

startingpoint

— the series —

PART 3: Sea of Glass

INTRODUCTION

Three major world faith traditions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity—claim the same starting point: a man named Abraham. All three agree that sin made a mess of the world and God started his clean-up operation with Abraham. God made a series of promises and Abraham's responses to those promises didn't just have implications for his personal starting point or the starting points of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. It had implications for *your* starting point as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following reflects your view? Why?
 - God accepts me based upon my birth.
 - God accepts me based upon my behavior.
 - God accepts me based upon my belief.
 - God accepts me based upon some combination of the above.
2. Have you ever taken a first step in restoring a relationship? If so, what was it like for you?
3. Do you believe adversity is part of God's plan? Why or why not?
4. When have you seen someone demonstrate great faith despite his or her circumstances?
5. What experiences have you had that have made it difficult to trust God?
6. In what area of your life is God currently calling you to trust him? What is one thing you can do this week to trust him? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

When sin stranded mankind in a sea of broken glass, God had a choice: to hang an "Out of Order" sign on our mess and move on or to get involved. Because he cared, he chose to get involved. That meant he had to start somewhere. He reached out to one man, Abraham, and asked for his trust. In return for Abraham's faith, God credited him with righteousness and cleared a path for a personal relationship. He makes the same offer to each of us.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

Psalm 32:1-2