering because he had none! He surely felt relieved when God finally said, "I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram." No longer would he be the brunt of jokes. But wait ... what followed seemed to make the bad situation worse: "Instead, you will be called Abraham ("Father of Many" – Gen 17:5). When people heard this new name they must have thought that the childless man had gone stark-raving mad!

There are 1,126 distinct nouns in the Hebrew text of Genesis. 42 of them are familial terms: words like father, mother, son, daughter, etc. These 42 familial words are used (on average) nearly 39 times each, while **all** the other nouns are used (on average) only 7 times each! Clearly, family is very important in Genesis! We learn that while

Abraham wanted one family (his own!), God wanted many. More insight is gained by looking at the top five most frequently used nouns:

- *ben* (365x – son, child)
- *kol* (342x – every, all)
- *'erets* (311x – country, nation)
- *'elohim* (218x – God, gods)
- *'ab* (208x – father, ancestor)

The frequent use of these words is not accidental. The intentional repetition underscores the primary message of this book: God wants **every** parent and **every** child in **all** the nations to be adopted into God's family. For this reason God promises Abraham, "I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations" (Gen 17:6).

Paul understood that God chose Abraham and his descendants in order to include **all** the nations in his redemptive purposes. Paul argues that **all** – Jews and non-Jews (Rom 1:16; 2:9-10; 3:9; 9:24) – have the same problem: sin! (Rom 3:9-12,23; 5:18a) Likewise, they **all** are offered the same solution: Jesus! (Rom 3:22,24-25a; 5:1-2,18b). There is one standard for **all**: faith! (Rom 3:29-30; 4:9). Paul explains that "Abraham is the father of all who believe. That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, 'I have made you the father of many nations'" (Rom 4:16-17).

### **Keep Going:**

Paul, when he reflects on God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12, states, "Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith" (Rom 4:13). Consider these other passage that reflect on this promise to Abraham: Gen 18:18; 22:18; 26:4-5; Act 3:25; Gal 3:8-9. How can you align your heart, head and hands with God's missional dream to reach the **everys** and the **alls** in the earth?

© 2020 David Joel Hamilton: "YWAM Beliefs & Values Discovery Starters." Used by permission.