



ZION CHURCH

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

February 24, 2013

Story
Line
OF GOD FOR US

Till [Get the soil ready]

- Can you describe a time when you were really lost? How did you find your way?
- Has your life ever taken a detour (when you had to put plans on hold or change them)?
What happened? Are you still on that detour?



SOW [What God wants us to hear]

Abraham is a key player in Christian (and Jewish) theology and history.

- What do you learn about him from the passages below?
 - Matt. 1:1-2; Luke 3:34. Who's his descendant?
 - Luke 1:67-75
 - John 8:56
 - Acts 3:25-26
 - Romans 4:1-3 and 16-24 and 9:8
 - Galatians 3:8
 - Hebrews 6:13-14
- What do you remember about Abraham's life (both the good and the bad)?



Plant [Working the truth into our hearts]

God's plans have not changed from Genesis 1 despite man's poor choices. But, there is a "detour" of sorts. Historically, Abraham marks the first narrowing of God's focus to make things right.

- What was so special about Abraham? Read the end of Genesis 11 to the start of chapter 12. Anything special?

God did not need Abraham. God invited him to be part of his plan for the world.

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- Since God loves and offers grace (think John 3:16), what does he desire for the world? Our country? Western PA? Your city? Your home?
- We have three choices: 1. Try to get in his way. 2. Stay out of his way. 3. Join him. What would be the consequences of each choice?
- Ephesians 2:1-9 describes how we are saved by grace through faith and not by works. But, look at 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." So, while we are not saved by works, God has prepared works for EACH OF US to do once we are saved. We cannot cop-out and say, "Well, I'm not an Abraham."
 - Use your journal and share in your Life Group.
 - What work has God prepared for you to do?
 - Do you see how you have a place in God's overall plan for the world?

Preview: Which of these would you rather do?

- Preach so that you are thrown into cave with mud up to your knees.
- Name your children with names so offensive that they become outcasts for their lives.
- Marry an unfaithful prostitute.
- Publically lay on your side for over a year near a model of your city.
- Preach in the public square naked.

(NOTE: some OT prophets did these!)

