

A “Set-Apart” Life

(15–20 minutes, easy setup)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: Today we begin a year-long study on the concept of consecration. What is consecration? According to the *Holman Bible Dictionary*, consecration “refers to persons or things being separated to or belonging to God. They are holy or sacred. They are set apart for the service of God.”

1. We are “set apart” for God when we hear and respond to His call (Hebrews 11:8-10).

- When God called Abraham to follow Him, Abraham responded immediately and obediently (v. 8).
- Abraham then lived as a citizen of heaven who temporarily resided on earth (v. 9-10).

Illustration: Prince William has been set apart from the other children in the United Kingdom since the moment of his birth because only he will become the King of England. Throughout his life, all decisions have been made for him based on whether or not they support his future role as king. Because People are God’s Treasure, God calls people to follow Him and to be used for His purposes. **In what ways do your decisions reveal that you are “set apart” for service to God?**

2. We are “set apart” for God by living by faith in the present while keeping our focus on the future (Hebrews 11:11-16).

- Abraham’s faith in God to fulfill His promises enabled him to become the father of Isaac (v. 11).
- Because Abraham trusted God, he became the father of the nation of Israel (v. 12).
- Abraham and his descendants lived by their faith in God. They realized that some of the things God had promised them would be fulfilled not on this earth but in heaven (vv. 13-14).
- Instead of abandoning their faith in God, they persevered because they knew God had prepared a better country for them—a heavenly one (vv. 15-16).

Illustration: Pastor Vance Havner described the way that a person’s relationship with the world changes when he or she responds to God’s call: “If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.” [Available at ChristianQuotes.com]

3. We are “set apart” for God when we are willing to surrender everything to Him (Hebrews 11:17-19).

- God tested Abraham’s faith by asking him to sacrifice Isaac, the son through whom God planned to fulfill His covenant promises (vv. 17-18).
- Abraham could sacrifice his son because he believed the God who had given him Isaac in his old age could raise him from the dead (v. 19).

Illustration: Charles Stanley shared his struggle to surrender to God’s call to relocate to Atlanta: “During the entire road trip [to the interview], I told the Lord that I didn’t want to move. I fussed and carried on a good while, but I knew Atlanta would be my new home. I didn’t like the idea, but the alternative was unimaginable.” [http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/in-touch/in-touch-oct-21-2011.html] **In what areas do you struggle to surrender your will to God’s plan?**

Conclusion: Abraham responded to God’s call and remained faithful to that call for the rest of his life. Abraham was faithful and God fulfilled His promises. He established a people for Himself, first in the nation of Israel and now through Christians. As God’s people, we are “set apart” from the world for a greater purpose—to honor Him with our lives during our temporary residence on earth.