



Crossroads The Story Discussion Guide

“God Builds A Nation”

Week of: January 13, 2019

God will accomplish his plan and will in this world, but he often does it in ways we would not expect and through surprising people.

This week we look at Chapter 2 of The Story, which deals with how God starts to build a nation. We'll look at the early patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and see how God blessed them to be a blessing to others. If you don't have The Story book, you can read Genesis chapters 12-13, 15-17, 21-22, 32-33 and 35. (*There's also a little of Romans 4 and Hebrews 11 from the New Testament thrown in, which gives you a clue as to how some of the New Testament writers understood these stories.*) Remember, the Story book is easier to understand because it has eliminated chapter and verse numbers and some of the more confusing parts, but it's exactly the same wording as in the NIV Bible.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Many of the people God called to follow him and do great things had excuses or reasons they thought God should not use them. What are some of the common excuses people still use today when they want to get out of following God's leading for their life?
2. When God called Abram to follow him, there was a clear sense of partnership. God promised to do specific things and also called Abram to do his part (Genesis 12:1-5). What was God's part and what was Abraham's part in this great adventure?
3. What do you learn about Abraham and Sarah's faith from Hebrews 11:8-9 (a summary of *The Story*, pp. 13-20)?
4. Sarah did not think God was moving fast enough with the whole "nation building project." So, she decided to help God by giving her servant to Abraham to bear a child for her. Give some examples of ways we jump ahead of God's thing for our lives in an effort to "help" God.

Diving Deeper

1. Pray for strength to make the next step of faith that God is calling you to take.
2. Ask God to give you sense of where he might be leading you in the future. Commit to follow him, no matter what anyone else might say or think.
3. Abraham gave what was most precious to him and surrendered it to God. He would not hold back even his own son. Make a list of 5 to 10 things that mean a lot to you. One by one, offer them to God. If it is a person, surrender that loved one to the Lord. If it is material possession, let God know that he has full access to it. If it is talent or special gift, tell God you will use it for him. Take everything and freely offer it back to the One who gave you all you have.

Read for Next Session

Take time before your next group meeting to read chapter 3 of "The Story"