



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

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

Module 1—Genesis Part 1

Lesson 5: God's People Rebel Again; God Scatters God's People—Genesis 11

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 11 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

Do some people only view God as a harsh and unforgiving God? If so, why?

- To many, God is nothing but a harsh God who imposes God's will on humans.

In what ways can we understand the nature of God better?

- God's nature must be explored holistically in the context of the entire Scriptural narrative.
- One of the best places to explore God and understand God's nature is through the writing of the psalmists.

OUR STORY

In what ways do we sometimes distort God's nature?

- First, we distort God's power by choosing to rely on our own strength rather than the strength that God provides.
- Second, we distort God's sovereignty by choosing to practice faith in such a way that allows us to settle into a faith in which we feel God is obligated to us.
- Our faithfulness to God's mission is important, but we are not to think that God could not accomplish God's mission without us.

OTHERS' STORY

What happens when we seek security in ourselves?

- When we are determined to seek selfish motives, we are not acting in cooperation with God's mission to restore the world to its intended wholeness.

How does working together as the Church help us look past self?

- The Church must find a way to work harder and harder to come together for evangelism, social justice, wellness, and so on. This cooperation is how, together, we can join in God's restoration movement, for the sake of the world.

What are some ways that we work with other Christians?

- Share church buildings with faith communities for worship.
- Work together with other churches on particular projects, such as help for the homeless, counseling centers, youth ministry initiatives, local community and global social action projects, and evangelistic outreach.
- Start new faith communities in a number of new housing areas with other churches.

THE WORLD'S STORY

How can the world be brought closer to a life of spiritual humility?

- The only way for our world to be brought closer into a life of spiritual humility and out of its confusion will be for men and women to stop trying to rely on their own towers of strength.

What is the common language among all of humanity?

- Nations must come into the realization that there is a common language of the human spirit and that language is love.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

Blessed are You, God

Blessed are You forever and ever, oh God.

Holy is Your name. Holy is Your name.

Blessed are You for ever and ever, oh God.

Great is Your grace and Your mercy for all people:

Blessed are You for ever and ever, oh God.

Blessed are You God

Blessed are You for ever and ever, oh God.

Holy is Your name. Holy is Your name.

Blessed are You for ever and ever, oh God.

Great is Your grace and Your mercy for all people:

Blessed are You for ever and ever, oh God.

Amen!

WEEKLY PRACTICE

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

As you wake up every morning this coming week, read Psalm 100:5. Before we meet again, take a few minutes and write a personal psalm. Make sure your psalm has the following three components: 1) describe three things about God's nature that you adore, 2) name three reasons why you put your trust in God, and 3) make three promises to God that you will work to keep.

BECOMING MY STORY

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

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Joshua 1:8-9

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 11, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 11?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 11?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 11 and read them this week, journaling as you go.