

THE STORY SESSION 2
GOD BUILDS A NATION
GENESIS 11-36

MEMORY VERSE:

“Abraham believed the Lord and he credited it to him as righteousness.” (Gen. 15:6 NIV)

Big Idea: God will accomplish His plan in the world through our lives when we obediently trust Him. But He will work in surprising ways, with surprising requests, at surprising times, through surprising people – when we obey – so don’t be surprised!

Section I: Personal Study (As you read on your own time)

1. As you read, remember one of the main purposes of the Story is for it to become God’s wisdom, strength, and hope for your story. Pay special attention to things described that have similarities to some part of your story. (Examples: experiencing delays, facing fears, trying to help God out, being asked to surrender something precious, facing the consequences of a bad decision). Try and find something in your reading that you can share with your group that sheds light on your story. List some “my story” learning points.

2. A huge part of the focus of this lesson is how God can use the most unlikely and imperfect people, when they align with His will. Look for that and draw encouragement.

3. Before the next session, look in this Story and jot down some of the following:
 - a. A verse or truth you learned that God wants you to reflect more on.
 - b. A whisper from God you think you may have received while reading or reflecting on the Story.
 - c. A personal thing that you are being challenged to change because of your reading.
 - d. At least one practical step of something you will attempt to do differently because of what you’ve read.
 - e. Something important that you can share with your family or friends from what you’ve learned.

4. Suggested family activity to involve the Word with your family.
 - a. Decide on an adventure to do. Something as a family you’ve never done before that represents significant change as it relates to how you would spend that time (a hike,

- a meal, a visit to people, trying a new game, or outreach). Talk about what it was like for Abraham to go out, and what you learned from stepping out.
- b. See if you can come up with hand motions to tell the gist of the story of the first 2 chapters of the Story from Genesis.

Section 2: Questions for Conversation and Discussion

1. Before video time

Does anyone have a new discovery or application of God's Word this week, based on their reading or last week's group?

2. Ice breakers (choose one)

- a. If you were called by God to do something as radical as to be the founders of a nation, what would your most likely excuse for why you couldn't or shouldn't be the one to do it?
- b. Abraham is called a spiritual Father. Who is someone older in the Lord that taught you some important things and showed you the path of faith? What is one important thing they taught you?

3. Observations

- a. What is one point from the video that stood out to you?
- b. How do you think that Abraham was able to take such steps of faith?

Section 3: Prayer and God Moment Time

1. Faith is always just taking the next step of obedience before you see, feel, or have the blessing you desire. Have you been called to take a step like Abraham and Sarah? What happened?
2. What is an area where you've been in "the waiting room of life?" What is something God is teaching you?
3. Abraham and Sarah had failures on their journey of faith. God uses us in spite of our failures. What is a step of faith you failed in that you can put on the altar for God to redeem?

4. Sarah did not think God was moving fast enough in this “whole nation building thing.” So she jumped out ahead of God and gave Hagar to have a baby for her. Give examples of ways we jump out ahead of God’s timing to do God’s work for Him. Tell about a time God was saying “wait” but you rushed ahead. What is an area that you’re feeling impatient about and need to surrender to God?

5. What are some “most precious” things that you need to continually to remember to bring to the altar and give back to God? Have you ever made a blessing into an idol that you began to look to as the source of your value, identity, and joy?

6. In the same way God did something incredible through Abraham and Sarah, God is going to do something incredible through your life if you will listen and obey His whispers. What is a next step of faith that you think God might be leading in that will require His faith? How can the group pray for you and support you in this?

7. Would anyone like to offer a prayer of surrender, giving God full access and control over some or all of their life – putting your “Isaac” on the altar? If so, affirm that you are looking to God alone as your identity and joy.