



LIFE GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW • HOMEWORK 1/16–1/21 • SERMON 1/19, 1/22

What is the Life Group Guide?

The Life Group Guide is designed to cultivate a deeper understanding of the passage we are studying as a whole church in our weekly sermons. The guide consists of 3 parts: **Dwelling** on the passage, **listening** to the sermon, and **discussing** in your Life Group how it applies to you personally.

Part 1: Dwell. You will spend time studying and reflecting on the passage before listening to the sermon. You will meditate on the passage, answer questions about the passage, connect it to the gospel, and apply it personally.

Part 2: Listen. We will provide a blank page to take with you to the sermon to listen with intention. See the resource [How to Listen to a Sermon](#) for more tips on how to do this well.

Part 3: Discuss. After the sermon, you can download the sermon discussion guide with a few questions that focus on our foundational practices and how to apply the message and the passage to you personally, intended to be discussed with your Life Group.

Week 1: Backstory: From Genesis to Egypt . . .

With every book of the bible we study, there are some basic questions to ask before we start applying it to our lives. It's important to understand an overview of the book, how it fits into the Greater story of the bible, and its place in redemptive history. The first two weeks prior to studying Joshua, we will understand the purpose of the book by revisiting the backstory in Genesis, Exodus, and Numbers and how it connects to the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the bible). We will discover God's redemptive plan for Israel from the time of Abraham, leading up to the transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua, and God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises to His people.

DAY 1: MEDITATE

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 15:1-18.

Record 5-7 observations below (see [Tips for Studying the Bible](#) resource for how to make observations).

– DWELL –

DAY 2: FROM CALLING TO COVENANT

2. According to Genesis 12:1-3 what/where was Abraham called from?

What were the 3 things God promised Abraham?

3. In your bible, circle every place in Genesis 12 that the Lord says, "I will". Why is this significant in regards to the covenant God made to Abraham?

4. Take a closer look at Genesis 15:7-21. Record what was mentioned/significant in the following verses:

- 15:12: What happened to Abram according to this verse?
- 15:18: Who made the covenant according to this verse?

The significance of our covenant keeping God is that He is the one to make and keep the covenant. Unlike other covenants that are dependent on both parties keeping their commitments, God's solitary action shows that the covenant is principally His promise. He binds Himself to the covenant. His covenant is unconditional—it is His power and purpose that bring about the fulfillment. This will be significant to remember as we watch what unfolds next in redemptive history with the nation of Israel.

**For more on the theme of covenant, see the "digging deeper" box at the end of this week's guide.*

DAY 3: GOSPEL CONNECTION: FROM ABRAHAMIC COVENANT TO NEW COVENANT

God's covenantal promises from the beginning of time to the end of time consist of 4 major threads throughout Scripture: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration. The greatest picture of this and the culmination of all covenants is in Jesus Christ. The Old Testament covenants point to and are fulfilled in the New Covenant of Jesus Christ.

5. According to the verses below, in what ways do the Old Testament covenants point to Jesus and the New Covenant?

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 7:22-28

Luke 22:20

6. In what ways does Jesus fulfill this promise of land, seed, and blessing? (See Matthew 28:19-20, Genesis 3:15, and Ephesians 1:3).
7. How does this connection between the Abrahamic covenant and the New Covenant increase your faith or gratitude for the Cross?

As we end our review of the patriarchal promise in the Abrahamic Covenant, we come not to the place of freedom for God's people, but to a place of exile and eventually slavery.

DAY 4: FROM A PROMISE, TO EXILE AND EVENTUALLY SLAVERY...

Turning the page from Genesis to Exodus, we will see the people of Israel aren't walking in the freedom of land and blessing yet, but actually walking into a new land under a new leader. This point in redemptive history is significant to the fulfillment of God's promises to His people.

8. Read Exodus 1:1-14. What do these verses teach us about Israel's situation as a nation at this point in history?
9. As you think of the 3 parts of the Abrahamic covenant (land, seed, and blessing), which part of the Abrahamic covenant is being fulfilled according to Exodus 1:12? Why do you think this is significant?

This glimpse of God at work through continuing to multiply his people is evidence that He is faithful to keep His promises, but in His timing and in His way. The nation of Israel in times of oppression and suffering may have wavered in faith, but God does not waver in faithfulness.

DAY 5: APPLY

10. What was most significant to you as you studied the Abrahamic covenant this week?
11. In what ways did this week's study encourage you? Challenge you?
12. Pray. As you reflect on God's faithfulness to the people of Israel through Genesis and the beginning of Exodus, trace his hand of faithfulness through your own life, in times of blessing and times of confusion or suffering. Record a prayer below thanking Him for His faithfulness in your life, including even the dark and confusing times.

DIGGING DEEPER

The Abrahamic Covenant is reiterated over and over in the book of Genesis, a reminder to the patriarchs that God will be faithful to fulfill His promise to Abraham and his descendants. Fill in the chart below with your observations from the passages.

PASSAGE	PATRIARCH SPOKEN TO OR ABOUT	PROMISE (THE COVENANT MADE OR REMINDED OF)
Genesis 17		
Genesis 21:1-5, 22:1-18		
Genesis 26:1-5		
Genesis 28: 13-16		

There are two other covenants prior to this promise made to Abraham in Genesis. They are known as the

EDENIC COVENANT The promises made in Genesis 1-3 to be fruitful and multiply (1:28), rule and subdue the earth (1:28), not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:17), and redemption for the result of disobedience (3:15). The "seed" or offspring mentioned in Genesis 3:15 is a singular, male pronoun that will come to crush the serpents head once and for all (hint: Jesus!)

NOAHIC COVENANT The promise made by God to the people of Israel and every living creature to never destroy the earth again by flood, marked by a rainbow (Genesis 9:8-17).

Both of these covenants show the theme of creation, judgment, and deliverance. A theme we will see throughout the history of Israel (and all of mankind). The theme of covenant is significant in Scripture, it shows that humanity sins, God judges sin, and God shows mercy and grace through redemption for sin. We will see this play out specifically with the Lord fulfilling His promise regarding "land, seed, and blessing" throughout these Old Testament books leading up to Joshua. The people of God moving into the land, this is an extension of the patriarchal promise, the Abrahamic covenant, God made in Genesis 12 & 15.

Other covenants we see in Scripture are the Mosaic covenant (the Law given in Exodus 19 & 24 at Mt. Sinai) and the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)