

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

EPISODE 3: THE SON OF PROMISE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Main Points

Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:

- This is a shadow story: a story from the Old Testament that is loaded with gospel themes and meaning
- God is choosing a people for himself from among the peoples of the world
- Only those born through the Son of Promise are under God's covenant and part of God's family
- God wants his people to trust him – not their own wisdom and ways

EXPLORING THE STORY

◀ Look Back

Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:

1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“**Last time...** God created a perfect world. But man's disobedience led to a world so corrupt that God ultimately decided to hit the reset button. He judged the world by sending a great flood. But he chose one family (Noah's) and provided them with a safe way through the judgment (the ark). Only those in the ark survived God's judgment. God brought them through the flood and then restarted the world with these few survivors.

▲ Look Up

Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.

4. Setting the Stage

“ This week we'll see how God chooses a people for himself from among all the peoples of the world. He will also promise a Coming One who will bless all nations.

As we read the story, be thinking about these things:

- What does God promise Abraham?
- What is God's purpose for blessing Abraham?

5. Read **Genesis 12.1-4; 17.1-8, 15-22; 22.1-18** and then discuss:

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- What do you like about the story? Does anything bother you?
 - Based on this story, what does it mean to belong to God and to follow him?
 - What does God promise Abraham? What does God's promise tell us about what he is like?
 - Where in the story do we see Abraham trusting God's wisdom instead of his own?
 - What are the gospel shadows you see in this story that will ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus? How does this help you understand what God is doing in the world today?

► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

6. Implications and Applications

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- Galatians 3.16 tells us: "The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ."
 - Galatians 3.29 says, "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise."
 - In other words, anyone who belongs to Jesus has become part of what God promised to do through Abraham!
 - What does it mean for your life that you were chosen by God to be part of his family? That you belong to Jesus? That you have been blessed so that you can be a blessing?
 - What do you need to do to respond to this week's story?

7. Closing Prayer