



The Story of God God Promises

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for your promises, and the fact that we have been given access to your divine nature even now. We are also grateful for what you are preparing for us in the future. Please guide our discussion and speak to us through the Scriptures and through our interaction with each other. Amen.

Ice Breaker: Share of a time when you had to ‘wait’ on God, and believe that He is good, even though you didn’t see it at the time.

1. What comes to mind when you reflect on the stories of Cain and Abel, Noah and the Tower of Babel? What did God do to prevent evil from running rampant?
2. **Read Genesis 12:2-3.** What did God promise to Abram? How does that affect us today?
3. Reflect on the story of the Exodus. How did God preserve a people for himself?
4. Have someone in the group recount the story of Israel entering the promised land and their formation as a nation. How could other nations connect with God through them?
5. As a group list some of the ways Israel failed to properly represent God in their exile. What happened to the other world powers when Israel was scattered abroad? How did God set the stage for the arrival of the Messiah? Discuss.

6. **Read 2 Peter 1:4:**

“...he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

How does faith in the promises of God make us partakers of God’s divine nature, even now? What difference does being united with Christ make in your life? How do you foster that relationship?

Challenge: Memorize Genesis 12:2

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”

Message Slides

God Promises

I. Evil Runs Rampant

Hebrews 11:5-6

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Noah

Hebrews 11:7a

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.”

Babel

Genesis 11:8

“So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.”

II. God Promises a Connection Point

Genesis 12:2 (*Memory Verse*)

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”

Genesis 12:3

“I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

II. God Promises a Connection Point

Genesis 12:2

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”

A. Blessing

B. People

C. Land

D. Nation

How did Abraham get the blessing?

Genesis 15:6

"And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."

How do we get the blessing?

Ephesians 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,..."

II. God Promises a Connection Point

B. People

Gen. 50:20

"...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

1 Peter 2:9

"a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

II. God Promises a Connection Point

C. Land

Judges 21:25

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

1 Cor. 10:6

"Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did."

II. God Promises a Connection Point

D. Nation

1. King

1 Kings 8:56

"Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant."

2. Exile

2 Chronicles 36:15-16

"The Lord ... sent persistently to them by his messengers, ...But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words ...until there was no remedy."

Jeremiah 29:11

"'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'"

3. Return

Ezekiel 11:16-17

"Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: Though I removed them far off among the nations, ... I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.'"

What Difference Does the Promise make?

2 Peter 1:4

"...He has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

1 Cor. 3:21

"For all things belong to you..."