



## **“Abraham, the Man at the Pool, and the Peaceful Person – Type 9”**

**Theme: Beloved and Beautiful – Enneagram and Understanding**

**Weekly Memory Verse: *Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. – Ephesians 4:15***

**Family Activity for the Week:** God made each one of us uniquely and wonderfully and that includes all our gifts, emotions, and thoughts. We can grow more aware of who God is, by learning more about who we are. This week here are some examples of tools to begin using in your household so that your family can grow more emotionally and spiritually aware. Here is one that points out different emotions that we feel: <https://www.amazon.com/Feelings-Emotions-Laminated-Classroom-Decorations/dp/B07W5QPG9G> And this one has each of the fruits of the spirit: <https://christianpreschoolprintables.com/wp-content/uploads/PPP/FruitSpirit/FruitChart.pdf> These can be topics of discussion at the dinner table or before bed, “How did you focus on patience today? Was there a time where you shared joy with someone today?” Remember tools are only good when you use them. So make these work for you! Create your own posters for the fridge and give each family member their own 2 magnets. These can be their markers to share what they are feeling and what fruit will be their focus for the day. Have fun!

If you are not familiar with the Enneagram, you may want to check out the introduction workshop done by Pastor Aaron and Pastor Karen, or the books and articles found on this resource page <https://www.summitdurango.org/enneagram-resource-page/> for this sermon series. This week we are talking about type 9, known as the Peaceful person. This is the second of the gut triad which includes 8, 9 and 1. There is a link to a simple inventory listed on the resource page which can help you discern your type.

**Monday, September 14** – Read 1 Corinthians 2:27-30; Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:6-8. The apostle Paul wrote the three passages you just read over two thousand years ago, yet they are timeless, applying to each follower of Jesus in 2020. As the body of Christ, each member works together to create the whole. If one person with one gift is missing, the entire body suffers. As the body works together unity and power come into being. We do not acquire or use these gifts on our own strength, but only through the Holy Spirit at work within us.

▲ Are you clear about which of these gifts the Spirit has given you? If not, ask one or more people who know you well what gifts they see in you. You can access a short introduction to spiritual gifts

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discovery and an inventory we use at Summit Church here...

[https://spiritualgiftsdiscovery.com/assessment-login/?invite=k\\_52d56c999e9f](https://spiritualgiftsdiscovery.com/assessment-login/?invite=k_52d56c999e9f) . Once you have a sense of what your gifts are, how are you using those gifts to serve and build up the body of Christ?

- ▲ Your “package” of spiritual gifts won’t be exactly like anyone else’s—note how Paul used words like “some” and “if” in writing about the gifts. And you must develop any spiritual gift. You likely have an aptitude in your area of giftedness but have room to grow in using it well. How are you developing your spiritual gifts?

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, the Spirit has gifted me in unique ways so that the Kingdom might come to earth. Help me to recognize the joy and responsibility of my giftedness. Amen.*

**Tuesday, September 15** – Read Ephesians 4:14-16 and 21-25. Sadly, some Christians think “telling the truth” and “being loving” are opposites. They embarrass or humiliate others in the ways they, “tell the truth.” They defend anger, contempt or sarcasm as just, “telling it like it is.” But as Pastor Peter Scazzero wrote, “You can’t be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature.” That’s why 1 Corinthians 13:6 said that love, “isn’t happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth.”

- ▲ To fail to tell someone else the truth is not loving. To tell them the truth in angry or belittling ways is also not loving. Ephesians said one key to helping each other grow is “speaking the truth **in love.**” Which do you find harder most of the time: speaking the truth at all, or doing so in love? What can help you grow toward maturity in both of those dimensions?
- ▲ Ephesians used radical language: “clothe yourself with the new person created according to God’s image in justice and true holiness.” Those words described putting on new, clean clothes in place of ragged, dirty ones. Can you see parts of your “old self” that you and God have taken off or are in the process of taking off? In what ways is your “new person” growing more lovingly truthful? How do you want to ask God to keep you growing more honestly loving in the next six months?

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, you honestly challenge me to grow more like you. You give me a climate of love and grace in which to do so. Help me become more like you in the ways I speak the truth in love. Amen.*

**Wednesday, September 16** – Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 15:1-6. God loved the human family and wanted to bless them. The early chapters of Genesis said, through a series of archetypal stories, that humans kept refusing to bless one another as God wanted. So God chose a people like Abram—later Abraham (see [Genesis 17:5](#))—and his descendants. He often repeated his plan to bless the whole world through them. See also [Genesis 18:18](#), [22:18](#), [28:14](#)).

- ▲ God promised Abram a land, but when he died, he was still a nomad. God promised that he’d become a great nation, but when he died that hope rested in his one son Isaac (see [Hebrews 11:9-10, 13](#)). Genesis 15:6 identified the key to Abraham’s good life—he “trusted the Lord.” In what ways have you learned to let your spiritual life rest, not so much on concrete human accomplishments and possessions, but on trust in God?
- ▲ With the promised blessings, God gave a great responsibility. Abram and his family were to be a channel through which God would bless all peoples on earth. What are some ways in which Abram’s ethnic descendants in the Jewish faith have blessed the world? Mentally list the blessings you believe you have received. In what ways have you been open to allowing God to bless others through you?

**Prayer:** *Lord God, teach me how to trust you as Abraham did. And attune my heart to your call to me, as it was to Abraham, to use your blessings to bless others. Amen.*

**Thursday, September 17** – Read Genesis 12:1-9. God made great promises to Abraham, “the ancestor of all those people... who have faith in God” (see Romans 4:11), including, “a land I will show you,” and, “I will bless you.” Human nature might turn promises like that into, “God has made me more special than anyone

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else!” But God had something different in mind. God blessed Abraham so that he and his offspring could share the blessing: “All the families of earth will be blessed because of you.”

- ▲ Just before Abraham’s story, [Genesis 11:1-9](#) told the story of the Tower of Babel, in which humans tried to “declare independence” from God. Pastor Stuart Briscoe wrote: “In marked contrast to a world that came to ruin because it insisted on making a name for itself independently of God, this obscure man’s name was to become ‘great’ because God was promising to bring it to pass.” In what ways can you trust God’s principles to guide your life well, rather than having to fight for distinction and worth on your own?
- ▲ These stories probably took their final form during the time of Israel’s monarchy. The Israelites who first heard these stories experienced these promises as coming true in their own time. It was much later, when the nation of Israel was conquered by the likes of the Assyrians and Babylonians, that these old promises gave a picture of who God’s people might be again in the future. In what ways is God’s promise not just ancient history, but a pointer to God’s ideal for you and your church family?

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, you wanted Abraham to care about blessing “all the families of earth.” Plant that kind of heart in me, too, as one of Abraham’s spiritual descendants. Amen.*

**Friday, September 18** – Read John 5:1-18. Many people in Jesus’ day thought the pool of Bethesda (or Bethsaida) had healing power. It hadn’t worked for the man Jesus met—he’d been there for 38 years! Jesus asked him, “Do you WANT to get well?” He told the Pharisees, busy enforcing their understanding of the Sabbath command as forbidding even trivial, “work,” that godly acts of blessing and healing were fully compatible with the Sabbath rest. God’s healing, sustaining work goes on full-time.

- ▲ In what ways did the question “Do you WANT to get well?” and the command “Get up” both invite and empower the man to open himself to God’s power to make his healing possible? Is there any part of your life in which Jesus is asking you, “Do you want to get well?” In what ways have you been healed and freed as you take part in Jesus’ new creation?
- ▲ Jesus’ intention in this story was not to deny the importance of the work-rest rhythm the Sabbath commandment taught. It was to create a clearer sense that the rest to which God calls us is not always total inaction. God’s rest may involve taking part in God’s renewing, refreshing work. When have you been involved in an activity to bless others that left you rejuvenated and recharged for your regular routine?

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, I want to “get well.” Please keep on creating in me the whole new quality of life John called “eternal life.” Empower me to daily choose you and your kingdom. Amen.*

**Saturday, September 19** – Read Philippians 4:4-7. According to [Philippians 1:13](#), The apostle Paul wrote Philippians from prison. Philippians is known for its emphasis on joy. This joy or gladness isn’t just happiness of the moment. It’s a confident disposition rooted in hope. Believers have this gladness because they know that having problems, or even enduring harassment, doesn’t mean God has deserted them. This gladness is a steady and hopeful disposition that shapes believers’ lives as they rely on God’s love for their salvation.

- ▲ Paul was either hopelessly naïve or filled with divine wisdom. He had learned his approach to life from Israel’s psalms and prophets. For examples, see, [Psalm 32:11](#), [35:9](#), [64:10](#), [97:12](#), [Isaiah 41:16](#), [61:10](#). Why not try out that approach to life, or build it more fully into your way of life? As we continue in this strange time of pandemic, full of uncertainty, can you practice thing like being, “glad in the Lord,” and “bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks”? See how doing that consistently shapes your thoughts and feelings, and your interactions with others. See if you don’t find greater gratitude and peace.

**Prayer:** Loving God, build in my heart and mind that confident disposition rooted in hope. Help me to offer you deeply heartfelt thanks this holiday season, rooted not in this broken world but in your unfailing love and goodness. Amen.