



11/18 / 2012 // GROUP DISCUSSION FROM THE CURRENT TEACHING SERIES ... HEADLINES

START

Take a moment, go around the circle and introduce yourself. Each person should answer this question:

If you were given 1 million dollars with explicit instructions that you couldn't spend it on yourself, what would you do with it?

SHARE

We are in the series called "Headlines," in which we are looking at some amazing stories from God's word. These stories are amazing because they actually happened, and if we were alive in those days, these stories would have made some big headlines in the local paper. We have all read the paper and wondered why things happened the way they did. This week we will be focusing on the life of Abraham and his journey through tremendous testing. God had a special relationship with Abraham and a special promise for Abraham:

God's Promise // Genesis 12:2-3

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 the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you.

God promises Abraham that he will make him into a great nation, however Abraham is 99 years old and his wife is 90 years old. How do you think Abraham responded?

Think through some of God's promises. Do you find it difficult to trust him at times?

GROW

Throughout the message, we learned that God always has a plan, regardless that things might seem to the contrary. Abraham learned this through a difficult life lesson on what true sacrifice means. **Read Genesis 22:1-19**, then we will camp on a few key verses:

Abraham and Isaac Survive Death on a Mountain // Genesis 22:1-2

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

After reading the story of Abraham on the mountain with Isaac, what is the first thing that stands out to you?

Have you ever been asked to sacrifice a relationship or something that was very important to you to honor God? What did you learn through that time?

God had a plan the whole time, so once Abraham fully put his trust in God, then he could see God's plan unfold. Abraham then calls the place "The LORD Will Provide." How have you seen God provide for you?



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MOVE

God has a plan and we know that because he gives us a promise. God describes himself in many amazing ways and by many different titles such as King, Lord, Judge, Savior. It is easy for us to think of him in stately or powerful terms, but it can be most difficult to think of him as "Father." Thinking of God as a dad proves to be hard for people who may not have had a father figure or have painful memories of their earthly father. Our heavenly father is different, because he is completely loving in every way and never makes a mistake:

God's Promise to All // John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

When you think of God, you might think of King, Lord, Judge, Savior or Father...which title comes to mind first for you? Why?

Talk about your father for a moment, what differences or similarities can you see in your father and God your heavenly Father?

Instead of each of us paying the penalty for our sin, God himself pays the penalty on the cross for each one of us in order to restore our broken relationship with God. Why do you think this was so important to God the Father?

If someone were to lay down his life for you, what would that say about your value as a person? What would that say to you about God as a dad?

PRAY

Let's put into practice what we have been learning by praying for each other.