

GROUP GUIDE - WEEK 1



Gen 12:1-5

This week we're looking at Abraham and the great grace of God that he bestowed on Abraham, and consequently on us, through a promise God made. We will discover the bigness of God, the faithfulness of God and the beauty of our ancient yet highly real and relevant faith!

BRIEF WHOLE GROUP CONVERSATION (10 MINUTES)

This Sunday we learnt that great grace develops great faith, and that faith is dependant on the object of our faith more than the actual level found within the believer.

- What in the Sunday message most interested, inspired or challenged you?
- Has anyone started with the "40 days with Abraham" devotional, and if so are there any insights that have impacted you?

FOR DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 12:1-5 out loud in the group.

- Read Romans 5:20 (ESP. ...But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,) and discuss why this promise in Gen 12 is quite shocking, considering Abraham was in fact a moon worshiper when he received these words from God.
- Jesus spoke about Abraham many times, in what ways could we see a link between God's words to Abraham and our lives as believers today?
- In what way can we see how Christ is the fulfillment of this promise to Abraham? And what can we learn about faith considering that Abraham never saw the total fulfillment of God's promise in his lifetime?
- If all people/nations are to be recipients of this promise, then what does this mean for our understanding of race, class and status?
- Considering that you are Abraham's offspring, or "child of the promise", share one way that this changes your thinking, understanding, mission or anything else.

Whole group (or smaller sub-groups if you wish) prayer (10 minutes)

- Pray about what we've spoken about. Ask God to reveal his faithfulness and grace in the light of this 4000-year-old promise.
- Pray for people facing any personal challenges of their own.

NB!! PLEASE DISCUSS THE CLOTHE THE COLD INITIATIVE FOR THE LAST 10 MINUTES OF THE NIGHT AS NEXT WEEK WE YOUR GROUP WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN BLESSING OUR CITY IN A PROFOUND WAY! SEE ATTACHED DOC FOR HOW TO PREPARE, DON'T FORGET TO CONSULT YOUR CHAMP.

HOW TO PREPARE



<http://www.commongroundchurch.co.za/News/ponderthis/1745.aspx>

(download from the link at the bottom of the page)

40 days with Abraham, the devotional, will be brilliant reading in preparation. Simply read through the first 3 days to submerge yourself in the beauty of this passage and it's power to transform.

We are really trusting as elders that this will be a key time for our church to deepen their roots in the ancient story that is God's, and that our hearts will swell with the magnitude of the quest that we believers have embarked upon as we begin to see how all sufficient our God is.

Don't forget to laugh lots and create as natural of an environment for conversation as possible, so that people can be themselves. Relax and have fun whilst you go deep into the treasures of God's truth!