



...beginnings
the gospel according to Genesis

Genesis 12-25

the call of God

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

in the week leading up to growth group pray & read through Genesis 11.27-12.20; 15.1-6

What stands out to you from these readings?

Are you puzzled about anything in these readings?

What do you **feel, think** or what might you **do** in response to these readings?

a taste of theology pre-reading: In *Salvation Begins* – reading Genesis today (Aquila Press, 2000, p119-120) Andrew Reid says: As created beings we are in a relationship with God which was created by him in Genesis 1. We are not our own, we are formed by God for relationship with him (compare Acts 17.24-31). Try as we might to neglect this relationship or hope that it does not exist, it is there. No matter who we are, there is a pre-existing relationship with the God of all the earth that needs to be addressed. It is this that provides one of the major points of contact between us as Christian people and the world to which we wish to proclaim the gospel. All humans are created people, made for right relationship with God. This relationship is currently far from 'right'. All humans have made themselves enemies of God through sin, and without God's redemption will continue in that state of enmity. The role of God's people is therefore to wake people to the existence of a relationship that exists between them and their Creator, and to call them back to it by announcing the redemption that is only available in and through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham.

How might you try to 'awaken' people to their Creator? PRAY that you might grow in knowing and sharing your faith.

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

What 'voices' do you trust in your day to day living? Why?

1. a life of faith | read Genesis 11.27-12.20; 15.1-6

▸ Discuss your stand outs, questions and responses from this passage:

▸ What is remarkable about the promise God makes and Abraham's response to it? (12.1-4)

▸ Read Hebrews 11.1-19: Discuss the highlight package of Abraham's story (the director's cut is found in Genesis 12-25). What do you learn here about the life of faith? Reflect thoughtfully on Abraham's obedience, faithfulness and failings.

2. the gospel according to Genesis | read Gal 3.1-16; Romans 3.21-4.5

▸ According to Galatians 3 how does God fulfill his promises to Abraham? What implications does this have for the nations and for you?

▸ How does the 'blessing' promised to Abraham get fulfilled in Jesus according to Romans chapter 3? How are people 'blessed' by God?

▸ According to Romans 3 was Abraham counted righteous in anyway different to how we are counted righteous today? why/why not?

▸ What benefit do we have over Abraham, that our faith is in some respects easier? What do you find hardest about trusting God's promise to you and when do you find this hardest? Do you feel awakened to the existence of, and relationship with, your Creator? How might you try to 'awaken' other people so they might seek to know their Creator?

PRAY! that you might grow in knowing and sharing your faith.