



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

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

Module 1—Genesis Part 1

Lesson 6: God Chooses a Leader for God's People—Genesis 12; 15:1-6

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 12; 15:1-6 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

What does it mean that God is a God of covenants?

- God is a God of covenants. In a general, big picture sense, a covenant is an agreement between two or more parties.
- Throughout the Old Testament we realize that God is the maker of the covenants. God initiates, confirms and even fulfills the covenants.
- Humanity's role is to follow and obey. Covenants are the generous means of relationship with God for a people who do not deserve grace but are merited with it anyway.

What are the important things we need to know about the covenants that God makes?

- First, there is one-sided formation. This means that God creates covenants.
- Second, each of the covenants that God establishes has a personal pledge. God's covenants involve the very essence of life—a loving relationship.
- Finally, God's covenants require definitive promise. In other words, the covenants that God establishes cannot be partially committed to—it is all or nothing.

What are the two features of the covenant that God makes with Abraham?

- This covenant that God makes with Abraham is about two things—relationship and redemption.

OUR STORY

What three things does God ask Abraham to do?

- First, he asked Abraham to leave his land.
- Second, God asks Abraham to leave his family, his people.
- Finally, Abraham is asked to leave his inheritance.

How will God use Abraham and Abraham's descendants?

- Abraham's decision to believe and trust God meant these three things:
 1. Abraham and family will come under God's protection and care (God will bless him).
 2. Abraham will in turn protect and care for God's people (He will be a blessing).
 3. Abraham will bring blessing to other people (future generations) through his obedience (He will be a channel of future blessing).

OTHERS' STORY

What does it mean to be an "agent" of God's grace?

- This means that we are agents of God's grace, not merely people who are accumulators, but distributors of God's grace.

How is God revealed to our world today?

- God is revealed to the world through our actions and followers of Jesus.
- Just as Abraham was the connection between God and the Israelites, so to are we the connection between God and people, through the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

THE WORLD'S STORY

What are we now blessed to be a blessing?

- Because of Abraham's obedience and loyalty to God, we are now blessed to be a blessing.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to obey.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to hope.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to care.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to pray.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to give.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to share.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to be joyful.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to be light.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to serve.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to become less.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to live simply.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to celebrate.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to share our story.

Jesus, our Savior, teach us day by day to love, Loving You, who first loved us.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

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

Before you eat your lunch this week say this simple prayer: "God, make me an instrument of your peace." As you pray this prayer each day make mental note of how it changes your perspective on how you interact with others. Also, each night before you eat dinner ask yourself this question, "How can I be a blessing to others tomorrow?"

BECOMING MY STORY

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

Exodus 34:5-7

Isaiah 61:7-9

Deuteronomy 32:4

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 12; 15:1-6, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 12; 15-1-6?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 12; 15-1-6?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 12; 15:1-6 and read them this week, journaling as you go.