

**Ordinary people
doing extraordinary things
through faith in God**



HEROES
OF
FAITH

ABRAHAM

Listening to God

A wide, open landscape with a small animal in the distance and mountains in the background. The foreground is a vast, flat, brownish field with sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the middle ground, a small, dark-colored animal, possibly a dog or a small horse, is standing. The background features a range of dark, forested mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

How do we listen to God?

Is there a set way?

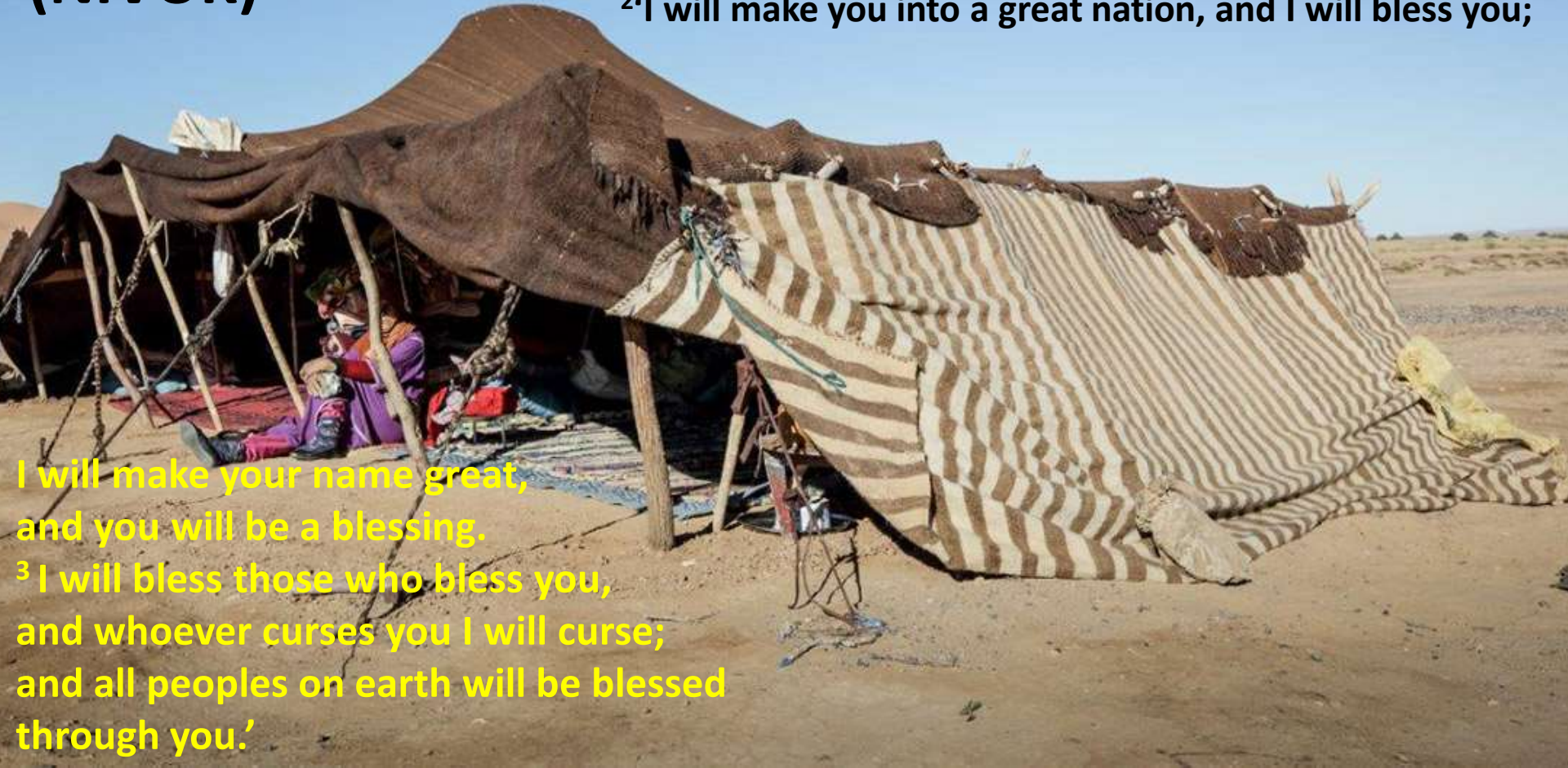
What difference does it make?

Genesis 12 v1-3 (NIVUK)

The call of Abram

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.'

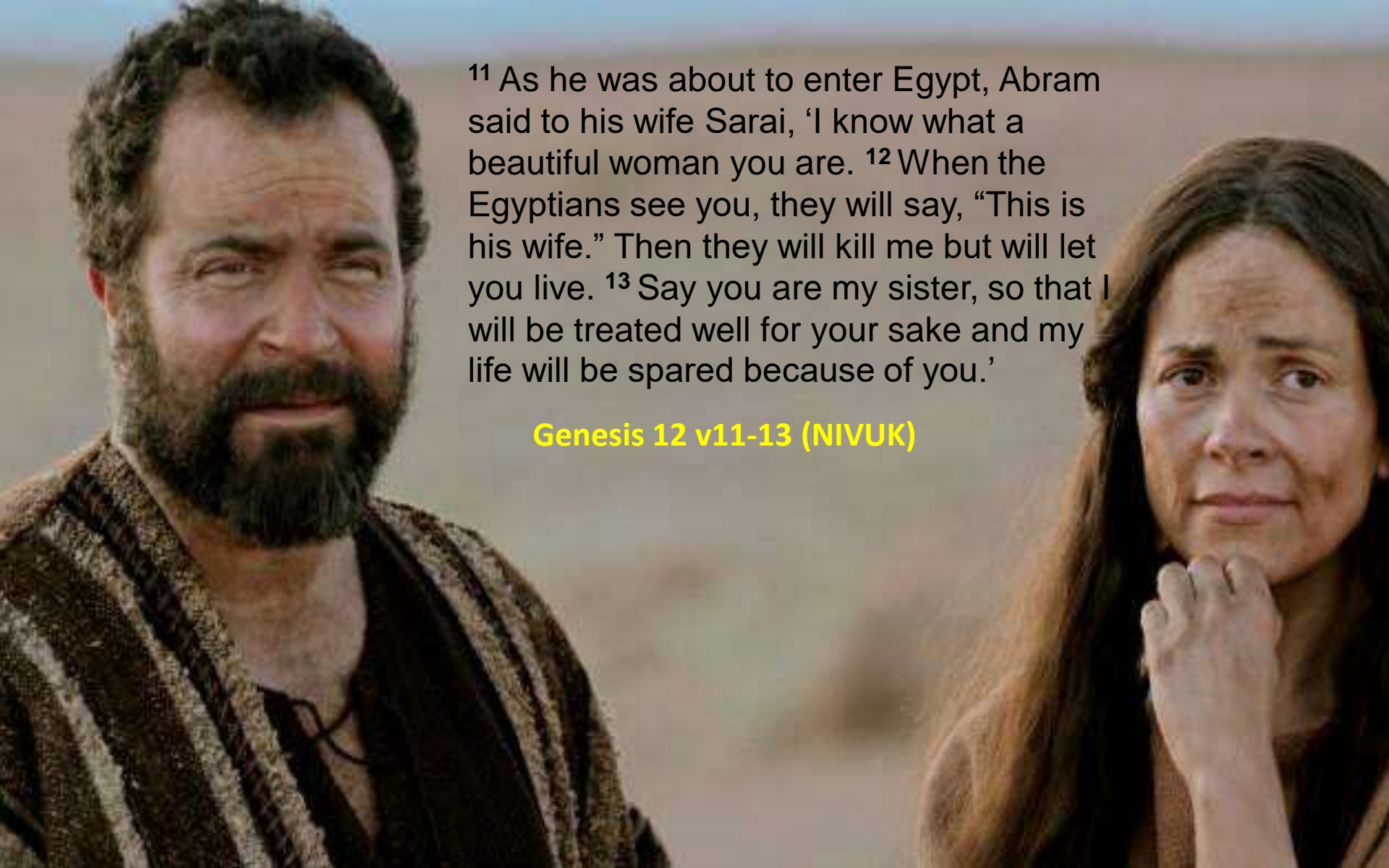
Genesis 12 v4-5 (NIVUK)

A black and white photograph of a man in traditional attire, possibly a shepherd, standing in a mountainous landscape. He is wearing a long, light-colored robe and a turban. In the foreground, several sheep are visible, some with large, thick woolly coats. The background features rugged, rocky mountains with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The overall scene is a high-altitude, mountainous region.

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.

Genesis 12 v7 (NIVUK)

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.

A man with a dark beard and curly hair, wearing a brown and white striped tunic, looks slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression. To his right, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark top, looks forward with a concerned or thoughtful expression, her hand resting near her chin. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, Abram said to his wife Sarai, ‘I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹²When the Egyptians see you, they will say, “This is his wife.” Then they will kill me but will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.’

Genesis 12 v11-13 (NIVUK)

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIVUK)

God promises a son to Abram
The LORD's covenant with Abram

15 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.'

² But Abram said, 'Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?'

³ And Abram said, 'You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.'

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.' ⁵ He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.'

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 17:1-6 (NIVUK)

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.'

³ Abram fell face down, and God said to him, ⁴ 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.'

Genesis 18:1-15 (NIVUK)

The three visitors

18 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. **2** Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, 'If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. **4** Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. **5** Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way – now that you have come to your servant.'

'Very well,' they answered, 'do as you say.'

While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him.

'There, in the tent,' he said.

10 Then one of them said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.'

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. **11** Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?'

13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Will I really have a child, now that I am old?" **14** Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.'

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, 'I did not laugh.'

But he said, 'Yes, you did laugh.'

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A landscape photograph showing a vast, dry, brown field in the foreground, leading up to a range of dark, rugged mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A small, dark animal is visible in the middle ground of the field.

Abraham is declared as a Hero of faith, a righteous man.

But Abraham and Sarah still lived ordinary lives and did some really unhelpful things!

However, God saw the good in them and encouraged them to Men and Woman beyond themselves, because of their faith and obedience to God.

What brilliant examples for us. Ordinary people. But amazing people in God.