

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 12:1-9

As a group, share something about your past week. For example, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. Share the best and worst moments of your week (highs and lows). Write prayer requests here. Open with prayer for these requests and for God to open your hearts to this week's study.

When was a time in your life that someone promised you something, but then you had to wait for the promise to be fulfilled? Did the person keep their promise? Or break it? How did that affect your relationship with the person?

Read today's passage. Discuss your initial impressions of the passage. Write any major points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Have someone summarize the passage in their own words, and use this space to record that summary.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions as a group. Write notes in the space provided.

What does the passage say about God?

What does the passage say about people?

What does the passage say about God's plan?

What else strikes you about this passage?

Understanding how a passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible is important.

This story is the foundation for so much of what we read in the Bible. God promised to make Abram into a great nation. It seems at first that this promise wouldn't be fulfilled, but with 25 years (!) of patience, God eventually gave Abram and Sarai a son through which this promise would be fulfilled—Isaac. Isaac then had Jacob, and Jacob had 12 sons that would become the nation of Israel. The rest of Genesis is about Abram (Abraham), Isaac, and Jacob (Israel), along with Jacob's 12 sons.

Then the rest of the Old Testament is about the nation of Israel. God delivered them from slavery in Egypt and led them through the wilderness to eventually settle in the Promised Land, in the land of Canaan, just as God had promised Abram. Once they were settled, the people begged for a king, so God gave them Saul, then David, then Solomon and a whole host of others. The people went through cycles of rejecting God, then repenting and turning back to God. Eventually, they were taken captive, and their lands and homes were taken over by other nations because the people refused to follow God.

Through all of this, God preserved his people because he still had one promise yet to be fulfilled. God promised that all peoples on earth would be blessed through the line of Abram, and that blessing came through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the one through whom all people on earth will ultimately be blessed because he has paid the penalty for sin for those who believe in him. Through Jesus, we can have the gift of eternal life. This is the greatest blessing of all!

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Discuss as a group. What questions do you have individually or as a group? Discuss potential answers.

As a group, use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your life. How does this passage affect how you view God?

How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.