

Leader’s Tip

Over the next few weeks, you will be reminded of several keys to building successful small groups.. This week, Key ONE: Accept leadership responsibility for your group. You, the leader (or co-leaders) are key players for pulling your group together. A very basic model of ministry: the “fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13) occurs in a special way when a spiritually minded leader pulls together a small gathering of people in Jesus’ name. The Lord Jesus manifests Himself in their midst (Matt. 16:20) and *they see Jesus in one another*. As they love each other, new and transformed people are drawn toward Christ.

You need to have this dream that says, “I want to be a blessing to someone.” Your job as a leader includes helping them become all Jesus Christ wants them to be—and can help them become. What a privilege and responsibility!

Connect With One Another

1. What would it feel like to have to harm your child or someone you love dearly? What if you had to decide between two children, like in the movie, *Sophie’s Choice*?

Study God’s Word

2. If Abraham lived over 200 years, how much of his life is actually recorded in Scripture? (hint, compare Gen 16:16 to Gen 17:1)
3. If so few events of his life are actually recorded in the Scripture, what does that tell us about their importance, and the relevance of the details they include? (note: try to imagine condensing an event of your life into 15 verses, think how much you would have to leave out)

Have someone read Genesis 22:1-19.

4. What three phrases does God use to describe Isaac’s relationship to Abraham in verse 2? Look at verse 8 and the possessive pronouns used when Abraham and Isaac speak to one another, what is the point these two verses (and others – look if you find them) are making?
5. Isaac is the child of promise, what promise is he the child of, what makes him so important? (hint – v. 17-18)
6. What is Abraham commended for in this passage and what provision did God make?
7. How does this compare to what God has done for us in Jesus? How many different analogies can you make? Note, no analogy is complete, they are all parts of the picture.

Living the Truth of God’s Word

Read Romans 8:32

8. What does God want us to understand here and how does it compare to Genesis 22?
9. Are there times you doubt God’s love for you?

Praying Together

- **Application:** Ask God to help you grasp what he has done for you in Jesus.
- **Personal requests:** How can this group pray for you? Have each person in the group share the name of one person who you will be praying for to come to know the gospel.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for your small group and our church to live lives radically altered by the greatness of God’s love poured out towards us, so that it might overflow into our relationships with one another in the church.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray that we will look like redeemed people, and that the people we interact each day will be drawn to know of what God has done for us in Jesus.