

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"COVENANT: GOD BINDS HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE" FEBRUARY 25

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Imagine you're looking through a crack in a doorway. You can see that there's something on the other side, but you can't see the whole picture. To really know what's on the other side you would have to open the door all the way. Reading the Bible can be like that. You might read a bit about David, or one of Jesus' parables, about Queen Esther or a talking donkey, some handwriting on the wall, and a guy that got shipwrecked. But how does it all fit together? What's the big picture of the Bible? Over six weeks, we're going to work our way through the one story that the Bible is telling, how God has been at work from the beginning in the Garden of Eden through the Old Testament to Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. We'll look back at what has happened and what it all means for what is happening now and what is to come.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open with prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

In Genesis 12 God makes a covenant with one man, Abram. Out of all people on earth, God chooses Abram and through this covenant sets in motion his plan to redeem creation and reinstitute the partnership with mankind established and then lost in the Garden of Eden. God promised Abram (later Abraham), that he would become a great nation, and that his offspring would bless all people. Then, in a dramatic scene in Genesis 15, God seals the covenant with blood. In an equally dramatic scene on the night when he was betrayed, Jesus makes a new covenant between God and man and seals it with His blood.

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Share a high and a low since the group last met. How did you see the hand of God in these moments?



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Sometime later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great." - Genesis 15:1 NLT

Reflect

A prayer to start...Father, as I read your word, please open my ears to hear and my heart to surrender to your purposes today.

Read the full passage in your Bible - Genesis 15:1-20.

What is something that is catching your attention from the passage? Pause here, camp on this a bit, be curious.

God made a covenant with Abraham. What do you know about covenants?

Ponder how this account points us to God making a new covenant with humanity through the death of Jesus, redemption sealed by his blood.

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

List the promises you see God make in the Genesis 15 passage above. What are the benefits of one-way covenants dependent only on God keeping His promises and not dependent on us keeping ours? What does this tell you about who God is?

Read Luke 22:7-20. Describe the new covenant God makes through the blood of Jesus.

Read Genesis 12:1-3. God's blessing for all people would be restored and fulfilled through Abram and his offspring. Skim Matthew 1:1-17. How does this passage show the fulfillment of this promise to Abram?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. In Christ, God is reconciling the world to himself. As a result of today's reading and discussion, what have you learned about God's covenants and His redemption and restoration through Jesus?

DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:
About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection. Ask each person to write a personal prayer request on an index card with their name at the top. Pass the index cards one person to the right.

Close the group with a circle prayer. The leader or apprentice will open in prayer and then have each person pray aloud for the card they hold, beginning with the person on their right. The leader or apprentice will close the prayer time at the end.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Talk to God about your life being redeemed (bought back from the power of sin) by the blood of Jesus.

Invite God to deepen your identity as someone worth dying for, someone of great worth, great value to him.

A covenant binds you to something or someone. Thank God that he took the initiative and did all the work of binding himself to you, and welcoming you into a relationship.

Live It Out

Where might God be inviting you into a partnership with him, one of bringing restoration and reconciliation to the circles in which you move? Pray about that.

Ask God to reveal an opportunity to you and to give you the courage and gifts to bring wholeness into brokenness.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6**LIVE IT OUT:***About 2 minutes*

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.