

Good morning! There is a lot of talk these days about “mentoring”. Have you ever been mentored? Maybe you have but you just didn’t notice. I train the Engineering Inspectors that work for me primarily by using a mentoring process. When Pam and I came to Christ in the early 70’s we both immediately recognized that we needed to be mentored in faith. It is interesting to me that during that time the two movements within the Jesus Movement seemed to have been going in opposite directions. The movement we were in moved toward personal discipleship, people being mentored in faith in a corporate, small group way; the other moved toward a kind of personal, individual way of approaching Christianity, characterized by the phrase “Me and Jesus”. Pam and I benefitted immensely from being mentored in our faith. This morning, let’s look in on a guy you might not think had much mentoring:

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.

Gen. 11:31

Have you ever heard of Terah? I’ve been in church all of my life and yet I cannot remember ever hearing a sermon or teaching on Terah. We don’t know very much about him, outside of this passage. What do we learn from today’s passage? We know that he was the father of Abram, who became Abraham, the Father of Faith. We know he was Lot’s grandfather and Sarai’s (Sarah’s) father in law. We learn one more thing: Terah didn’t stay home---he gathered his family and “*set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan*” but on the way, settled in a place called Harran. We often think of Abraham as a traveler, a man who went in faith after God said to him “*Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.*” The Bible says that Abram did what God said; he took Lot and Sarai and all of his livestock and his household—and where did he go? He headed for Canaan. Hey, wait a minute---didn’t we read something in today’s passage about Canaan? That’s right---Terah was headed for Canaan when he stopped and settled at Harran. Abram was already prepared to go to Canaan when God called him; Canaan was his father’s dream. Terah didn’t make it to Canaan but he prepared Abram for that journey. I have a vision for what might be; maybe you do, too. Let me encourage you this morning that if you have a dream, don’t give up. It’s possible that my dream won’t happen in my lifetime and maybe yours won’t either... but if God’s in it, it will happen in *somebody’s* lifetime!