



GENESIS GROUP GUIDE

SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GENESIS 12

In our study of Genesis, we have spent time looking at God's work of creation, humanity's fall, and God's faithfulness to fulfill his promise to restore His Kingdom on a large scale. However, this week, our study will begin to zero in on one family in particular, God promising to dwell again with his people in His place again.

GENERAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

It is not likely that you will have time to read through all of the chapters as a group this week. Encourage members to read these chapters before group and to come prepared to discuss their impact.

- What does this text say about God?
 - How would you describe God after reading this passage? What do you learn about God's character and nature? How does this passage relate to how society defines God?
- What does this text say about people?
 - What do you learn about people's character and nature? How does this compare to what society says or believes about people?
- What does this text say about how we should live in light of what he has done?
 - What should I change in my life based on what I've read? Should I be praying about anything? Do I need to confess anything? Are there any promises I need to take hold of? What truths do I need to receive?

TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.

- Take a few minutes to read Genesis 11:1-9. In the story of Babel, we see a picture of man's pursuit of his own glory and power and God's decisive act to disperse mankind for their good and His promise & glory. Read now Genesis 12:1-3.
 - What are some of the similarities and differences between these stories/promises? For example:
 - In the story of Babel, who will make mankind into a great city/nation? In Genesis 12, who will do this through Abram?
 - In the story of Babel, who will make a name for mankind? In Genesis 12, who will make Abram's name great?
 - In the story of Babel, what was mankind fearful of? (being dispersed) In Genesis 12, who will Abram's family be a blessing to? (all the families of the earth)
 - There are others! What can you find?
 - Why do you think the author of Genesis might use these stories in contrast to one another? Remember the original audience (Who are they? Where are they? What are they doing?). What do you think he wants his listeners to see and understand?
- In Genesis 12:1, God calls Abram to "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land I will show you." We see in this calling that God is removing many of the things that Abram would find security in (also many of the things mankind was clinging to in Babel). His country, his people, even (most of) his family. This makes Abram a sojourner, an outcast, and an orphan in this new land. A land that, up to this point, God hasn't even fully revealed. There are many unknowns for Abram.
 - Why do you think God removes these areas of security from Abram? Where or in whom should Abram's allegiance be?
 - Read Luke 9:23-25. Often when God calls us to lay things down, deny ourselves, or when he removes things from us, we can focus on the loss of or separation from those things. However, in these verses, we see that we are separated from those things so that we cling to something greater.
 - How have you been tempted to find security in the things or people of this world rather than looking to God in recent weeks?
 - What do you think it would look like for you to deny yourself the security of these things and pick up the cross of Christ and follow Him in these areas?
 - What do you think keeps us from this kind of denial & obedience? (ex: fear, lack of trust, past pain, etc.)