

LIFE Group Guide
Promise
Pastor Colin Smith
February 3, 2019
Genesis 12:1-9



Prayer Request: Thank God for his promise to Abraham, through which we have been brought into the family of God. Pray for the person to your right, that God would grant a deeper awareness of the love demonstrated through Christ's work on their behalf. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir up grateful joy and obedience in your hearts.

Icebreaker Question(s): What is one of the most significant promises you've made to someone else?
What is one of the most significant promises someone has made to you?

Read Genesis 12:1-9:

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Sermon Outline:

God's Promise (Gen. 12:2-3)

1. God's Promise is a Gift of Grace (Gen. 12:1-9)
 - i. A Blessed People (Gen. 12:2)
 - ii. A Blessed Place (Gen. 12:1)
2. God's Promise Is Received By Faith (Gen. 15:1-6)
 - i. Why did God count Abraham righteous? (Gen. 15:6)
 - ii. What did Abraham believe that led to God counting him righteous? (Gen. 15:6, John 8:56)
 - iii. How does believing make us right with God? (Gen. 15:6)
3. God's Promise Comes at Unimaginable Cost (Gen. 22:1-18)
 - i. Abraham did not question the need for a sacrifice. (Gen. 22:2)
 - ii. Abraham believed that God would provide the sacrifice (Gen. 22:8, 13)

Discussion Questions:

1. As you heard the word of God preached or read, what did the Holy Spirit remind you of, challenge you with, convict you of, or encourage you in? Did you have any questions or was anything unclear?
2. Read Genesis 12:1-9. What does God promise to Abraham? Why is this promise important to the storyline of the Bible? Why does the Bible follow the story of Abraham and his line? How is God's promise a gift of grace?
3. Read Genesis 15:1-6. Abraham "believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness". What does this verse mean? Why did God count Abraham righteous?
4. Read John 8:56. What did Abraham believe that led to God counting him righteous?
5. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ like Abraham did? How is your faith similar? How is it different?
6. How does faith "work"? How does believing make us right with God?
7. Read Genesis 22:1-18. What does God command Abraham to do? How does Abraham respond? How is the situation resolved?
8. Discuss as a LIFE Group: How do the events of Genesis 22:1-18 point forward to Christ's work on the cross? What do they tell us about the cost of our salvation? How has God demonstrated his love for Abraham, Isaac, and for us? How should we respond in our everyday lives to the reality that God has provided the sacrifice for our sins?

Prayer: Our Father, God of our fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, we thank you that through Christ's work we have been justified by faith, having peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you that through Christ we have, like Abraham, also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of your glory. We rejoice, because your love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. We worship you. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (*Adapted from Romans 5:1-10*).