



Dgroup Discussion Guide for August 7, 2016

The Fate of your Faith?

As we bring the book of Genesis to a close, we summarize the highlights of this book.

Two Important Truths:

1. Triangle of God's Blessing

- Blessing begins by knowing GOD and His word, then by FAITH we believe and this will result in our OBEDIENCE. Every aspect of this triangle should be present in order for us to completely experience God's goodness and blessing in our life

2. The Equation for True Blessing

God's Promise + God's Way + God's Time = God's Best

The Book of Genesis teaches us about FAITH. But what is Faith? Hebrews 11: 1 says ***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*** It goes on to say in verse 6 ***And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.***

Four Great Men of the Book of Genesis and their faith.

1. Abraham – Pioneering Faith

What does it mean to be a pioneer? a person who is among those who first enter or settle a region, thus opening it for occupation and development by others; to be the first to open or prepare (a way, settlement, etc.); to take part in the beginnings of; to lead the way for (a group); guide.

God called Abraham out of Haran and Abraham followed God's leading even though he had no idea where God was leading him to, he followed trusting and believing God's promises. It was because Abraham believed in God that God imputed to him righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)

2. Isaac – Passive Faith

Isaac was passive in his practice of faith. What does this mean? Passive is to be inactive, to not be an active participant. He had just let things happen without him intentionally and actively seeking out God's will in his life. Isaac led a "quiet, peaceful, normal life. He was the ordinary son of a great father, and the ordinary father of a great son." He stood by quietly and passively allowing things to happen as they are.

This is evident in his marriage since it was Abraham who had sent a servant to find him a wife. And even in Genesis 27 when he gave his blessings to Jacob, who had come to him in deceit and even though he had doubts, Isaac still gave his blessings. He was also unconcerned about Esau's choice of wife and did not impose that Esau take a wife from his own people.

3. Jacob/ Israel – Restless Faith

Jacob even at birth was already restless. His name describes who he was in the early years of his life. He was a cheat, a liar, a deceiver, a supplanter. His faith was always borrowed from Isaac and Abraham that is why in Genesis 32 he called out to God " O of my father Abraham and God of my

father Isaac.” It was only later on in his life after he wrestled with God, that he finally developed his own faith.

Jacob was always planning ahead of God, not waiting on God’s answer and leading. In Genesis 32, we see him on his knees pleading to God but at the same time planning his own strategy in order to face his brother Esau.

4. Joseph – Tested Faith

Joseph’s life was a series of trials and victories. And it was in this that his faith was made stronger. It was well tested. In Genesis 50, Joseph tells his brothers ***As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.***

In all that Joseph was subjected to –being sold as a slave, being accused falsely, being put in jail, being forgotten – in the midst of all his trials, Joseph held on to God’s promises and believed that God had something in store for him. This then became his legacy – Joseph was a man of faith. He had a tumultuous life but he had finished well. He remained faithful to God because he believed in God’s faithfulness. He continued to live in integrity because he sought to please God. This is why he had a great impact on Egypt and was instrumental in saving the nation of Israel.

Often times we learn lessons from the lives of other people. The lessons we learn from them is their LEGACY to us. . . it is how they will be remembered. We should also ask ourselves therefore – How do we want to be remembered? What kind of legacy are we going to leave behind? What lessons from our life will our children learn?

These four great men in the book of Genesis are teaching us to always maintain a godly perspective in life, this perspective will lead to godly thinking and choices. If our choices are godly, then this will be reflected in our behavior and in our actions. The end result will be that we will become testimonies to God’s great love and faithfulness. This will be our legacy.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Among the four men in the Book of Genesis, to whom do you identify yourself with? What was it about their life and faith that you can resonate with?</p>
	<p>Family: As a family talk about the lessons we have learned in the book of Genesis. Share with each other the kind of faith that you currently have and the kind of faith that you want to have. How can you help each other grow in faith?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Share with your discipleship group the kind of faith you want to have. What are the action steps you need to do in order to develop this kind of faith.</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.