

Genesis 12 (NIV)

The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.'

² 'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.
⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram travelled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on towards the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

1

READ THIS

2

Abram heard the 'call of God'. Obeying it meant he had to leave his entire family (*Cost*) but also brought a great promise (*Blessing*).

- What is the cost of following God today?
- What is the Blessing?

Read Jackie Pullinger's story on the other side of this sheet for a modern version of the call to leave it all.

3

- Why do you think Abram and Jackie obeyed God's call?
- Do you get 'nudges from God' about what He might want you to do?

How to follow God's call

4

God rarely speaks in an audible voice, it's normally a long term growing sense of there being something He wants you to do.

The first bit for us is to say "Whatever You want, I will do it".
Do you think you could say that to God?

What are the reasons why you would or would not feel able to say this?

Do these verses from Romans 8 help?

²⁷ *And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*
²⁸ *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

God doesn't tell us what He wants until we tell Him we will do it, whatever it is.
Is that fair?

5

Spend some time praying together about this now.

ABRAM

BIG DECISIONS

VERSES TO LEARN

Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me."

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Jackie Pullinger

One-way ticket to Hong Kong

It seems insane. Giving up everything you have to go to one of the most dangerous places in the world to show Jesus' love to criminals, prostitutes and drug addicts. You might at a pinch go for six months or a couple of years. But how about going for the rest of your life?



This is what Jackie Pullinger did.

Jackie Pullinger began to make this huge decision early. As a young girl at Sunday School she decided she wanted to be a missionary - and that was before she really knew what a missionary was. But as she grew up, she forgot about her childhood ambition for a while and became a student at the Royal College of Music.

It was only when she started meeting regularly with other Christians in a friend's home that she thought about being a missionary again. Then one night, she had a dream.

"I saw a vision of a woman holding her arms out beseechingly as on a refugee poster. I wondered what she wanted - she looked desperate for something... Then words moved past like a television credit: WHAT CAN YOU GIVE US?"

After a series of dreams and vivid experiences, Jackie decided she would go to Hong Kong. The trouble was, no one else agreed with her.

She applied to every missionary group she could think of, and also to church organisations and the Hong Kong government - but all the doors closed in her face. You're too young, you're too inexperienced, you have the wrong qualifications, she was told.

She was about to give up, when the vicar of a church she helped in told her, against the received wisdom of everything else she had heard, to go to Hong Kong anyway.

In 1966, Jackie Pullinger gathered up all the money she had and bought a passage on the cheapest boat to Hong Kong she could find. She only had enough money for a one-way ticket, so there was no turning back.

She almost didn't make it past Hong Kong immigration. But she was eventually allowed in and found a job teaching at a primary school in the Walled City. This was an area where the Hong Kong police had no regular jurisdiction. As a result, it was Hong Kong's most deprived and dangerous area.

Jackie opened a home for those who needed help and was soon inundated with pleas for help and a place to stay.

Not all of the addicts reformed immediately. Jackie started to realise that becoming a Christian didn't automatically heal you of your addictions, or immediately reform you after a lifetime in the underworld. But the signs were good.

More at http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/jackie_pullinger/