

genesis

PART 2

DIG DEEPER questions

September 17: Pride & Divide [Genesis 11:1-9]

1. In Genesis 11:1-9, we see the story of the Tower of Babel. How does this story exemplify pride and its consequences?
2. How would you define pride and humility from a Christian perspective? Can you think of any biblical examples that illustrate these qualities?
3. In what ways does pride manifest itself in our daily lives? Are there specific areas where you struggle with pride?
4. How does pride hinder our relationship with God and others? Can you share any personal experiences where pride has caused conflict or division?
5. According to 1 Peter 5:5-6, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Why do you think humility is so highly valued by God?
6. How can we cultivate humility in our lives? Are there any spiritual disciplines or practices that you have found helpful in developing a humble attitude?
7. What role does pride play in our ability to receive correction and guidance from others? Why is it important to maintain a humble posture when receiving feedback or constructive criticism?
8. In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul encourages us to consider others as more significant than ourselves. How can we practically apply this principle this week and strive for a mindset of humility?

Family Questions:

Being proud of something good you did is different from being so proud of yourself you don't ever think you are wrong, or have anything to learn, or don't ever listen to others. Why is being proud in that way bad?

*How can being too proud get in the way of talking to God or being friends with others?
Has this happened to you?*

Why is it important to listen when someone gives you advice or feedback?

Look up Philippians 2:3-4 in the Bible and read it aloud. These verses tell us to think of others as more important than ourselves. What is one way you could do that this week?

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September 24: Blessings & Land [Genesis 12:1-9]

1. In Genesis 12, God calls Abram to leave his home and go to a new land. Why do you think God wanted Abram to trust Him and step out in faith like this?
2. How does God's covenant promise to Abram (later called Abraham) help reveal God's character? What does this tell us about how God relates to His people?
3. According to this passage, God promises to bless Abraham and make him into a great nation. If you are a follower of Jesus, you are also part of a larger community of believers. How does the idea of being part of this community impact your understanding of your purpose in life?
4. When have you had to trust God and follow His leading into unknown territory in your life? How did it end up strengthening your faith?
5. In what ways do God's promises in Scripture give our lives purpose and direction? How have they specifically guided decisions in your life?
6. When God's promises seem delayed, how do we find the strength to persevere and continue trusting?
7. Are there any areas right now where you need to cling to God's promises rather than doubt or fear?

Family Questions:

Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't really know what to do? How did that feel?

What does it mean to have a purpose in life? What do you think God would want your life purpose to be?

Has God ever asked you (maybe through something you read in the Bible) to do something that seemed scary or new? Can you think about how that helped you understand God better?

Do you know any promises God has made to us through the Bible? Try to find some of those promises as a family this week.

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October 1: Lies & Plagues [Genesis 12:10-20]

1. In Genesis 12, why do you think Abram chose deception over trusting God when he went to Egypt? What fears or doubts may have motivated him?
2. How can difficult circumstances and fear cause us to use deception rather than fully trusting God? When have you experienced this?
3. What does Abram's example teach us about the consequences of using deception instead of trusting God?
4. Read Proverbs 12:22. Why do you think deception is something God detests? How does it damage relationships?
5. How can we practice being radically honest with God and others? What barriers do we need to overcome?
6. How has learning to trust God more deeply helped free you from depending on deception or half-truths?
7. What is one way you want to grow in trusting God fully this week instead of resorting to deception?

Family Questions:

When have you been tempted to lie or be sneaky because you felt scared or worried?

Proverbs 12:22 says God hates lies. Why do you think lies hurt friendships and trust?

How could lying stop us from receiving all God wants to give us? Can you share a time this happened to you?

What's one way you want to grow in trusting God by telling the truth? At home? At school? With a friend?

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October 8: Wealth & Expansion [Genesis 13]

1. In Genesis 13, how did Abram (later called Abraham) make a wise choice to resolve the conflict with Lot? What can we learn from his approach?
2. Why do you think it's important for believers to make wise, godly choices? What benefits have you experienced from doing so?
3. Read James 1:5. What does this verse teach about where wisdom comes from? How can we tap into godly wisdom for decisions?
4. Share about a time when you made an unwise choice and the consequences that followed. What did you learn?
5. What are some practices or habits that help you make wise, discerning choices? How can we build these?
6. How might unhealthy priorities or desires cloud our judgment and lead to unwise decisions? Are there any you need to guard against?
7. What role does our church community play in gaining input and accountability for important choices? How can we encourage wise decision making in each other?
8. Think of a decision you're facing right now. What factors should weigh into your choice from a godly perspective?

Family Questions:

Why is it important for Christians to make wise choices that please God? What good things have happened when you did?

Tell about a time you made a bad choice and what happened after. What did you learn?

Why can it be hard to choose God's way instead of what others are doing? When has this been tricky for you?

How can family and church friends help give advice for big choices? How can we help each other choose wisely?

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October 15: Catch & Release [Genesis 14:1-16]

1. Why do you think we sometimes blame God when bad things happen even if He didn't cause them?
2. Read Romans 8:28. What does this verse tell us about God's purpose even in unfair hardship? How have you seen this proven true?
3. How did Abraham's example demonstrate courage and faith when Lot was in trouble? When has God asked you to step out in faith in an unfair situation?
4. How can trials either make us bitter or better, depending on our response? Share examples from your life.
5. Why is it important to keep trusting God's goodness and caring heart, even when we don't understand our circumstances?
6. How has going through difficulties deepened your resilience and character? What lessons did you learn?
7. What unfair situation do you need God's comfort and wisdom for today?

Family Questions:

Why might people sometimes blame God when bad things happen, even if He didn't cause them?

How did Abraham show courage and faith when Lot was in trouble? When has God asked you to trust Him in a hard situation?

Why is it important to keep trusting God is good, even when we don't understand?

What unfair or hard thing do you need God's help with today?

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October 23: Priest & King [Genesis 14:17-24, Hebrews 6-7]

1. In Genesis 14, how did Abraham honor God by giving Him a tenth of the plunder? What lesson does this teach about honoring God first with our resources?
2. Hebrews 7 refers to Abram giving a “tenth of the best.” Why do you think the attitude and quality of our giving matters to God?
3. How would you explain the concept of tithing and its importance in the Bible?
4. Read Malachi 3:8-10. What does this passage say about the benefits of tithing and giving generously to God?
5. Besides our financial resources, what are some other ways we can show honor to God? Share examples.
6. Why do you think a spirit of gratitude is key to giving joyfully and honoring God?
7. Talking about finances and money with others is sometimes considered taboo. So how can we as a church community encourage and challenge each other to honor God with our lives and resources, and even our finances?
8. What practical commitment can you make this week to start honoring God more faithfully with your time, talents and treasures?

Family Questions:

In Genesis 14, how did Abraham honor God by giving Him a tenth of what he got back? What does this teach us about honoring God with our money and stuff?

What does the Bible mean by tithing? Why is giving to God important?

Besides money, what are some ways we can honor and respect God? Give examples.

What's one way you will try honoring God more this week with your time, talents, and money?

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October 29: Doubt & Faith [Genesis 15]

1. How do you think doubt can either hinder or strengthen our faith? Can you share any personal experiences that illustrate this?
2. How can we strike a balance between questioning our faith to seek understanding and allowing doubt to consume us? Are there any biblical principles that guide us in this?

Note for the passage, Genesis 15:10-11: God's answer to Abraham is hard to understand if you don't know the culture of the day. God was using a standard method of contract agreement: the sacrifice and passing between the animal pieces. However, both parties in the contract were supposed to walk around. This would be similar to signing a written contract with a business partner today.

3. What is the significance of God "signing" the contract for Himself and Abraham as well? What is God telling Abraham by assuming the responsibility of the whole agreement?
4. Why is God teaching Abraham to trust Him fully and not rely on his own efforts? How does this principle impact our doubt and our faith?
5. Are there any specific circumstances or challenges in your life right now that are causing you to doubt God's faithfulness? What ways can you think of to put your full faith in God in these circumstances?

Family Questions:

Why do you think Abraham had a hard time believing God would make his descendants a great nation?

Share a moment you had a hard time believing God about something. Why was it hard?

Did you know it's OK to wonder about God and have questions? What should you do if you have questions about God? Who could help you with those questions?

Do you have questions about following Jesus or about God right now? What are they?

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November 5: Impatience & Bitterness [Genesis 16]

1. In Genesis 16, how did Sarai's impatience lead her to make poor decisions and mistreat Hagar? When have you acted rashly out of impatience?
2. How can impatience damage relationships with God and others if left unchecked? Share any personal examples.
3. Read James 1:19-20. What wisdom does this passage offer about controlling our anger and impatience? How can we put it into practice?
4. Why do you think bitterness is spiritually harmful and dangerous if not confronted?
5. What role should confession, forgiveness and reconciliation play in overcoming bitterness toward God or others?
6. What is one spiritual practice or habit you want to build into your life to avoid going down the path of impatience and bitterness?

Family Questions:

How can being impatient or mad hurt your friendships with God and others?

Read James 1:19-20. What does this teach about controlling anger and impatience?

How can saying sorry, forgiving others, and making peace help bitterness go away?

Is there somebody you know that you are mad at right now? Or maybe you are impatient with something about them, the way they talk or act. What do you think God wants you to do in that situation?

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November 12: Name & Identity [Genesis 17:1-16]

1. What does it mean to have an identity rooted in God? How does this differ from worldly definitions of identity?
2. Circumcision helped Abraham's people understand the importance of being chosen and set apart by God. How does understanding our identity as children of God impact the way we view ourselves and others today? How does it shape our purpose in life?
3. In what ways do societal pressures and cultural influences challenge our understanding of identity and purpose? How can we stay rooted in God's truth amidst these influences?
4. Have you ever struggled with understanding your true identity and purpose in life? Share your experience and how it affected your spiritual journey.
5. Discuss the role of community and accountability in shaping our identity and purpose. How can engaging in groups or discussions like this one help in our spiritual growth and understanding of who we are in Christ?
6. In light of Genesis 17:1-16, how can we practically live out our identity and purpose as Christians in today's world? What steps can we take to continuously grow in our understanding and embrace of who God has called us to be?

Family Questions:

Have you noticed there are many people who have opinions about who you are, what makes you your own unique person? For example, to the people who make toys, games, and electronic devices you are a potential customer who could use their products. But that doesn't give them the right to tell you who you are, what you like, or what you should do! Who do you think has the right to tell you those things?

According to the Bible, if you are a follower of Jesus, you are part of God's family as well as the child of your mother and father. What do you think being part of God's family means for you? What advantages are there in being in God's family?

What do you think God likes about you? What kinds of words would describe how He feels about you?

How can you remember what God likes about you every day?

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November 19: Distrust & Disbelief [Genesis 17:17-Genesis 18:21]

1. In Genesis 17, Abraham laughed in disbelief when God promised he would have a son in his old age. When have you felt like laughing or questioning God's promises?
2. Why do you think Abraham felt comfortable expressing his doubts and disagreements directly to God? What does this teach us about relating to God?
3. When is it healthy versus unhealthy to express frustrations we have with God? How can we do this respectfully?
4. How might suppressing our real feelings toward God be harmful in the long run? What advice would you give someone struggling in this way?
5. Read Psalms 13. How does King David model raw, yet respectful, expression of emotions to God?
6. Why is it important to balance lament with hope and trust in God's character when expressing disagreements?
7. What benefits have you found in wrestling openly with God over disappointments versus pretending to be okay?
8. Why do you think God sometimes makes us wait a long time for an answer to prayer?

Family Questions:

What are some healthy ways to let others know we are angry or frustrated?

When is it good or bad to tell God we're frustrated with Him? How can we do this respectfully?

Does God care about our difficult situations? What reasons could we have to be hopeful about difficult situations in our lives?

Why do you think God sometimes takes a long time to answer prayers?

What should we do while we are waiting?