



At Involve Church, you're likely to hear us talk about a few important concepts we call our Core Values. They define who we are and prioritize our time, energy, and resources. You will find each of our Core Values below along with some follow up questions that pertain to this week's talk. Life Groups meet during the week to discuss these questions and encourage one another in their relationship with Jesus. For more information on our Core Values or Life Groups, visit [involvechurch.com](http://involvechurch.com).

## Life Group Discussion Guide

Talk Title: "Messed Up People, Used for Good"

Overview of Genesis 12-37



### Authenticity | Making it Real

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all had some serious issues in their lives. Knowing all that, God still chose to interact with and use them. If you feel comfortable, take some time to share a time when you were surprised how God used you in spite of a bad attitude or other issues in your life.

Paul says this: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst" (1 Timothy 2:15). Knowing that Paul wrote a good chunk of the New Testament, it is amazing to think that this was his view of himself.

What do you think of this? Is this an accurate view of self? Talk in your group what the Bible says about how we are to view ourselves in regard to sin.

After you've talked this through, consider the implications: if Paul, who wrote so much of the New Testament, realized he was so great a sinner - yet God still used him in a great way - what does this mean for us, as well?



### Cultural Relevance | Bridging the Gap

What is Bridging the Gap? *The Words of the Bible were written in a time and culture that is much different than ours. The principles of the Bible are timeless, but the background, style of writing, and flow of thought is often much different than today. It's always a good idea to ask the question, "What did this portion of the Bible mean to the people it was written to?" Once you've answered this question you can draw out principles that apply to our world today.*

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all had issues, yet God continued His relationship with them in spite of all their problems. He used them for good. This looks a lot like a loving, forgiving God. Do you think that the world has a different view of God in the Old Testament than this? How might you begin a conversation with people that God was gracious, kind, and forgiving in the Old Testament?

Do you think there is a misperception that Christians are people who "have their act together?" How might we live and communicate in such a way that better conveys the concept that Christians are all messed up people, changed by God's grace (not our own good deeds), and used for good?

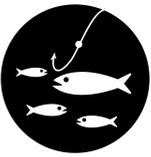


## Discipleship | *Asking the Tough Questions*

For more study: Genesis 18:18-19; John 14:15-31

Read the passage above in Genesis 18. It clearly states that God chose Abraham first, then expects him, his household, and his children to “keep the way of the LORD...” God saves ***first***, then expects the behavior ***to follow***. What implications does this have for how you view your relationship to God?

Read the John passage. Jesus says, “if you love me, you will keep my commandments” (v. 15). This is a convicting truth. A follower of Jesus will do as Jesus asks and live as Jesus lived. But, we are not left on our own to do this under our own steam. What are the implications of what Jesus has to say in vv. 16-31?



## Evangelism | *Reaching Our Community*

God says to Abraham “in you all of the families of the earth will be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). This outlines one of the main reasons God called Abraham. Talk in your group how this was to be fulfilled in the time of the Patriarchs. After you’ve talked that through, answer this question: what is your direct connection to Abraham?

How is the purpose to which God called Abraham (and his descendants) similar to the purpose to which Christ-followers and the church are called today? Can you find this purpose in the New Testament?



## Multiply | *Reproducing Our Faith*

Sometimes we forget that our limitations, including our sinfulness, has no influence on God’s ability to accomplish what He wants to accomplish. In light of the fact that we are all “messed up people, used for good,” how might you encourage a brother or sister in Christ to see their part in God’s good purposes?



## Service | *Serving Our Church and Community*

This is unconnected to the study, but take some time to talk through how your Life Group might serve one another or others in some way in the next 6 weeks. Come up with a game plan to carry it out.

**Wrap-Up - Review Your Pi3 and Pray if you Haven’t Already**