

The BIG PICTURE
Week 2: The Promise
September 18th, 2022

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite the Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

*****If your group is a new group, or maybe has taken an extended break, or has new members, it might be a good time to review the group guidelines to ensure healthy group interaction. Below are the bullet points. There is a complete explanation of these at the end of this lesson for review!**

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:
***If your group is new, has new individuals in it, or you have taken a break over the summer then please... (Introduce yourselves; give a highlight from your summer.)

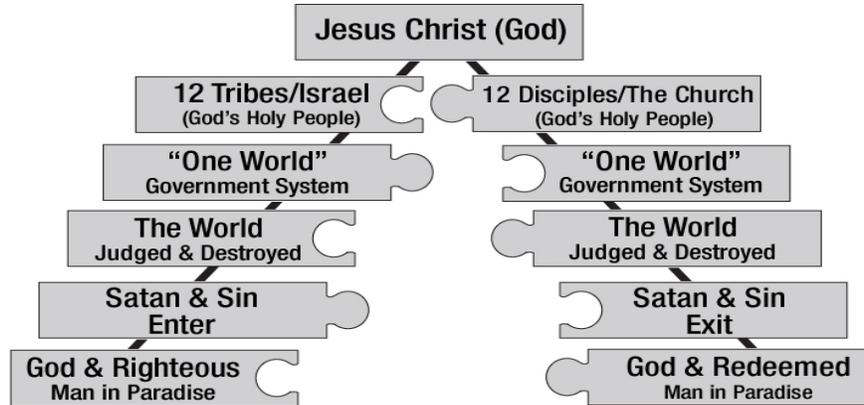
If you have already met in week 1 then:

Describe a time when you had to go somewhere and had no clue where you were going!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week 2 of **The Big Picture**. We are taking a six-week journey through the Bible looking at the story as a whole. We are using the diagram below as a 10-step framework to follow. In our first week we navigated through the first 4 steps. This week we are going to focus on step 5, which looks at the 12 Tribes of Israel (God's chosen people). This week's sermon is titled **The Promise**.

One Story Diagram



THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE (S): Genesis (chapters 12-15)

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

As a group, read Genesis 12:1-3 together.

- God makes promises, what promises do you see in this passage?
- If you were Abram, what questions would you have?
- What circumstances caused him to doubt?

Truth- PROMISES PUT TRUST TO THE TEST

- What has God called you to do, when you had to trust His promise?

Truth- OBEDIENCE IS THE EVIDENCE THAT TRUST EXISTS

GENESIS 12:4 "So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed." NLT

- Believing this truth, why is obedience so important to our faith journey?

Obedience has a pattern: FOLLOW> WAIT> SEE. We often wait to follow when we see the evidence.

- How well do you follow God?
- Do you trust Him when only He sees the destination?
- Following is step 1. Step 2 is waiting. How well do you wait? What has been challenging for you in the waiting, as you trust God?

Truth- IT'S IN THE WAITING THAT PREPARING TAKES PLACE

(Read Romans 8:24-25 in The Message version together)

- **Can you share an example of when God prepared you during a period of waiting?**
- **What was the preparation He did in you? (Forged your character, uncovered gifts, etc.)**

Life Application

- **What promise from God are you questioning right now?**
- **What keeps you from trusting/obeying?**
- **What do you need to walk away from? Walk toward?**

HOMework:

- **Read Genesis 12-15 this week**

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer as a group. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.

Group Guidelines

Confidentiality: What is said in-group stays in-group.

Listen: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

Pause: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

Silence: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

No Cross Talk: Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations. No phones/tablets/social media distractions.

No Fixing: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, point to Jesus. Don't try to provide the "magic answer." Don't try to solve or fix each other.

No Rescuing: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

Sharing: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

Be Self-Aware: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

"I" Statements: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them," "the church," "us," or "we."

Conflict: When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we address them Biblically. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard:

- If someone sins against you: Matthew 18:15-20