

Discipleship Groups

Reaching · Growing · Sending

Week of January 17, 2016

In His Presence: Abraham

Text: Genesis 22:1-18

Heartbeat

This week we continue to look at God's presence in Scripture – how He interacted with individuals throughout history and what that means for how He interacts with you and me today. We are exploring glimpses of God's presence with Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, and ultimately at Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Get to Know Me [5-10 Minutes]

- One thing you may not know about me is...

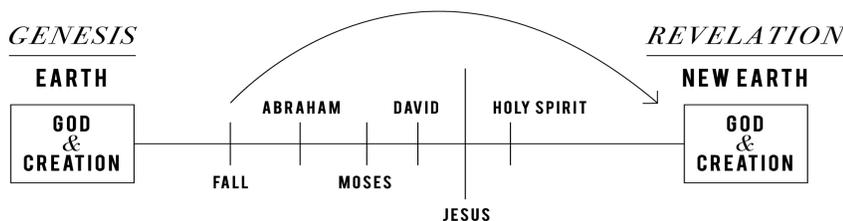
Warm-Up [15 Minutes]

- Who is one person, within your circles of influence (work, school, neighborhood, gym, etc.), that you would like to see come to Christ this year?
- What is one area you would like to grow in spiritually this year? (Ex: consistent Bible time, gifts of the Holy Spirit, prayer, etc.)

Exploration [20-30 Minutes]

Today we continue our study of God's presence through the life of Abraham. He had many encounters with God. Pastor Andrew preached from Genesis 12 where God promised to bless Abraham and all his descendants. We will look at another defining moment where Abraham encountered God's presence in Genesis 22.

THE BIGGER STORY



Read Genesis 22:1-18

- God asked Abraham to do something that seems unthinkable to you and me. Why do you think God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son?
- How did Abraham respond? How do you think you would have responded? Explain your answer.
- Identify and briefly discuss all the places where you see the presence of God in this chapter. How did God's presence manifest (show up)? How did Abraham respond to each of those moments? [fear, joy, other...]
- In verse 8, Abraham told Isaac that God would provide the lamb for the offering. What do you think was going through Abraham's mind when he said this? [Was it a diversion or white lie? Did he really have that much faith? Other?]
- Does verse 9 change or modify your thoughts on the previous question?
- What correlations do you see between Abraham's obedience and God's promises in verses 15-18? Is God's presence always tied to obedience? Think of other examples in scripture to support your answer.
- In what ways does this unusual example of God's presence support the idea of *blessing* to Abraham?

Application [20-30 Minutes]

Discuss the following questions as time allows or design your own questions.

- Some people think God still tests His people much like this case with Abraham. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
- What role does obedience/disobedience play in experiencing the presence of God?
- At this point in our study, how would you define "the presence" of God, since in some way He is always present?
- Do you find it easy or hard to trust God for provision in your life? [Ask the group to share examples of God's provision in their lives.]
- What is one area of obedience that needs to be addressed in your life this week? On a scale of 1-10 (10 - it's happening this week) what is your motivation level to follow through this week?
- How would you describe your current relationship with God? What would it look like if you had the relationship with God that you desire?
- Can you think of a time when God asked you to give up something you loved? How did you respond?

Ministry Time [10 Minutes]

Close the night by pairing up to pray about any personal needs and asking for courage to obey God this week in areas you discussed. Be Spirit-led if there is a more appropriate way to close out the night.