



Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Genesis

Seven Life-Changing Encounters

With the God of New Beginnings

Chapter 6

God's Bold Promises

1. Hospitality and Announcements: *15 minutes*
2. Opening Prayer ~ The Prayer on the Inside Cover of the Participant Book
Sir Richard of Chichester Prayer ~ *5 minutes*

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits and blessings
For which you have given me.
For all the pains and insults
which you have borne for me.
Merciful Friend, Brother and Redeemer.
May I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
Day by day.
Amen

3. Scripture: Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go... to the land that I will show you.. And I will make of you a great nation." (Gen 12:1-2)

Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-2

Genesis 12

1 The LORD said to Abram: Go forth* from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.^a

2* I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.^b

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3^c I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will find blessing in you.*

4^d Abram went as the LORD directed him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

5* Abram took his wife Sarai, his brother's son Lot, all the possessions that they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,

6* Abram passed through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, by the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land.

7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said: To your descendants I will give this land. So Abram built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.^e

8 From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel, pitching his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there to the LORD and invoked the LORD by name.

Genesis 15

1 Some time afterward, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: Do not fear, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great.

2 But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can you give me, if I die childless and have only a servant of my household, Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 Abram continued, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a servant of my household will be my heir."

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: No, that one will not be your heir; your own offspring will be your heir.^a

5 He took him outside and said: Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, he added, will your descendants be.^b

6^c Abram put his faith in the LORD, who attributed it to him as an act of righteousness.*

Genesis 17

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said: I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless.^a

2 Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly.^b

3 Abram fell face down and God said to him:

4 For my part, here is my covenant with you: you are to become the father of a multitude of nations.^c

5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham,* for I am making you the father of a multitude of nations.^d

6 I will make you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings will stem from you.

7 I will maintain my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting covenant, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.^e

8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now residing as aliens, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God.^f

9 God said to Abraham: For your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages.

10 This is the covenant between me and you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised.*^g

11 Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin. That will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.^h

12 Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including houseborn slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your descendants.ⁱ

13 Yes, both the houseborn slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant will be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant.

14 If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

15 God further said to Abraham: As for Sarai your wife, do not call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.*

16 I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her. Her also will I bless; she will give rise to nations, and rulers of peoples will issue from her.ⁱ

17 Abraham fell face down and laughed^z as he said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah give birth at ninety?"^k

18 So Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael could live in your favor!"

19 God replied: Even so, your wife Sarah is to bear you a son, and you shall call him Isaac. It is with him that I will maintain my covenant as an everlasting covenant and with his descendants after him.^l

20 Now as for Ishmael, I will heed you: I hereby bless him. I will make him fertile and will multiply him exceedingly. He will become the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make of him a great nation.^m

21 But my covenant I will maintain with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you by this time next year.ⁿ

22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God departed from him.

4. Watch [the video](#) and use the response sheet on page 100 - *20 minutes*

5. Small Group Discussion *20-30 minutes*

- Questions on Page 94-99 {whatever question speaks to you}
- Leave 5-10 minutes for Journaling on page 101 {Optional}

6. Closing Prayer ~ From the Back Cover of the Participant Guide

Prayer of a Dynamic Catholic *5 minutes*

Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you.

Help me to become the best version of myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world.

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Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are dynamic and engaging.

Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.

Make our community hungry for best practices and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen

Note to Group:

Next week prior to the meeting ~

Scripture Focus: Genesis 12:4

Suggested Reading: 12:1,, 16:1-6, 18:1-15

Pages 106-120 In the workbook