



THE PROMISE BEGINS

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Discussion

1. When you think about the Bible as a whole, what part of it is easiest for you to understand—and what part feels most confusing or disconnected?

2. What resonated with you from Sunday's worship?

Read Genesis 12:1-3.

3. What stands out to you about God's promise to Abram? What does God promise to do *for* Abram, and what does He promise to do *through* Abram?

Review Genesis 1-3.

4. Before God calls Abram, what has happened to God's good creation? Why is a promise of blessing and redemption necessary?

Explore the Old Testament Overview (on the back)

5. What happens to God's promise as the story moves from Abraham to Israel, through the kings and prophets, and into exile?

6. Israel repeatedly fails, yet God continues to pursue His people and preserve His promise. What does this teach us about the character of God? Where have you experienced that in your life?

7. How does seeing the Old Testament as one unfolding story change the way you might approach a passage you've never understood?

8. How is "Where does this fit in God's story?" a deeper question than "What does this story teach me?"

9. God tells Abraham that "all the families of the earth shall be blessed through you." How does that move the focus beyond Abraham and Israel to God's mission for the whole world? What might it look like for us to live as people who have been blessed in order to be a blessing?

Genesis 12:2-3

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Next Steps

- **Love Jesus:** Read ahead for next Sunday - Luke 24:13-35
- **Connect with Others:** Share something you learned with another person.
- **Serve the World:** Pray for the 13 people need for family ministries.
- **Reach the Lost:** Invite someone who needs to hear about The Promise Fulfilled to next week's worship service.

Love Jesus. Connect with Others. Serve the World. Reach the Lost.

Old Testament Overview

Movement	Biblical Classification	Books	Key Events & Characters	Summary
Creation	Law (Torah)	Genesis 1-2	God creates the world Adam & Eve	<i>Creation</i> - God creates a good world and makes humanity in His image to live in relationship with Him.
Fall		Genesis 3-11	Sin enters creation Adam & Eve Sin spreads Cain & Abel God's judgment & covenant Noah Humanity's pride & scattering Tower of Babel	<i>The Fall</i> - Humanity rebels against God. Sin enters the world, fracturing our relationship with God, one another, and creation.
Redemption		5 Books (Pentateuch)	Genesis 12-50	God's covenant Abraham, Sarah, Isaac Promise to next generation Rebekah, Jacob Israel, 12 sons, family begins Leah, Rachel Joseph to Egypt Potiphar, Pharaoh
	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy		Deliverance from Egypt, covenant Moses Holiness, worship, sacrifice Aaron Wilderness journey, preparation Joseph, Caleb Covenant renewed, preparation for land	<i>Exodus</i> - God rescues Abraham's descendants from slavery and forms them into a covenant people.
	History	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings 1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Promised land Joshua Sin & deliverance Deborah, Gideon, Samson David's family Ruth & Boaz Davidic Covenant Samuel, Saul, David Temple, divided kingdom & exile Solomon, Elijah, Hezekiah, Josiah Return & Temple & walls rebuilt Ezra, Zerubbabel, Nehemiah Jews saved Esther, Mordecai, Haman	<i>Israel</i> - God gives Israel a land, a covenant, and a calling to be a kingdom of priests and a light to the nations. <i>Kingdom</i> - Israel receives kings, most notably David. God promises that David's line will have an enduring kingdom. The kingdom is divided into Israel & Judah.
	Poetry and Wisdom	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Suffering & God's faithfulness Job Worship David Wisdom for daily living Meaning of life and limits of wisdom Love, desire, and marriage	<i>Exile</i> - Israel's persistent rebellion leads to judgment and exile. Yet God does not abandon His people or His promise.
	Major Prophets	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Judgment and hope in coming Messiah Judah's unfaithfulness & covenant Grief over Jerusalem's destruction Exile, restoration, & new life Faithfulness in exile, fiery furnace, lion's den	<i>Return & Prophets</i> - Israel returns, but the story remains unfinished. The prophets continue to point toward a coming King, a renewed covenant, and God's restoration of His people and creation.
	Minor Prophets	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	Israel's unfaithfulness & God's love Judgment, repentance, & God's Spirit Justice, righteousness, & judgement Judgment against Edom God's mercy toward Nineveh big fish Judgement, justice, and coming ruler Judgment against Nineveh Wrestling with evil & trusting God The Day of the Lord; restoration Rebuilding the Temple Restoration and the coming King Covenant faithfulness	<i>Waiting</i> - The Old Testament closes with God's people still waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises.