

The Common Thread: There is a Holy God who lovingly pursues a relationship with His creation, Man.

Big Picture

- Our identity as the Family of God (The Tribe).
- God chose His people by grace (not by any merit of their own).
- God is looking for a family to trust Him—not trust in their own ways.
- The people He chose to work through were messy and sinful (His only choice given the condition of all humanity).

Scene 1 - Chosen

Genesis 11-18, 22, 26-50 & Exodus 1

God declared Abraham righteous because of his faith.

- Only God always does what is good, right and perfect, so only He is qualified to determine what is right and wrong, good and evil.
- Abraham's righteousness means God declares him righteous (by grace).
 - Means he's in a right relationship with God (being right).
 - Means he's rightly used by God (doing right).

Welcome to the winter quarter of Life Groups!

This week we kick off our Winter Growth Group quarter. Your first meeting will include a time to get acquainted. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish this. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God work!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Now that the Seattle Seahawks made it to the Super Bowl this year, which of the following would be true for you as you watch the game?
 - a) The more people in the room the better.
 - b) Just a few of us viewing it will do.
 - c) The food is just as important as the game.
 - d) Expect loud comments to come out of my mouth.
 - e) I'll do more talking to friends than watching the game.
 - f) I'm aware of how depressed I'll be the day after, if they lose.
 - g) I'd prefer to do something else other than watch the Super Bowl.

2. As you look to 2014, what are one or two things you're looking forward to?

Going Deeper

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

One of the patterns to follow from Abram is to never forget the power of God's word. How do the following verses reinforce the power of God's word and importance of listening to it?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Psalms 119:11

Psalm 119:23

Psalm 119:27

Psalm 119:99

Psalm 33:4-6

Romans 15:4

John 12:44-50

Just as God chose Abram, He has also chosen us to not only follow Him, but also to be used by Him to influence and encourage others, to be a blessing. Read Colossians 3:12-17, write down some specific examples of how putting into practice the various character qualities it lists can have an influence at your work, home or with your friends.

In Genesis 12:1-3, God promises Abram 3 blessings if he will leave his homeland and go to a land selected by God. What are the 3 blessings?

What are some ways in your life and community that you could further live out the reality that you are a part of God’s family?

How do you currently go about deciding what is right or wrong for your life? How might you change that process in light of The Story?

Verses to memorize (It will help you remember some big ideas from the story) **Proverbs 3:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9**

Scene 2 - The Covenant

Genesis 11-18, 22, 26-50 & Exodus 1

The Content of the Covenant.

- “El Shaddai”- I am mighty God

The Blessing of the Covenant.

- Land
- Name
- Son—lineage
- Blessed to bless others

What does it mean for your life if you believe the fact that you were chosen by God and blessed to be a blessing?

The requirements of the Covenant.

- Walk with me
- Follow what I say
- Speak for me

Q: Do you believe that God ALWAYS keeps His promises?

(Parts of study adapted from story of God, Soma. used by permission)