

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 10, 2014

Passage: Genesis 12-18:21

Memory Passage: Genesis 17:5-8

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Gen. 12.** Name the 7 elements of the promise found in vs. 2-3 and explain each element as you understand it today.
- (b) Is this promise conditional, unconditional, or both? Give reasons for your answer.
- (c) Who are the “offspring” who are to receive this land (v. 7)?
- (d) What actions do you see Abram taking in this chapter? For each one, explain why it is either of faith or lacking in faith.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Gen. 13-14.** What do you learn about both Abram and Lot from how they settled the strife between their herdsmen?
- (b) What further details do you learn about God’s promise to Abram (13:14-16)?
- (c) How did Abram respond to Melchizedek and the king of Sodom, and why are these differences important?
- (d) What principles do you glean from these chapters concerning (1) our attitude toward God’s material blessings; (2) the place of peacemaking for God’s people? How will you implement these principles in your own life in the coming weeks?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Gen. 15-16.** How is God’s response to Abram in 15:1 tied to Abram’s response to the king of Sodom in 14:21-24?
- (b) Is Abram’s complaint in 15:2-3 valid? Does his complaint flow from a lack of faith or from faith? Why?
- (c) What did Abram do in order to have righteousness credited to him (15:6)?
- (d) Explain how chapter 15 advances and further explains the promise given in chapters 12 & 13?
- (e) What do you learn in chapter 16 about the character of Abram, Sarai, Hagar, and God?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Gen. 17:1-14.** What are Abraham’s covenantal responsibilities in this chapter, and what happens if he fails?
- (b) What are the covenantal responsibilities of Abraham’s descendants and what happens if they fail?
- (c) What are God’s covenantal responsibilities? Are they dependent on the actions of Abraham or his descendants?
- (d) Physical circumcision marked out Abraham’s physical seed, but did it mark out his spiritual seed as well (cf. Deut. 10:12-17; 30:5-8; Jer. 4:4; Ezek. 44:7-9; Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 5:1-6; 6:15)? If not, what marked his spiritual seed?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Genesis 17:15-18:15.** Explain the difference between the way God promises to deal with Ishmael and the way He promises to deal with Isaac, and why this is an important development in God’s plan of salvation (and especially with regard to the act of physical circumcision).
- (b) Who were the three men who visited Abraham, how does his response to them help you answer, and why is this portion of Scripture important in the flow of the story about Abraham & Sarah?
- (c) How does this story challenge you to be faithful to the commands of showing hospitality, especially in light of Heb. 13:2?
- (d) How has your understanding grown concerning God’s promise to provide The Seed who will crush the head of Satan?
- (e) What questions do you have concerning what we have learned so far in this series, “The Promise: Christ the Seed of Abraham?”

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