

# The House of Hope Macon

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# 2018 is the year of FOCUS

# NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY

**Topic:** Night Vision<sup>1</sup>

If no pain, then no love. If no darkness, no light. If no risk, then no reward. It's all or nothing. - Glennon Doyle Melton

The Big Idea: God leads us in moments of uncertainty.

FOCAL TEXT- Genesis 15:12-14 (NRSV)- <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; <sup>14</sup> but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

#### Introduction

- Darkness is inevitable and **life** is unpredictable.
- Sudden changes, <u>life</u> transitions, and new opportunities can make us feel uncertain and left in the dark.
- God gives us "night vision" to see His purpose and plan in the dark moments of our lives.

Seeing God in the dark can help us restore our **Focus**, strengthen our **Faith**, and prepare us for our **Futures**.

### I. Focus - Genesis 15:12

When we experience uncertainty....

- A. Familiar objects keep us centered<sup>2</sup>.
- B. Our sense of **discernment**<sup>3</sup> becomes sharper.
- C. Things, which were more **important** matter less.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ability to see in the dark

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> When walking in a dark room, familiar objects we remember from being in the light, help us navigate the spaces we are in. In the same way, God center us in dark moments with familiar passages of scripture and past experiences when He has proven Himself to us before.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure



When we experience darkness, our dependency upon God strengthens our Faith.

### Faith - Genesis 15:13

- D. We rely on the **Word** of God.
- E. We rely on **God** when things are hard.
- F. We rely on God when His <u>methods</u> cause us pain.

Dark experiences mature us spiritually and they prepare us for our Future

### **APPLY IT!**

1.	What are the areas of uncertainty in my life? How might I embrace God's presence and
	peace amid them?

2. How might I measure my growth in trusting God in times of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty?

For the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must be present. - Francis Bacon