

THE BIG STORY OF GOD

Act 3: Promise and Purpose

**"I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING. I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND WHOEVER CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE; AND ALL PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU."
GENESIS 12:2-3**

Reading - Genesis 12:1-3, 17:1-8

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram[b]; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

Discovery Bible Method

Discovery Bible Method (DBM) allows participants to discover God's truth for themselves, rather than relying on a leader. As the leader, you are there to empower them and to pray, not to have all the answers. The DBM method is as simple as A-B-C

Ask

Ask each person how they went with the previous week's commitment.

"How did you go with _____?"

"Who did you tell?"

Bible

Have someone read the passage above aloud, then ask someone else to re-read the passage. Have the participants retell the story from memory. Spend some minutes silently reading the passage again. Silently pray for God to speak directly from the passage. Ask open-ended questions, such as:

"What do you see?"

"What does this say about God?"

"What does this say about us?"

"What is God saying to you?"

Let the participants do most of the talking and don't be afraid of silences.

If the session veers off course, you can ask,

"Where do you see that in the Bible?"

Commit

Let them suggest their own commitment to whatever God is saying to them.

Ask them:

"What are you going to do?"

"Who are you going to tell?"

Things to pray for:

Prayer points for church taken from our prayer diary;

- **Gill and Peter Friend** - Give thanks for the current cohort of students starting the Pastoral Advanced Counselling Training with the Living Wholeness network. Give thanks for clarity and teamwork at the recent training for 200 pastors in Bangladesh. For good friendships and community for Jessica as she is midway through her first semester of university in Canada.
- **Grange Park Church** - For our new Elders as they settle into their new roles. For the staff team as we look to embed better ways of communication in the church. That we will continue to see growth in our fellowship.
- **Tearfund** - Christians passionate about ending poverty