



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 2—Genesis Part 2

Lesson 1: God Gives A New Life to Abraham and Sarah—Genesis 21

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 21 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

How did God fulfill His promise to Abraham and Sarah?

- Despite their old age, God gave them a child.

What was the people's act of obedience? (v. 4)

- The act of circumcision was a sign of the people's obedience to God's covenant.

OUR STORY

In what three ways does Abraham seal his treaty with God?

- Abraham worships God by sealing this treaty (21:30-32) in three different ways:
 - First, Abraham plants a tree—a tamarisk tree.
 - Second, Abraham calls upon the name of the Lord—the eternal God.
 - Third and finally, Abraham stays in the land of the Philistines.

OTHERS' STORY

What does it mean to be God's chosen people?

- We are God's chosen people. This means that we are God's plan for a re-ordered society and ultimately a restored world.
- We are God's people, the church, created not for our own spirituality or ourselves, but for the sake of the entire world. We are God's chosen and holy people for holiness and to be different.

THE WORLD'S STORY

How would you define the word "holy"?

- At the center of the word "holy" is a meaning of difference or distinctiveness. Something or someone was holy when they were set apart for a specific purpose in relation to God.

What did God expect from God's people?

- The purity of heart was expected. Also expected was to be holy (image of God), in a way that revealed how different and set apart God was from the other God's by the way the Israelites chose to practically live out their life.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

O God, our Creator, all life is in your hands. Remind us to treasure our humanity and to respect the awesome honor we have to share in creation. May all people be treated with dignity and love. May Your Spirit guide us when we fail to love, we pray. Let liberty and autonomy be tempered by responsibility, integrity and morality. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Find a blank sheet of paper, or go to your iPad or computer, and create a document. At the top of the sheet write or type: Seven Reasons Why I am Grateful for Life. Each day this week, take time to write at least one reason why you are grateful for life. Be ready to share your seven (minimum) reasons why you are grateful to be alive.

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Romans 12:2

I Peter 1:13-15

I Peter 2:9

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 21, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 21?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 21?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 21 and read them this week, journaling as you go.