

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of June 9-15, 2024

“WHY ISRAEL MATTERS”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Have you ever made a promise that you did not keep? Why weren't you able to keep it?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 12:1-4.

1. In Genesis 12:1, God calls Abram to leave his country, his people and his family. What reasons could Abraham have given to say no to God? What were the implications of this call? How do you think Abraham would've received this call considering that he was 75 years old when it was given?
2. What were the promises that God gave to Abraham? Verse 4 tells us that Abraham follows God's instructions but the text is silent about his mental and emotional response at this point. What mental and emotional responses might someone have at this point in the text? What makes you think that?
3. Have you ever been in situation that was similar to Abraham's, where God called you to step out in faith? In what way(s)? How did you respond to God? How was God at work in that situation?
4. God promises that he will bless Abraham and Abraham will be a blessing. As you reflect on how God has blessed you, in and through Christ, how have you been a blessing to others? Can you share a recent experience when you have become a blessing to others?
5. What are your perspectives about Israel today, based on what you hear from the news or social media? Do you believe loyalty to God automatically translates to loyalty to Israel? Share your views on this matter but do not debate.
6. How should the idea of being part of God's larger plan, like Abraham, affect your view of your own life and purpose? Can you give a specific example that this is true in your life today?

7. In this passage, God says, "I will" five times. One of the things that we see in this passage is that God is true to his promises. How important is that to you today? Does this change your outlook in life at all?

NEXT STEPS

God made a promise to Abraham 4,000 years ago and he is still keeping it.

- I will trust in God's promises.
- I will reflect on God's faithfulness in my life, big or small.
- I will walk in loyalty to God.
- I will walk in circumspect as I live in these "last of the last days."

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for patience as you wait for God's promises to unfold in your life.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

June 10 Genesis 12:1-9
June 11 Psalms 40:1-8
June 12 Psalms 34:1-10
June 13 Ezekiel 36:16-28
June 14 Psalms 18:20-27
June 15 Psalms 11:1-7
June 16 Isaiah 40:12-26