



THEME: Confidence

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-5 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves. So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sar'ai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions which they had gathered, and the persons that they had gotten in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

When we do something for the very first time it can be a little bit scary. Do you remember your very first day at school? Your mother probably went in with you to help you find your room and meet your teacher. When you got on a bicycle for the first time, someone probably walked along beside you and helped hold you up at the very beginning. That gave you **CONFIDENCE** and soon you were riding on your own. When you went swimming for the first time, you didn't just go out and jump in the pool, did you? No, there was someone with you to hold you up until you could swim on your own. It really helps if we have someone to make us feel **CONFIDENT** when we are about to do something we have never done before.

Let's pretend that we were told that we had to move to a new home in a city we had never been. Let's also pretend that we didn't know where the city was, or what the weather would be like, or if there was even a school or a grocery store nearby. Would you be ok with leaving your home and moving to a new one? *(Pause for responses)* But, what if I told you that you were going to be very happy in this new home and the city was going to be great. Would you still be worried? Would you still move? *(Pause for responses)* You would have to have a lot of **CONFIDENCE** in me to actually agree to make the move, right? This reminds me of a story about what God told Abram . . .

God told Abram to leave everything behind and to move to a new country. He didn't even tell him where this country was. He just said, "Go to the land that I will show you." They didn't know where they were going or what they would find when they got there. It was like they were wearing a blindfold, but they had **CONFIDENCE** in God -- just like you would have **CONFIDENCE** in me -- and like we have **CONFIDENCE** that our parents will help us do new things. So, even though they were a bit scared, they left everything and set out on the journey to the place that God showed them. It took many years, but God was with them and he led them to their new home.

How about you, do you ever take a journey into the unknown? Sure you do. Just about every day we face things that we have never done before. They may be a bit scary, but we know that God is with us, just as he was with Abram and Sarah. We just have to trust Him to lead the way.

Father, sometimes we are afraid to go where we have not gone before. Help us to remember that you are with us wherever we go. Amen.